HOUSE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE SB 52 PROPONENT TESTIMONY MARY ANN HARTZLER – LOGAN COUNTY June 22, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and Members of the Committee, my name is Mary Ann Hartzler and I am a longtime resident of rural Logan County. I suffer a variety of medical conditions which prevent me from testifying before you in person. I urge you to move forward with the passage of SB 52. In doing so, you will alleviate a little of the stress which plagues my community who feels so helpless in the face of utility-scale wind and solar development.

My physician is well acquainted with the toll improperly sited generation facilities will have on me and the certain advance of my disability. I have brought my concerns forward in previous cases, but it is only now, with the prospect of local involvement through my County Commissioners and Township Trustees that I see a glimmer of hope.

The designation of exclusion zones seems to be a reasonable method by which to protect sensitive areas and both their human and wildlife populations. This will mean that, we, as local residents will need to work hard to justify our case for protective siting, but we are capable of doing that. No longer being vulnerable to the smooth talk of developers who can take advantage of an unaware population or secretly sign leases with the elderly is something we have waited for for a long time.

There are many projects under review by the PJM grid operator. A 500 MW Solar facility has completed both the Feasibility and Impact study phases and will be grandfathered under this bill in Logan County. But another 900 MW could be subject to the provisions of SB 52 if you act expeditiously to pass the bill.

Please give us the opportunity to impact these projects and to make SB 52 meaningful legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.