

Testimony on inclusion of wind
turbine setback change in
House Bill 554

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Setback Laws Pre-2014

- ▶ Wind turbines have two types of “setbacks”
 - ▶ Habitable structure (homes, barns, garages, etc.)
 - ▶ Neighboring property lines
- ▶ The **minimum habitable structure setback** was 1125 feet, plus the length of a blade
- ▶ It has been increased several times since originally enacted
- ▶ Practically speaking, this setback was approximately 1300 feet
- ▶ The **minimum property line setback** was “1.1 times the height of a turbine”
- ▶ The rationale was that if a turbine were to fall over (an extremely unlikely occurrence), it would not fall on a neighbor’s land
- ▶ Practically speaking, this setback was approximately 550 feet

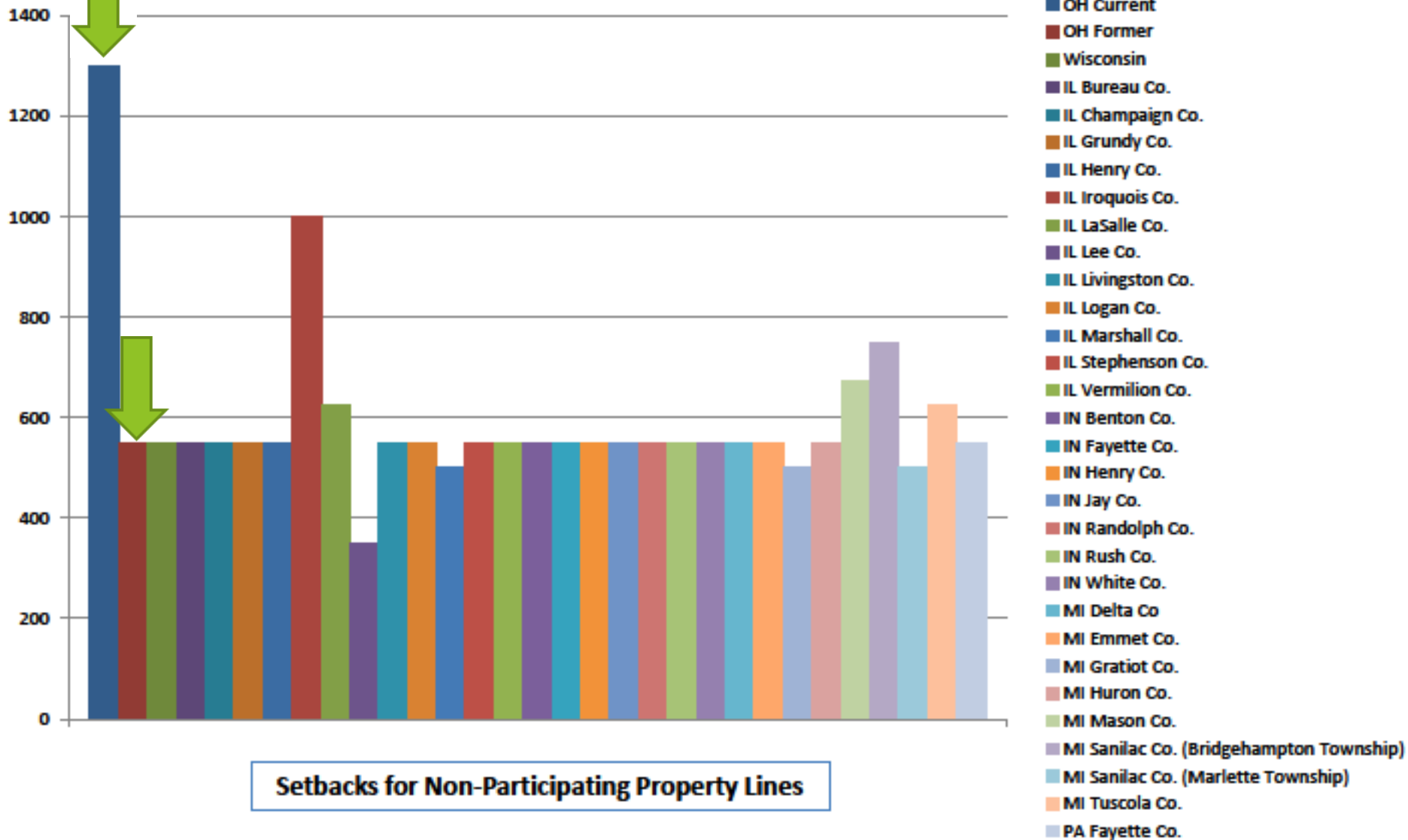
2014 - Change in Property Line Setback

- ▶ Ohio wind turbine setback law functions as a moratorium on any projects
- ▶ New law simply replaced the reasonable minimum property line setback with the much longer statutory minimum house setback.
- ▶ Property line minimum setback by increased by 236%
- ▶ Passed with no industry input or public hearing

Setback Comparison for Non-Participating Property Lines

Setbacks for a Standard Turbine

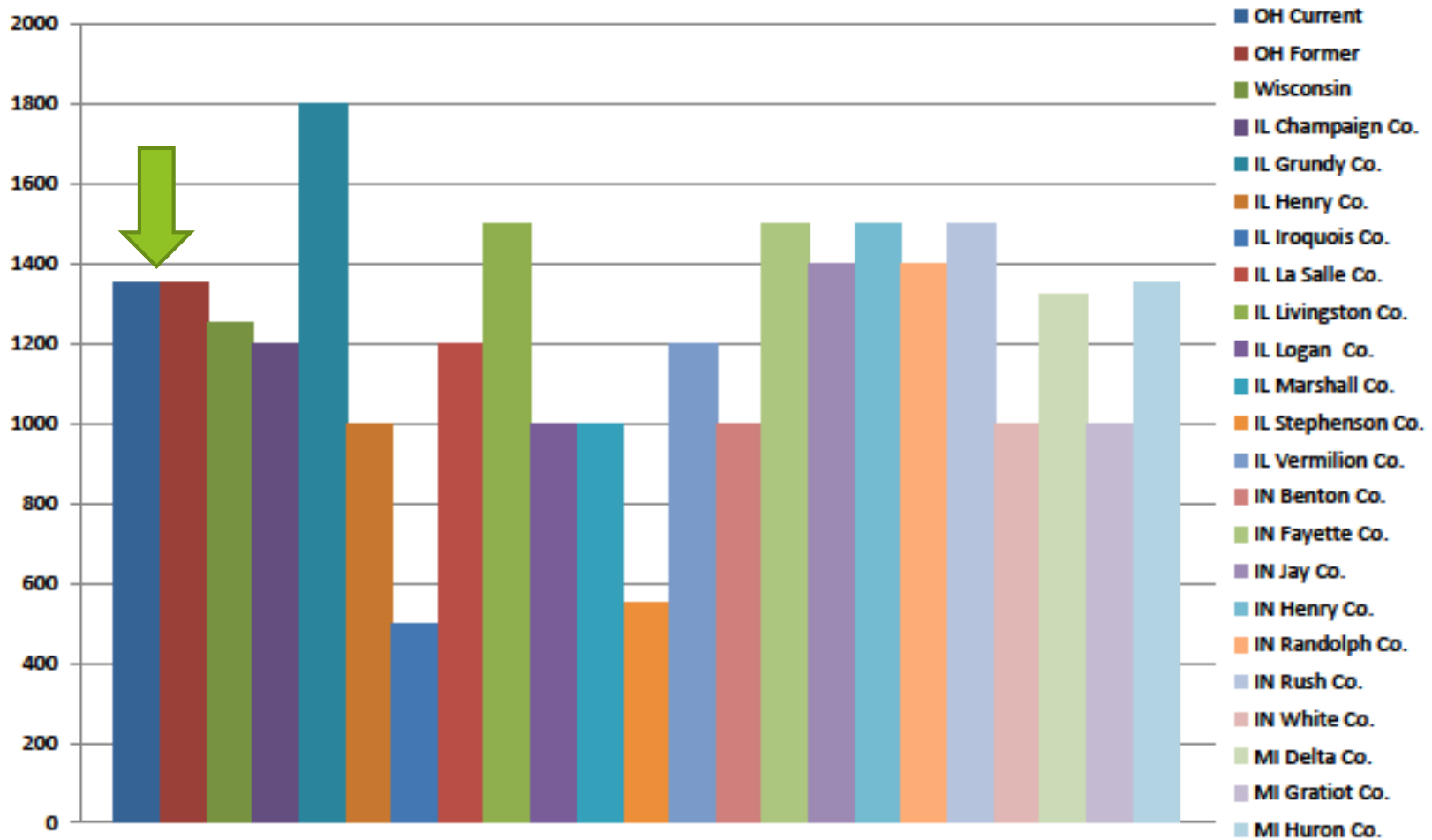
Regional Setbacks for Successful Projects Compared to New Ohio Standard



Setback Comparison for Non-Participating Occupied Structures

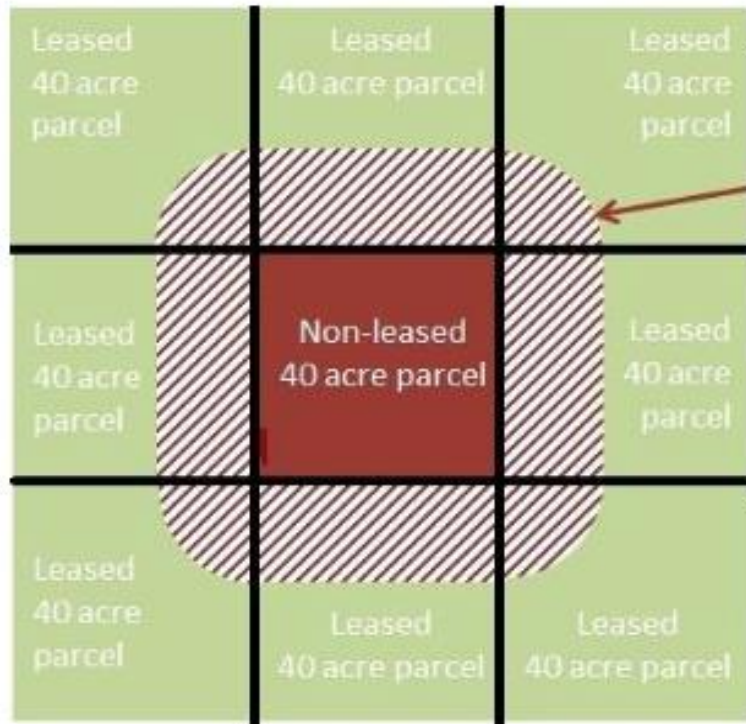
Setbacks for a Standard Turbine

Regional Setbacks for Successful Projects Compared to New Ohio Standard

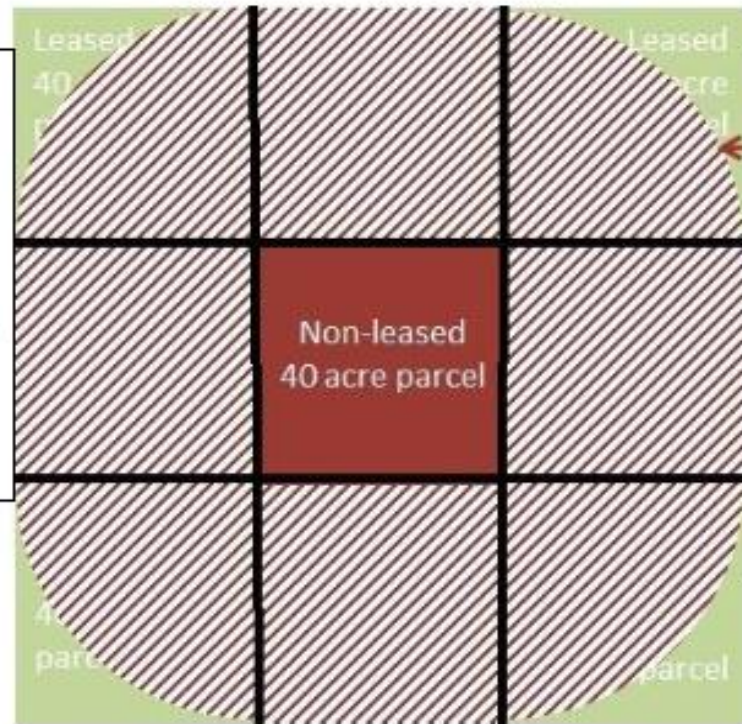


Setbacks for Non-Participating Occupied Structures

Private Property Rights and Wind Energy Siting in Ohio



Original setback from property line – Approximately 525 feet (1.1 times the total height of the turbine structure as measured from its base to the tip of its highest blade)



Setback from property line change in June 2014 (Ohio House Bill 483) – 1273 feet (1,125 feet plus turbine height measured base to the tip of highest blade)

Google Earth Presentation - About Blue Creek Wind Farm



- ▶ Blue Creek Wind Farm
- ▶ Iberdrola Renewables - Now Avangrid Renewables
- ▶ Van Wert & Paulding Counties
- ▶ Largest Taxpayers in Van Wert County
- ▶ Energy sold to First Energy Solutions, AMP Ohio, and The Ohio State University
- ▶ Total acreage: 40,500
- ▶ Total leased acreage: 24,500
- ▶ Average turbine to residence: 1,684 feet
- ▶ Total landowners: 140
- ▶ Total number of homes in project boundary: 760

Data Centers Attraction to Ohio

- ▶ The Data Center Sales Tax Exemption provides a tax exemption rate & term that allows for partial or full sales tax exemption on the purchase of eligible data center equipment
- ▶ Projects must meet minimum investment (\$100M) and payroll thresholds to be eligible¹
- ▶ So.. What does this matter for renewable energy?

1. <http://jobs-ohio.com/why-ohio/incentives/>

Companies have sustainability goals & want long term energy hedge!



At Amazon, we are putting our scale and our inventive culture to work on sustainability and protecting our environment.



Google
green



We are committed to powering our owned and leased data center operations with clean and renewable energy. In 2012, we set a goal of reaching 25% clean and renewable energy in our electricity supply mix in 2015 for all data centers — which we exceeded. In 2015, we doubled that target — and are now aiming to have at least 50% clean and renewable energy in our mix in 2018.

Datacenter Sustainability

Microsoft is committed to software and technology innovations that help people and organizations around the world improve the environment.

In this strategy brief, learn about Microsoft's environmental sustainability imperative and how advanced technologies, smart business practices, and strategic partnerships are helping to reduce our impact on the environment. In addition, learn how our investments in an efficient, sustainable, cloud infrastructure can help organizations around the world reduce their own impact.



Our planet deserves our best thinking.

We take the same innovative approach to the environment that we do with our products. We're creating new solar energy projects to reduce our carbon footprint. We're switching to greener materials to create safer products and manufacturing processes. We're protecting working forests and making sure they are managed sustainably. We're even creating a more mindful way to recycle devices using robots.

More in their own words..

WHY COMPANIES ARE TURNING TO WIND POWER

GOOGLE

"Because energy is a large operating expense at Google, it is beneficial to power the data centers with low-cost wind power,"

DOW CHEMICAL

"Dow is always looking for win-win solutions – good for the environment and good for business. By entering into this agreement, Dow is taking a serious approach to our future energy needs in Texas and cost-competitive wind energy is a great opportunity."

IKEA

"The US has amazing wind and sun resources that will never run out. We are delighted to make this investment – it is great for jobs, great for energy security, and great for our business. Importantly, it's great for the future of our climate."

YAHOO!

"At Yahoo, we're committed to being an environmentally responsible company...Driving the development of cleaner and renewable sources of power is an important piece of our sustainability strategy."

MICROSOFT

"The Pilot Hill Wind Project is important to Microsoft because it helps solidify our commitment to taking significant action to shape our energy future by developing clean, low-cost sources to meet our energy needs."

Courtesy of Jean-Jacques Halans



Not just data centers who want strong renewable energy policy

BRIEF

Ohio businesses call for end of renewables, efficiency freeze

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Dive Brief:

- Nine Ohio businesses that collectively employ more than 25,000 workers are urging state lawmakers to reinstate energy efficiency and renewables targets that were frozen in 2014.
- Organized by sustainability advocate Ceres Inc., the companies include Campbell Soup, Clif Bar, Gap, Nestle, Whirlpool and others.
- The freeze on Ohio's clean energy standards is set to expire at the end of this year, but lawmakers are considering changes that would make the reinstated RPS voluntary.