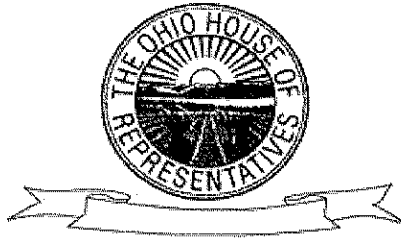


**91<sup>ST</sup> HOUSE DISTRICT**

CLINTON, HIGHLAND, PIKE, AND  
PARTS OF ROSS COUNTY

**COMMITTEES**

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT - CHAIR  
PUBLIC UTILITIES  
FINANCE  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



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**State Representative Shane Wilkin  
Ohio House of Representatives**

Chair French,

I am writing to implore you, as Chair of the Ohio Power Siting Board, to immediately halt all utility scale solar in the state of Ohio. Recent projects being developed in my district have given us the exact same issues I was told would not happen as a result of the objections raised over the Hillcrest project in Brown County. No substantial setbacks, six-foot chain link fence with three strands of barbed wire and, as currently planned, next to nothing for vegetative screening. This makes these projects unacceptable.

As someone who believes in private property rights and has defended them I also believe there must be setbacks and best practices in place for projects such as utility scale solar. It is obvious by looking at the recent developments locating in Highland County that again, contrary to the discussions I have had, these developers are not concerned with being good neighbors and frankly, what is being constructed proves just that. I have had many visitors down to see the projects and not a single one agrees that this is what the industry should be doing.

But, don't take my word for it, come see for yourself. I would like to invite you, as well as the other members of your board down to view these projects. I think you would agree changes are needed.

These projects must be halted until new rules and/or legislation is enacted to protect the landscape of the area in which they are to be constructed at a substantially higher level than what it is now being done. While I have not seen the Hardin County project I can tell you that Hillcrest Solar, New Market Solar, Hecate Energy Highland Solar and Willowbrook Solar all, without exception, violate the integrity of the landscape in my district. Based off of this alone there should be no movement on any pending utility solar cases regardless of where they maybe in the process. Absolutely none.

Lastly, you may be aware of a letter recently sent from the Ohio Chamber of Commerce to members of the legislature over concern with this issue. I have asked the Ohio Chamber how many of those who signed the letter have actually viewed the project. Again, all I'm advocating for is what was represented to the community, which is proper installation.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Shane Wilkin", is written over a horizontal line.

Shane Wilkin  
State Representative  
91<sup>st</sup> Ohio House District



































**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
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**5/18/2022 9:28:56 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-1288-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment of State Representative Shane Wilkin, via website,  
electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing