

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

Sub. SB 52

Dr. Thomas and Kathy Hull (Allen County)

May 19, 2021

Chairman McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee. We are Dr. Thomas and Kathy Hull and reside in Allen County. We support Sub. Senate Bill 52 and would like to share our reasons why we do.

We are local property owners who have lived in rural townships for 35 years and have respected the decisions made by our local Trustees of the townships. Rural USA is very important to our country and all the residents both rural and urban. The current trend of wind and solar companies trying to profit by building relationships with local farmers to use their land to construct “wind farms” or “solar farms” on zoned agricultural land change the landscape of local rural townships and our democracy. Without the local residents living in the area or the Trustees of the Township having the ability to help decide if these industrial projects are in the best interest of the entire township or residents is totally against the foundations of our great country (the democratic process). Allowing companies whose best interest is for-profit to make decisions for local townships or citizens has a long history of creating damage to our earth, country and people. Our great country was founded on the principles of the people having a voice and vote into making decisions about the best-interest-of-the-country. Township Trustees are selected and voted into office by the local citizens to operate under the “best-interest” of the people model and make decisions about the township. To protect this principle “best interest” model, we need Senate Bill 52. We are writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 52 to return the ability of the townships to make decisions about wind and solar projects back to the townships instead of the Ohio Power Siting Board.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and your continued dedication to protecting the rights of all citizens.

Dr. Thomas and Kathy Hull