

**Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee**  
**May 19, 2021**  
**Written Proponent Testimony**  
**John Clippinger – Preble County**

Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee. My name is Dorothy Clippinger. I am 27 years old, and I am the 5th generation to have lived on my family's historic Ohio Century Farm in Gasper Township, Preble County. I support SB 52.

This past year I was able to purchase 20 acres of land across the road from our family farm to build a house of my own. Even though I have had to work three jobs to afford the land, it has been worth it to be a part of our farm legacy.

Unfortunately, my dreams of enjoying a rural lifestyle have been dampened by the fact that a large scale solar facility may be built adjacent to my newly purchased land. My biggest concern is what will the neighboring landscape look like as I peer out my future home's windows. As a farm girl, I want to see corn and beans or pastures with grazing livestock. After all, Gasper Township is a rural farming community.

Because I wanted to know if and how a solar facility would be screened from residents, I traveled to Brown County, Ohio to see the Hillcrest Solar Facility, a project created by the same company proposing to build across from me. As I traveled down St. Rt. 68, along Route 286 and Upper 5 Mile East Road, I was very disheartened to see chain link fencing protecting industrial sized solar panels for what seemed like miles. Although the company provided some vegetation along some of the fencing, in no way did they attempt to improve the aesthetics of the landscape. (I have attached some photos from my visit to Hillcrest to show you the "screening" created.)

I was especially saddened for the residents next to the facility as well as the commuters who must travel the roads where the solar facilities lie. The solar company has forever changed their community's landscape, and the residents had no say in the matter.

However, Senate Bill 52 will provide residents a voice in the land use of their local communities. I am grateful that our elected officials have recognized the inequities in our system and are attempting to allow citizens to vote on matters that directly affect them. Because of this, I strongly support the passage of SB 52.

Thank you,  
Dorothy Clippinger  
Preble County