

BILL FRANKART

Adams Township Trustee Seneca County, Ohio

Chairman Vitale and members of Energy and Natural Resource Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak as a proponent of HB 401. My name is Bill Frankart I am a Township Trustee for Adams Township in Seneca County, Ohio. I am also a landowner and farm about 5,000 acres in the area.

As a representative of all residents, I have to consider the issue from both sides. I recognize the rights of landowners to lease their property to the wind company but I have to represent all those who will be affected by the huge change the wind project brings with it. The list of concerns I heard about is long, but there are some that will have genuinely serious safety and financial consequences.

As a Township trustee I have heard the concerns of my citizens and have come to believe that they should have real input into whether a huge transformation should be taking place. HB 401 would gather a true consensus as whether it should happen. Sharp divisions have occurred among residents of my township. But if it becomes absolutely clear that a majority of people want, or do not want the transformation, then it will go a long way towards the acceptance of the eventual outcome. Neither side believes the voices of the public officials represent the true consensus of residents and they have a very valid point on this since nearly all the officials were voted into office well before wind projects became an issue.

It has become clear to me as a local public official that the opportunity for a referendum on a wind project is sorely needed to diffuse the resentment that has developed from the state and wind companies forcing wind projects into our area, overriding our well planned local zoning, and depriving our citizens of their right to decide the future of their own community. Wind projects are too big and too imposing to allow construction without affected residents having a true voice in the matter.

Thank You



BILL FRANKART November 16, 2019