

**Testimony of Eric Gillett
Seneca County, Ohio
In support of HB-118
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee
March 9, 2021**

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, ranking member Smith, members of the committee, I write as a proponent of HB-118.

Let me begin by sharing I want you to know I appreciate the opportunity for this communication to be a part of the process of your consideration of House Bill 118. I applaud and support the testimony of Representatives Riedel and Stein recently presented.

The legislation proposed is equitable for all stakeholders in this issue. I am quite confident each of you has read and understands the narrative published by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission. However, let me add one thought. I recently retired from the role as CEO of Sutton Bank, a prosperous and growing community bank located in Attica. During my tenure in that role, one of the tenants of my leadership was to do no harm. Doing no harm was in regards to the financial well being of depositors, debtors, employees, shareholders, communities, as well as regulators and the interests they represent.

House Bill 118 affords the local community the opportunity to decide collectively whether or not a solar or wind development project is in the best interest of their community. Once a decision is made locally, whether it is for or against a specific project, it can be said a democratic process was followed. Affording exclusive determination to the OPSB, who are unelected officials without material skin in the game, is not a democratic process.

I ask each of you to Support House Bill 118. It is the vehicle by which the local community can democratically decide if harm is being done, however that may be defined. It is really that simple.

Respectfully,



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