

March 23, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, ranking member Smith, and members of the committee, I write as an opponent of HB 118/SB 52.

My name is Everett Lacy and I am a landowner in the Birch Solar Project. I am in favor of the solar project in our area that will bring needed tax dollars to our schools, local townships and the county. There are people who moved from the city & suburbs and are trying to make rural Ohio like the city or suburbs. Landscape yards, lights on the corners of roads and they want us to be to their standards like they see in pictures and books. They don't want to see mud on the road, no manure smell when we spread it on the fields, no dust when we work the ground because the wind blows it on their property, no tractor or combine working after they get home from work and not on weekend they might want to set outside or have a party.

They can play their music as loud as they want, dump their yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, brush) and pumpkins in our fields and woods without asking or don't care.

What about my rights! I bought the family farm I was born and raised on. I have seen a lot of changes over the years, some I like and some I don't like, like them buying an old house to tear it down and build some odd looking house, or buy a farm and start building houses all over it... but I can't put solar or wind turbines on my ground.

They bullied the local township trustee into making resolutions to fight the solar project even when the trustees know the money will help the whole township. They told them if they go against them they would get them voted out and they even put comments on their Facebook page.

What about the rest of us that want it?

This project would bring huge amounts of money to the Shawnee Local Schools. If they would do the solar project they would not need a school levy. Look at Van Wert school system, look at all the tax money their schools are getting and all the thing their doing with the money and there is a lot of people moving in to the school district because school taxes are cheap and they even put solar panels up right beside there JVC. If they were harmful to their kids, would they do it?

Under the HB 118/SB 52 the township trustees will say yes or no on solar or wind projects.

Coal burnings plants are shutting down and we have a huge need for clean energy. One thing I don't understand is if I want to start a mega farm I just need EPA OK and they are going to use a lot of water and put out a lot of manure and hurt the water table—but solar and wind projects don't use hardly any water. What happens if a city wants to build a solar or wind project and the trustees says yes but some company come in and the trustees say no to me—this is a double standard.

On Facebook Lima Ohio Birch Solar Industrial Project they have 1.4k members and they told their member to sign the petition for your committee but what is funny these people are all over the country they live in California, Florida, and other states. After they sign the petition they need to go to a GoFundMe and give some money to help pay attorney fees and out of 1.4k people there is only 22 people that give! So how many are there against and how many are feeding fuel to the fire?

*You know that these same people have sent letters and call area farmers with death threats and bodily harm and make comments about this on Facebook the local police just said we can't do anything.*

The one thing that make all of the farm owners mad is Senator Matt Huffman met with farmers and he told them he was not going to take sides and he is not for or against, but then he met with anti-solar people and he said that he was going to shut down the solar project.

Like I said before, I own one of the farms in Birch Solar Project and the money they are renting my farm for is a pay raise that well help me and my farm. Why don't the people against the project go to work and tell their bosses to freeze their wages for the next 20-30 years and see if they would and be like the farmers. How many would do this?

Any questions that you have, you can call me at 419-204-2614 or farm45895@gmail.com

Sincerely Yours,  
Everett Lacy