

Gary Click Testimony on HB 401

The Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

November 19, 2019

My name is Gary Click. I serve as the pastor of the Fremont Baptist Temple in Sandusky County. I am an elected member of the Republican State Central Committee and a candidate for the 88th House District. I have been asked by some good people in Seneca County to give testimony today in favor of House Bill 401 and I am happy to do so.

It is not my desire today to get into the weeds on the issue of wind. I'm not here to talk about blade failures, ice throws or infra sound. I did not come to discuss specific problems that may occur in particular neighborhoods. I came to talk about people.

Whether we are talking about saving our nuclear power plants or the heated topic of wind turbines, we are ultimately talking about people. When we discuss energy, we are talking about better lives for those who need and deserve a stable and efficient energy grid.-And, in pursuit of that goal, we are here today to talk about the rights of citizens to control the future of their community when deciding where wind energy facilities are sited. As we discuss the placement of 300 wind turbines towering at heights exceeding that of the Washington monument over a 250 square mile area, we are ultimately talking about how this affects people for good or for bad, as their community is transformed into a heavy industrial zone.

It is important to establish from the beginning that being for or against wind power does not make one a sinner or a saint. We are not talking about good people verses bad people but rather the right of people living within any community to determine what happens in their community, especially concerning development that affects the entire community in such a massively transformative way. This is simply good government.

The beauty of the HB 401 is that it is neither pro-wind nor anti-wind. It is just pro-people. It simply insures that within our Republican form of Democracy, the people have not lost their voices. It ensures that our government remains a government of the people, by the people and for all the people.

The question that you will decide, as representatives of the people, is who gets to decide. Are these questions decided by a unelected bureaucrats, corporate investors and a minority of landowners or by the majority of the people who live within the affected community?

HB 401 ensures that the people do not lose control of their own communities. It becomes the responsibility of corporate investors to persuade the majority of the community rather than just a few isolated landowners. Communities who are willing to accept the risks for the proposed benefits will choose to allow wind turbines into their community. Likewise, the citizens who believe that that preponderance of the evidence does not smile favorably upon wind turbines will have their voices heard as well.

HB 401 is common sense legislation. Supporting it does not make one pro-wind or anti-wind. It simply means that you are pro-people. Let the people decide what is best in their own communities. Therefore, I urge you to pass HB 401 out of this committee without delay. Thank you.