

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

HB 118

Denny and Linda Beckstedt

March 3, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Committee. We are Denny and Linda Beckstedt and we reside in Allen County. I write in support of HB 118 and would like to address my concerns that without the passage of this bill a state agency (Ohio Power Sitting Board) will override the will of the citizens.

There are 2 bills that have been introduced recently - SB52 and HB118 - that I would like to strongly encourage you to support. As homeowners in the Shawnee community we are very concerned about having a solar farm invade our community without any say in the matter. This will change our community forever and in a negative way. We will have no say in the matter without your support of these two bills. If they pass it will give our community the chance to have a say/vote on the wind and solar projects that are currently trying to come into our community.

It is important that we as Shawnee residents, have a say in this as it will affect our property values...our woods will be totally surrounded if the solar farm is allowed to go forward. When this all began for us last November, we were not notified of the project until a week before a public informational meeting was held. Since that meeting our Shawnee Trustees and Shawnee School Board have come out against the project.

As a longtime Shawnee resident, we should have the opportunity to have a say in what is happening around us...not a board that is located in Columbus who is not familiar with us or the community. We do not want the safety of our local families to be jeopardized by a state regulated construction project.

Again, I strongly encourage you to support these bills that are being proposed.

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