

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 on Senate Bill 52 (SB 52). My name is VICKIE ASKINS, and I am a citizen from Wood County and coordinator of the Ohio Environmental Stewardship Alliance.

Below are my comments in opposition to adding local control over solar and wind facilities but as a proponent for reinstating local control over CAFOs in **SB 52**.

In 2019, Ohio legislators passed House Bill 6 which guaranteed billions in ratepayer bailouts for FirstEnergy. HB 6 was a scandalous energy policy because, it not only focused billions on a rescue of two nuclear power plants and two coal plants (one in Indiana), it also gutted Ohio's clean energy laws. Despite huge sums of money supporting this Bill, it was overwhelmingly opposed by ratepayers, business groups, and environmental groups.

HB 6 not only financially benefited a dirty energy bailout, it also benefited politicians who voted for it. This scheme ended up with the FBI arresting the Speaker of the House. It was passed in July 2019 and remains law because many Ohio legislators took FirstEnergy donations but few returned them, even after FBI raids.

Sadly, many Ohio legislators are now backing SB 52 that would give local trustees or commissioners a say on stopping wind and solar projects. Instead of trying to suppress more green energy projects, I urge our legislators to give residents the local power to stop the huge animal factories that are using Lake Erie as a free toilet.

In late January, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments issued a new policy document described as a "recipe book for protecting Lake Erie" which "calls for a temporary moratorium on new permits for livestock facilities known as concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs."

In 2012, Senator McColley worked under our attorney, Paul Skaff, to write an opinion review stating we could file a "nuisance claim after the [CAFO] operation has begun and prior to the permit being granted...avoiding the vast protection the permits will grant to the CAFOs." We requested this opinion because we had no local control to stop this 1,765-head dairy CAFO from building less than one mile from our home.

CAFOs house tens of thousands of animals or millions of poultry in industrial environments that generate millions of gallons or megatons of animal waste. Studies show this untreated waste is not only a threat to Lake Erie, but also to public health.

Green energy is the future whereas CAFOs are a failed model of industrial agriculture. I would much prefer having a solar or wind project as a neighbor than a polluting mega dairy. Instead of repressing clean energy, I urge our legislators to help residents stop

the siting of more polluting factory farms – a win-win solution for the environment and public health!