



OHIO SOYBEAN  
ASSOCIATION

918 Proprietors Road, Suite A, Worthington, OH 43085  
614-476-3100 | 888-SOY-OHIO | [www.soyohio.org](http://www.soyohio.org)

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**SENATE ENERGY & PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 52– Written Only Testimony**  
**Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

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

I am submitting testimony today on behalf of the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and its members in opposition of Senate Bill 52. OSA is a member-driven, grassroots organization dedicated to improving the business climate for Ohio soybean farmers by providing leadership and advocating for sound policy at the state and national levels. As the sixth-largest soybean producing state, soybeans are an important part of Ohio's economy. Soybeans are Ohio's largest crop by acreage and largest export crop. The industry employs more than 30,000 people and generates more than \$5.3 billion in economic activity annually.

We oppose this bill because of the potential precedent it could create and the negative economic impact to businesses and local communities.

Our main concern centers on the potential for other local referendum processes that go beyond wind and solar projects could be established, which would create additional burdensome rules and regulations on agricultural practices that are already highly regulated.

We are not only soybean producers, but business owners as well. In recent years, the General Assembly has made an effort to reduce regulatory burdens on businesses and streamline permitting processes to improve the business climate in Ohio. Senate Bill 52 contradicts these efforts by generating additional layers of bureaucracy and hindering the development of new tax dollars for townships and counties.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any more information or answer any questions.

Ryan Rhoades  
President, Ohio Soybean Association  
Soybean farmer in Marion County