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Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Written Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 52
Green Energy Ohio
Jane Harf

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Chair McColley, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee, my name is Jane Harf and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments as an opponent of Senate Bill 52.

Green Energy Ohio is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices. We represent a diverse membership of individuals, businesses, community and government entities, and academic institutions who share GEO's mission.

As I stated in my testimony on March 23, GEO opposes the creation of a process that would allow a minority of individuals whose arguments have failed in established regulatory and judicial forums to undermine Ohio's economic development and the wellbeing of their own community. The state has established a rigorous process in which all parties have ample opportunity to participate. Residents in the project footprint are encouraged to attend public information meetings prior to the developer filing an application with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). During the OPSB review, there are multiple avenues for local input and engagement. The OPSB employs an adjudicatory process in which local residents have the chance to participate in public hearings, as well as judicial proceedings where they can present evidence, call witnesses, provide testimony, employ cross-examination, and negotiate stipulations and conditions for specific energy development projects. There is an official process for appealing a decision of the OPSB, ultimately leading to the Ohio Supreme Court.

At the same time that Illinois is debating legislative proposals that would establish the state as a national leader in clean energy and just transition, Ohio is considering a bill that would send signals to the investment community, renewable energy developers, and corporations seeking clean power that our state is not open for the business of the 21st century. SB 52 would also deny Ohio consumers the proven benefits of wind and solar energy and eliminate the potential for significant sources of revenue to local communities. The long-term prosperity of the majority of Ohioans is being put at risk by this short-sighted and regressive proposal.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony.