

March 16, 2020

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Consumer Affairs Committee

Dear Chairs Roae and Matzie,

My name is Bruce Sensenig and I live at 400 Spangler Rd, Lebanon, PA 17042. Thank you for your work over the past couple of months collaborating with the solar and agriculture industries in Pennsylvania, and thank you for your consideration of the following testimony in support of House Bill 531.

I have been farming hogs in Lebanon County since 1987 (33 years). I own a total of 236 acres on two parcels, all within eight miles of my home. We farm an additional 260 acres of rented land. Our hog operations requires substantial land base for sustainable nutrient management and manure distribution on cropland as fertilizer. Whenever I can, I intend to maintain and, in some cases, improve the quality of the land I work on for the benefit of my own livelihood and the surrounding ecosystem and neighbors. This is sometimes difficult because of the marginal costs that we turn on the farm. I often have to make hard choices to keep our family business running.

I am currently working with BlueWave Solar on a lease agreement and farm plan that would further improve my land management practices and provide much needed, stable, revenue to farm operations. Dual use solar is a critical component of this plan. I urge you to pass House Bill 531 to enable community solar, specifically Dual-Use solar and agricultural projects, in Pennsylvania. This bill will allow me and my family to invest in our farm for future generations and quickly deploy locally generated clean energy.

I & my wife Ella are in a transition period of making it possible for our son, Nelson, and his wife, Charlene (age30) to assume management and ownership of our entire operation. We are exploring the possibility of integrating a cattle grazing operation on the same land base we are using for nutrient management for our hog manure. This would include such BMP's as rotational grazing. Our family farmed cattle for 25 years but dropped this enterprise 8 years ago. BlueWave Solar has experience in designing dual use agriculture projects in conjunction with solar, and we are excited about the possibilities of improving the quality of our land and ensuring the permanence of our livelihood. These possibilities would not exist without enabling legislation for community solar.

Thank you for your consideration, and your commitment to investing in the future of our farms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Sensenig". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bruce Sensenig