

PROPONENT TESTIMONY
HB 118
House Public Utilities Committee
John C. Newland
Allen County
March 3, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Committee. My name is John Newland and I 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.

I believe the citizens of the townships where solar panels and wind projects plan to locate should have a local vote on whether this is good for our community. The communities should decide if the promised economic benefits outweigh the safety risk they will be subjected too. At a minimum setback distances should be at least as far as the turbine manufacturers say is safe in case of fires or during thunderstorms. Why should a state agency have the say on the health and safety risk subjected to a community?

I have concerns for the local citizens not having a say in the restructuring of the areas we reside. Many families have lived in their communities for generations. Should they not have a voice in the decision if the economic benefits are greater then the lost property values of their communities by going from agriculture zoning to industrial against the local government's resolutions?

Please consider these concerns when voting on passage of HB 118

Thank you,

John C. Newland, CPA
Fiscal Officer Shawnee Township
3554 Georgian Ave.
Lima, Ohio 45806
419-233-0756
jnewland001@hotmail.com