

May 24, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support and concerns. I live in the heart of Highland county. I am not going to waste time painting picturesque scenes being turned into dismal wastelands. There has been enough progression of the solar industry into Ohio for you to witness that devastation firsthand without my description. In addition to being a mother and wife, I am a full-time crop insurance adjuster with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from Wilmington College. I have lived my entire life as a part of the agricultural community and have raised four children with a deep respect and appreciation for our way of life. My husband has been a District Technician at Highland Soil and Water Conservation District for 20 years. We have always tried to be good stewards to the land. We have dedicated a big portion of our time to educating and volunteering to preserve this land for future generations, so that they can take care of this land and in return this land will take care of them. Now this community is being ripped apart and the land destroyed.

Friends and family have become foes because outsiders with big wallets have convinced members to prostitute their land. As a property owner I understand protecting rights, yet I cannot turn my 4.66 acres into a landfill because of rules and regulations. A landfill would have a negative effect to my neighbors, community and environment. Huge solar farms that are pushing into our area in a fast and furious fashion are doing so to get in under the wire before studies and be done and regulations are made. Fact is this solar predation has been in the planning for several years, yet we who will be trapped in the aftermath were not informed until it is, or nearly is, a done deal. How is it that all the money being thrown around not a huge red flag? They have contacted our trustees and offered millions of dollars for "Community Projects". That will be merely a band-aid on a huge gaping wound. We will have the best township roads and mowed ditches around for you to drive by and see what happens when big money kills dreams. The solar companies are offering landowners huge sums of money that no one in this area can compete with. And those choice landowners will take their money and move to where they don't have to see the consequences of their actions every single day. The solar companies build their atrocities and those who remain pay for the damage it brings to our property values and environment. How is it that our community cannot get the technology to maintain a strong cell signal, and high-speed internet is not available on my road, but we can have a high-tech solar farm?

This big money is not staying in our community and often not even in our nation. Most of these solar companies and ultimately foreign owned. The solar farms being installed in our neighboring county is being done so by immigrant labor. Even the power produced is going out of state. Everyone benefits except the neighbors are stuck in their devalued homes, looking at an industrial wasteland, waiting to see the full extent of the devastation to the environment.

If something sounds too good to be true, it usually is. We will be the case studies others use to stop this movement. Its easy not to be passionate about something when its not in your backyard. For those who have taken a stand against this travesty of solar invasion and have heard our cries, Thank you. As property owners I believe we are subject to reasonable regulations regarding land use. When projects and land use decisions could negatively effect the community, environment and neighboring landowners, those whom could be effected should be given the opportunity to vote on those projects/land uses.

Please support SB52!

Sincerely,

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