

Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

Ohio Senate Bill 52 is just another attempt to kill wind and solar power in Ohio and would effectively kill solar and wind projects for the next 3 years. It would also apply to already pending projects where companies have already spent a million dollars or more to develop. Solar and wind power are the wave of the future, Renewable energy is the fastestgrowing energy source in the United States, increasing 100 percent from 2000 to 2018. The U.S. solar industry posted record growth in 2020 despite Covid, a report finds. By 2030, solar installations are expected to quadruple from current levels. Total annual U.S. electricity generation from wind energy increased from about 6 billion (kWh) in 2000 to about 338 billion kWh in 2020. Solar and wind energy is expected to grow even more quickly in the future. In addition, solar power is officially the cheapest form of energy in history. This news was confirmed by the International Energy Agency. Ohio can't afford to close the door on these fast growing and cheap forms of power. This decision will affect everyone who purchases power in Ohio.

This bill tells an entire sector of the economy that they are not free to do business in Ohio. It prevents Ohio businesses from developing production facilities here in Ohio. This is anti-business which I would not expect from a Republican legislature.

Third, people in Ohio want choices. Many Ohio businesses want to buy renewable energy. In addition, this bill will lead to more homeowners choosing to buy renewable energy certificates from states like Texas, and this will be a drain on our economy instead creating jobs for rural Ohioans.

The next three years are vital to the development of wind and solar. Regions that get in front of this are going to be competitive. If Ohio waits three more years, we will be so far behind that we won't be able to catch up.

Wind and solar power are creating jobs all across the country. And renewable energy creates 3 times more jobs per megawatt hour than energy from fossil fuels. Right now, solar installer is the fastest growing job in the country and wind turbine service technician is the second. Don't prevent rural Ohioans from taking part in this boom.

There is one more interested party to be affected by this bill. My children. They are counting on me and the other adults in this room to make sure they have a livable world when they get older.