President RYAN AUGSBURGER



March 23, 2021

The Honorable Bob Peterson Chairman Energy and Public Utilities Committee Ohio Senate 1 Capitol Square 1st Floor South, Rm. 138 Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Senate Bill 52 – Written Opponent Testimony

Dear Chairman Peterson:

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide written opponent testimony on Senate Bill 52 (SB 52). SB 52 creates a referendum process that would allow townships impacted by large scale solar or wind power projects to either approve or reject such projects approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board.

The development of both solar and wind power in Ohio – as in other states -- has continued to increase over the past decade as companies and citizens demand sustainable and cleaner options for their electricity generation. Ohio's statewide approval process, managed by the Ohio Power Siting Board, has been an effective mechanism to site such projects, weighing the pros and cons for the state and its citizens. For clarity, uniformity of policy, and economy of process, the OMA urges a statewide approach for such projects and decisions.

There are already multiple avenues during the review process for interested parties to either provide input to -- or formally intervene in and participate in -- cases to ensure their positions are considered by the Board. Pancaking approvals and bogging processes with multiple layers of decision making is costly and inefficient. As drafted, SB 52 is not the optimum solution if the desired goal is to maximize local input.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I'd be pleased to try to answer any questions that you might have; please contact me at rbrundrett@ohiomfg.com or (614) 629-6814.

Sincerely,

Robert A Babitt

Rob Brundrett Managing Director, Public Policy Services