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An Open Letter to All Congressmen/Congresswomen in the Ohio House:

I am a resident of Seneca County, Eden Township, writing today and asking for your support of HB401, recently introduced in the Ohio House. Under the current Ohio Law, the unelected members of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) have the sole authority to approve or deny approval for construction of industrial wind projects.

Several of these projects have been proposed in the past year for Seneca County (Seneca Wind, Republic Wind, and now Emerson Creek). If these projects are approved by the OPSB, they will turn thousands of agricultural-zoned areas into industrial zones with 600-foot-tall spinning machines. All zoning ordinances that are in place locally (to prevent this type of industrialization) will be overridden by the OPSB decision with no voice for the residents who live there. An unelected board will decide how the various townships and counties are impacted. This is simply wrong. It is a "no taxation without representation" situation, which I thought was a part of this nation's history relegated to the past.

The passage of HB401 will give a voice to residents in townships throughout the State of Ohio regarding whether they wish to have their communities changed into industrial zones by wind projects constructed in their townships. Wind developers insist the local residents want these projects. This is certainly not true in Seneca County where the majority of residents oppose this construction. I believe residents in other counties agree. Ohioans deserve to have a voice in what happens with property in the communities where they live and work.

Give a voice to local residents in Ohio when determining the suitability of industrial wind projects for their areas. Don't allow unelected board members force a decision on the people who live and work in the footprint of proposed wind projects. SUPPORT HB401.

Sincerely,


Jan M. Sampson