

Dear Chairman Vitale and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

Our support for House Bill 401 is absolute. The denial of a tax abatement (PILOT--payment in lieu of taxes) to wind developers is NOT local control. There is no local control in existence to protect residents from big wind's onslaught.

As Logan County residents, we are well aware and appreciative of the fact that the Logan County Commissioners did their research and responded to the overwhelming outcry of Logan County citizens opposed to Everpower's Scioto Ridge wind project proposed for Hardin and Logan Counties with a PILOT denial. EverPower publicly stated that without the tax abatement (PILOT) turbines would not be constructed in Logan County.

But it is never really over.....Innogy purchased EverPower and as a result, turbines will be built in Logan County.

They are not welcome here. And there was no local control.

HB401 with companion SB234 would ensure local control--a township referendum on a wind project. We applaud Rep. Reineke and Senator McColley for their courage in addressing this issue. It is long overdue.

And as the editorial states: Yes, wind turbines are becoming more common, but they are not the right fit for every rural location. When there is opposition, voters, not a state board, should have the final say.

We respectfully ask for your support for HB401--support for local control by referendum.

Joe and Linda Hughes

6320 State Route 540

Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

Logan County

A Courier Editorial, The Findlay Publishing Company

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2019/11/15/let-voters-settle-wind-power-feuds/>

November 15, 2019 • Editorials, Ohio

Let voters settle wind power feuds

Credit: The Courier | November 15, 2019 | [thecourier.com](http://thecourier.com) ~~

It's impossible not to notice that wind power is catching on in this part of Ohio. Towering turbines encroach Findlay's north side, and stretch west in northern Hardin County.

Meanwhile, a big wind farm is awaiting approval in Seneca County.

But not all people favor wind power and the issue can divide neighbors.

The greatest support for wind projects comes from property owners who directly benefit from land lease agreements with developers. At rural sites, such contracts can allow farmers to realize extra income from the air and still farm the land.

But feuds can come in more populated townships, where some residents end up living in the flicker or shadows of a turbine – but receive no compensation.

While setback rules ease some property owner concerns, landowners have relatively little clout when it comes to preventing construction of turbines.

That could change if bills introduced recently by state Sen. Rob McColley, R-Napoleon, and state Rep. Bill Reineke, R-Tiffin, advance.

Either SB 234 or HB 401 would permit a township referendum vote on certain wind farm projects.

In order to move forward, a wind project would still have to be approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board. But the legislation would mean a certification for a wind farm, or an expansion of an existing one, would not become effective until 90 days after board approval.

Within that period, residents in an affected township could file a petition for a referendum with the local board of elections. If signatures of at least 8 percent of those who voted in the last gubernatorial election in that township are obtained, the fate of the project would be decided by township voters in the next election.

The referendum process would not need to be used in every situation – some residents may be on the same page when it comes to wind projects.

It's rare for the state to relinquish control to local government, but the McColley and Reineke proposals could resolve disputes between those who benefit from the wind and those who do not.

Yes, wind turbines are becoming more common, but they are not the right fit for every rural location. When there is opposition, voters, not a state board, should have the final say.

Source: The Courier | November 15, 2019 | [thecourier.com](http://thecourier.com)