

May 19, 2021

The Honorable Rob McColley
1st District
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: SB52 Substitute

Dear Chair McColley

My name is Annette Houck and I am here with my husband Michael Houck representing our farm, M HOUCK FARMS LLC. We own 258 acres in Highland and Clinton Counties. We are here today to oppose SB52 Substitute Bill.

As landowners and farmers, TODAY: we are required to be educated in order to produce efficiently. With modern technology; GPS Mapping Equipment, Grid Mapping for fertilizer, planting and spraying, along with knowing Chemical Spray Application Laws, handling of hazardous chemicals; it is imperative to constantly learn new technology in order to provide safe and low cost food. Farming is not easier; it has become a Science requiring continued education.

Education is crucial. Making decisions and being smart about it affects our bottom line. This SB52 Substitute proposes to give Voters of Union Township the right to tell me what I can do with my land. In 2019, Union Township had 2074 voters. In Highland County 15.8% of the people 25 years and older have no high school diploma. So roughly speaking, 328 uneducated voters will get to tell me how to farm my land and pay my bills to make their food cheap. Only 6.9% of ALL Highland County residents have a Bachelors's Degree from College.

If you support giving voters - without adequate education - the power to make decisions instead of landowners THEN clearly: Education and Progress means NOTHING to YOU. John Henize, Nathan Brown and Joe Frayzier are my township trustees. Being elected officials does NOT QUALIFY them to make decisions about my financial farm business. Nor will they be liable for anything that happens on my property SO why should they be able to tell me what I can do with my land. THE VERY ASSET- THE CORE OF MY BUSINESS?

So where do we DRAW THE LINE?? Solar Farms are sustainable and are a viable means of income for us PLUS they provide clean energy and extra TAX Income to our poverty area. But I have neighbors who don't understand Solar and are afraid of it. They are REALLY afraid of change and progress. CHANGE is scary - I get it.

But what is TRULY in the BEST INTEREST for EVERYONE? WWJD (What would Jesus Do?) If he is looking down on us right now: I'd guess he would say: I've given you people everything -- Can't you just get along???

In 2020 - In Highland County; 9,213 households earned less than \$50,000 dollars. There were a total of 16,646 households. The average median household income for Highland County is \$43,297. That means nearly every kid in Highland County should qualify for financial assistance for college. But in 2020 only 6.9% managed to get a Bachelor's degree. So obviously, there is NO INCENTIVE to get a higher education in our county.

M HOUCK FARMS LLC
Mailing Address: 529 S. Walnut St., Wilmington, OH 45177

If you support education and job creation, Senator McColley - which was your campaign platform: How can you give control of my property rights to a below average educated voter in my township? That would be reckless.

The best interest for Highland County Residents is improving the education; applying the tax revenue to our schools and train workforce.

Just like YOUR campaign said: "Our Education system is not serving the best interest of many of our students. Schools are confined by strict curriculum standards and state mandates that do not cultivate career skills in those not headed to a four-year university. With an aging population and an economy in transition, Ohio faces a unique opportunity when it comes to preparing our workforce for the jobs of today and tomorrow. Those are your words, Mr. McColley from your website campaign.....Rob McColley is meeting this challenge head-on through legislative effort to connect the Ohio Department of Education and Department of Higher Education with Ohio's major industries. This collaboration is aimed at creating a statewide strategic workforce plan to enhance project-based learning and expand professional development programs that address how to build authentic, real-world, project-based learning into the curriculum. Rob McColley led the effort to invest \$25 million in a state revolving loan fund to train unemployed and underemployed workers for in-demand jobs.

Congratulations Senator McColley on your achievements; Why not work with Solar and Employ 80% of their jobs created to be trained and filled locally since they are required to do that. These Solar Projects are the same principals as your campaign platform.

And BTW - I am Catholic. I believe God is first, then my husband and then family then stewardship. The 10th Commandment: Thou Shalt NOT COVET THY Neighbor's Goods. This commandment forbids the wanting or taking someone else's property. Along with the 7th Commandment: Thou Shalt NOT STEAL. Forbidding the act of taking someone else's property. Please don't throw away your ethics and principles of your faith that is your BASIC FOUNDATION that has put you in Public Office of Service.

When Innergex Renewables approached us, we were apprehensive; but we freely exchanged conversation and learned. We asked questions and then educated ourselves. We hired an attorney recommended by Ohio Farm Bureau and we carefully decided to participate.

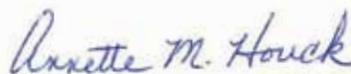
Why would you Ohio Lawmakers transfer my property rights to township voters when you know they are not adequately educated to make decisions about my business? We are already working 24/7 for your cheap food and now the THANK YOU we get from you -- Is denying me the right to make decisions about my own land???

Thank you for your service as a lawmaker. It would be APPRECIATED if you would thank a FARMER TODAY by allowing us to keep our property rights IN TACT by VOTING NO on this SB52 Substitute Bill

Thank You for your time,



Michael G. Houck



Annette M. Houck