



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]

June 28, 2021

To: Members of the Ohio House of Representatives
From: Heather Taylor-Miesle, President, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Re: Senate Bill 52

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to inform you that the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) Action Fund will be scoring Senate Bill 52 (SB 52) for the purposes of our Legislative Scorecard for the 134th Ohio General Assembly.

We urge a NO vote on SB 52, even with amendments added in the House Public Utilities Committee. In the event that SB 52 passes, the OEC Action Fund will be doing extensive public education on the content and the votes on this legislation because this bill singles out renewable energy for different treatment than all other forms of energy generation in the state. If passed, this bill will have a chilling effect on renewable energy development and deter businesses that care about sourcing their energy from solar and wind from coming to Ohio.

SB 52 treats large renewable energy projects—both wind and solar—differently from any other form of generation in the state. It creates another layer of government regulation specifically for large wind and solar projects, in addition to the approval already required for these projects at the state level through the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) certificate process. No other form of generation, or energy infrastructure project required to undergo approval by the OPSB, is subject to this type of local control, despite the fact that other types of projects often raise similar concerns from local residents about location, aesthetics, and environmental impacts.

Passing SB 52 moves Ohio backward. While other states are embracing renewable energy and the clean energy economy, Ohio is choosing to actively deter businesses, who have made sourcing their energy from clean, renewable sources a priority, from locating in Ohio. And at the same time SB 52 is moving forward, members of the legislature are also working to pass legislation like HB 201 and SB 127, which limit local governments from limiting or prohibiting access to natural gas, protecting fossil fuel development in one bill while stifling wind and solar from locating in Ohio in another.

The legislature should not be in the business of picking winners and losers in the energy generation business, and it certainly should not be in the business of singling out clean energy for unnecessary and burdensome regulation when the need to shift toward cleaner sources of energy is more critical for our health and environment than ever.

For these reasons, a **no vote on Senate Bill 52** will be considered favorable for the environment in the OEC Action Fund's legislative scorecard for the 134th General Assembly.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Trish Demeter at tdemeter@theoec.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Taylor-Miesle
President OEC Action Fund