



124 West Allegan, Ste. 620
Lansing, MI 48933

517-485-3409
nfib.com

To: The Honorable Members of the House Energy, Communications, and Technology Committee
Date: October 11, 2023
From: Amanda Fisher, NFIB Michigan State Director
Re: Opposition to HBs 5120-5123 – Solar and Wind energy Siting

On behalf of over 10,000 small business owners in Michigan, NFIB is writing to express its opposition to House Bills 5120 through 5123, which would create new regulations on buildings solar and wind energy sites.

While NFIB members do not oppose solar and wind as energy sources, they are very concerned about ever increasing energy prices. These bills place requirements to pay prevailing wage on construction of the facility as well as enter into "community benefit agreements", which require those building the facility to enter into agreements with not only labor unions (similar to project labor agreements), but also "members of the community" which are often narrow and extreme subsets of that community who can put all kinds of economic stipulations on the project.

These requirements have two negative effects: adding to increased energy costs as well as effectively preventing small, non-union contractors from bidding on the projects in their communities.

NFIB also has concerns that these bills are a part of a larger plan that would require Michigan to move away from all fossil fuels in the near future. NFIB members oppose any such mandate by a staggering 95%. However, NFIB would withdraw its opposition to the bills by removing the unfair regulations as listed above.

Unfortunately, as drafted, these bills appear to be less focused on making it easier to produce wind and solar energy than appeasing big labor.

For these reasons, we would ask you to vote NO on HBs 5120-5123.