

Attn: Chairman McColley, Vice Chairman Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

From Maya Fischhoff, private citizen, resident of Hardin County

I firmly oppose SB52 and any other legislation that singles out solar and wind power for special treatment. I believe that as advocates for the free market, our state legislators should allow different forms of energy to compete on equal footing. Just as it was wrong for the Statehouse to provide subsidies for nuclear power with HB6, SB52 is wrong in providing special hurdles for renewable energy. It makes no sense, and is ideologically inconsistent, for Sen. McColley and Sen. Huffman to call for local referendums on renewable energy development when fossil fuel development is not required to go through this hurdle. That's not the free market, that's picking winners -- and in this case, choosing the wrong side.

Global energy markets are increasingly making renewable energy simply a better investment than fossil fuels. If the Statehouse passes SB52, they will be putting limits on Ohio's growth and on an industry with great potential, needed by our State. They will also be limiting the choices of landowners and property owners. These actions are completely inconsistent with the stated beliefs of Sen.s McColley, Huffman and their colleagues. Passing SB52 would also reverse previous state-level policies, contributing to an uncertain business environment -- the last thing Ohio needs.

I am a resident of Hardin County, where solar development has occurred and is in process. There are many ways that the Statehouse could help Hardin County and other rural areas build a sustainable resource base. SB 52 is not the right path, and I urge the bill be withdrawn and defeated