



## Michigan Agri-Business Association

October 11, 2023

Michigan House of Representatives  
Committee on Energy, Communications, and Technology

Chair Scott and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Agri-Business Association (MABA), a nonprofit trade association representing more than 300 Michigan businesses at all points on the food production chain. Our member companies work together with Michigan farmers to help them achieve success and grow the economy. We oppose House Bills 5120, 5121, 5122 and 5123 because these bills will strip local communities of any meaningful voice on siting renewable energy across rural Michigan.

MABA supports a deliberate, well-planned transition to clean energy that includes robust input from rural communities. These local stakeholders must be part of the siting equation in a meaningful way. Not all land is the same, and siting of renewable energy facilities involves highly-localized land use decisions. Determinations made today create lasting change for Michigan's agricultural sector, small towns and rural businesses and must not be taken lightly.

It is essential that siting of wind and solar energy facilities be carried out in partnership with local leaders and community members who are "on the ground" and able to identify the long-term impacts, positive and negative, of siting a renewable energy facility on a specific site.

Many local communities have partnered on siting of renewable energy, and ultimately approved renewable energy facility plans. MABA, in some instances and partnering with local leaders, has weighed in to support certain renewable energy facilities. However, the bills under consideration by the Committee employ a one-size-fits-all approach to a highly complex issue, to the detriment of rural, agricultural voices.

Again, I urge you to oppose HB 5120, 5121, 5122 and 5123. We appreciate your time and attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Lippstreu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "L".

Chuck Lippstreu  
President  
Michigan Agri-Business Association