

To: Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Nino Vitale - Chairman

In support of a referendum on wind energy projects in Ohio and HB401.

As a lifelong resident of Seneca County and substantial farmland owner the wind project issue has become huge for me. I was approached by wind lease agents 10 years ago but, after reading the lease, decided not to participate. Our property could have hosted 4 turbines netting over \$50,000 dollars per year of income. Facts like these are used by the wind industry to support it's continued requests that Ohio's policy towards wind projects remain accommodative to them.

I am not sure about other landowners but we talk to the neighbors surrounding our property and try to be considerate of them when conducting farm operations. As more and more residences were built in the area we decided to close our hog feeding operation to eliminate the odors. There is no law that required us to do that. Although we did it for the neighbors it also involved self interests. Unlike many landowners we recognize the added intrinsic value that our farmland has for residential use if we decide to sell some off and we would like to protect that value by doing our part to keep the neighborhood a desirable place to live. And, like everyone else in the township, we should have an equal say if someone is trying to transform our area into a heavy industrial zone.

However, I have heard other landowners make the comment that "all those neighbors living on their little plots of land have no right to tell me what to do on my farmland." The fact is that selling land for home sites is far more profitable than farming it and hosting turbines. But you cannot both sell home sites and build turbines on your land. So, by arguing that they should be able to have 600' tall turbines, regardless of what the neighbors think, the landowners are actually trying to put themselves into a less profitable position. How did all those neighboring homes get there in the first place? The landowner (or his predecessor) sold them the land to build on, and when they did so they both profited well AND made the decision that theirs would be a more residential community. It should not be a surprise that living in a more residential area brings change that the landowner must live with.

Each community is unique and has different demographics and priorities. In many areas the money associated with wind projects will be welcomed with open arms. In others people will value the current character of their neighborhood more than any amount of extra money. Who are we as a society if we deny either of these communities the future they desire and are working towards. Instead of aiding wind developers in steamrolling communities Ohio should instead be helping to guide wind projects to areas where they are welcome. HB401 would do just that and I ask that you support this much needed legislation.



Jim Feasel
Eden Township
Seneca County OH
jfeasel@woh.rr.com