



Liberty Power
algonquinpower.com

June 1, 2021

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to **Senate Bill 52**.

Liberty is a division of Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp., a public company listed on the New York Stock Exchange and Toronto Stock Exchange. Liberty owns and operates a diversified portfolio of non-regulated renewable and clean power generation assets located across the United States and Canada.

Our diversified fleet of hydroelectric, wind, solar, and thermal facilities across nine states and six Canadian provinces, have a combined gross generating capacity of approximately 2 GW. We partner with a broad spectrum of commercial and industrial companies to achieve their corporate emission reduction goals. In Ohio, we are currently developing and in the process of acquiring wind and solar projects that will not only provide hundreds of megawatts of energy to the state's electric grid, but would also provide millions of dollars in local economic benefits such as job growth, income for landowners, and tax payments to local communities.

While we appreciate the steps taken to address some of the concerns of the original bill, the substitute language for Senate Bill 52 could still have disastrous consequences to renewable energy development and to economic growth in Ohio.

Liberty supports local input and stakeholder engagement on all of our projects, and we recognize that not every community will welcome solar or wind development. It is important that developers build local support for projects of all types and that communities are fairly compensated for any impacts, but the substitute bill can put projects in jeopardy without any clear mechanism to address local concerns and after significant financial investments. Similar to the original version of the bill, the substitute version could put the brakes on nearly all renewable development in the state.



Liberty supports increasing opportunities for local input and engagement before filing an application with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) and during the OPSB's process. Providing more details on projects and giving updates to local stakeholders makes sense, particularly if a project undergoes meaningful changes such as increases or decreases to capacity, or changes to the project footprint. We cannot support proposals that would give a community the opportunity to kill a project late in the OPSB process after the investment of millions of dollars.

We respectfully request that you oppose Senate Bill 52 as it is currently proposed and we would be happy to discuss our concerns with you in detail. Thank you for your time and attention, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

Scott Kjellberg

Manager, Government Affairs