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Regarding the "Reineke Referendum."

Nov.15, 2019

I am Patricia Olsen. I live on State Route 547 West, between State routes 269 and 4, in Sherman Township, Huron County, Ohio. I am a retired college professor. I have a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and a Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University. My degrees are in Interpersonal Communication. I am a communication specialist. My husband, who taught Chemistry for 36 years at BGSU Firelands, and I bought two acres of land in 1992, on which sat an English style barn built in 1863. The barn was "recycled" into our home. Recycled means that what was in the barn was re-used, i.e. the siding is still our siding, and the wood in the horse stalls and hay mow are now the first-floor bathroom, and the book shelves in our library. We added new oak for a floor, and four strings of stairs and landings. All the stones excavated from what is now our 32'x42' basement, are in the 14' wide by 28' high fireplace and chimney that was designed and hand-built by a master mason from Norwalk. The two acres, that had not been tended in 50 years, was worked and worked until we had a respectable yard that had a small grove on the front of the property, and to which we added more than 60 trees in both the front and back yards.

My husband and I often sat in the swing in the front yard and thoroughly enjoyed our yard, our environment, and the peace and quiet of the country. Our money, back-breaking labor, and most of our time gave us a property to enjoy and be proud of, and to spend the rest of our lives in our little haven. My husband lived 25 years to enjoy the fruits of his labor. I have lived here for nearly 28 years.

Last year, 2018, my neighbors and I learned that some company had decided to install 70-80 wind turbines that would be 655 feet tall. **655 FEET!** Only Terminal Tower, 771 feet, and Key Tower, 947 feet, both in Cleveland, will be taller than "our "dozens" of wind turbines. No one asked the residents of these counties if they wanted these monstrosities in their back, side, or front yards.

Then, an article in the Norwalk Reflector quoted a land owner on 547 South saying that he welcomed the project because he would get enough money to help pay his farming bills!

Many, many residents of Seneca, Huron, and Erie counties were astonished and devastated to learn about this. That is, only the residents who had already agreed, in secret, within the last nine years or so, to lease their farm properties to Apex Energy, knew what was happening and kept it secret from everyone. We, non-signers, stood by and said WHAT?

After the initial shock of being sold-out and blind-sided by their neighbors, everyone looked at each other and asked, "What can we do?" The anticipation was that township and local trustees would support efforts to fend off the tentacles of Apex, but, that was not a true expectation. The people who sit on the Ohio Siting Board that will determine "our future," I presume, took oaths of office to support and protect the people and resources of the State of Ohio. Alas! It's unclear where their allegiances lie. Representative Bill Reinecke, who has fought long and hard to support the people and resources of this affected area, introduced HB401 to give local voters the right to have a voice in their future.

Most of the people in this affected area have lived their entire lives on farms or properties in rural areas. They produce food and milk and other resources for the rest of the country. They take care of their properties. Love of the land and pride in being a steward are basic values of people who live in these rural areas. We have neighborhoods and neighbors. We may not be able to run next door to borrow a cup of sugar, but, we have neighbors.

I reiterate: The vast majority of people who live in these rural areas have lived there for most of their lives. They chose and choose to live rural. And, these companies believe that they can walk unbeknownst into these neighborhoods and destroy them without asking residents if they want their neighborhoods ruined and their lands desecrated. We have had no say in this debacle. Congressman Reineke is fighting for our right to say what happens to our world.

I shudder when I think of the desecration of the land, the ruination of our roads, the loss of eagles and vultures, and the wildlife. Lifetimes of efforts and finances will be wiped out, because, the land values will drop because homes and farms can't be sold because who wants to buy property surrounded by wind turbines 655 feet tall and the whirring sound of the blades.

I would like to give what I think will happen should these companies prevail in our three counties. Recently, due to a detour on Ohio 269, I went north on SR 4, then went west on Seel Road (a township road) to get back onto 269 to go into town. A large semi, going south on 269, stopped before the detour and made a left turn onto Seel Road. The road is paved and wide enough for a single car, but, if two cars pass, both have to go off the sides of the road to pass each other. A truck demands more space, and, this semi covered the entire road. Going west, facing this truck, no place existed for me on the road. I pulled totally off the road onto an embankment, and the truck passed me with little space between us. I realized what will happen to local traffic when the area is overwhelmed with trucks, trucks, and trucks.

Apex wants to install 70-80 655-ft turbines beginning on the 547/269 intersection. A turbine, 655-feet high, obviously cannot be moved on one truck. One turbine will probably be moved in sections, on specially designed flat-bed trucks that are very large and very long. The lead truck, carrying the base section, will require five or six support semis and other vehicles. Next comes section two and six or seven support vehicles, until they get each part of 655-foot turbines moved. Don't forget the trucks that will be used to transport very large blades and electrical units that run each unit. That is for just ONE turbine. Let's see. Maybe 20 massive trucks to transport one turbine and blades, so, multiply that by 77, and figure out how many massive trucks will be in service.

One thing I noticed at I watched the truck turning onto Seel Road. It was so large and long, that it could not make a complete left turn on such a narrow road, thus, the majority of the truck ran over the corner of private property. The reality is that the county and township roads in the three counties cannot support all the transport vehicles. The roads are not wide enough, and not built for that kind of heavy traffic. I remember, sometime ago, a detour on Ohio 4 required using 547 to get to 269, then take a right turn to go to Bellevue. It was about a two-four week detour, so hundreds of trucks passed my house on 547. Ohio 4 was finally opened, and the state had to rebuild and resurface 547 to put it back into shape.

That's just the big transport trucks, but, before they have their chance to destroy our roads, consider the earth moving machines, the cement trucks, and all the support vehicles to make this catastrophe work. Each turbine must sit on a 30x30x10 cement pad. That is a hole in

the ground, 30 feet by 30 feet square and ten feet deep. That is as large as my living room! One turbine here, four or five there, all with overhead wire connecting them to provide "energy." The leftover trash and remnants have to be removed, and most of the county and township roads have to be rebuilt and repaved. Apex has suggested that the company will do that, but, if they kept this project secret for nine years, it's doubtful that will happen. And, the towers are said to last 18-20 years, and, they will then be dismantled and removed, however, the 30'x30'x10' chunk of cement will remain in the ground, rendering it unusable for the rest of time.

And the story continues. NO ONE asked me or any of my neighbors if we wanted our land and environment destroyed. The only people willing to allow this desecration are the few people who hope to make enough money to help pay their farm bills. What is so sad, that, not only will the environment and land be destroyed, so will relationships that have existed for years and decades. One of my friends asked how she would be able to even talk to a neighbor she has known for years because he helped sacrifice the well-being of his neighbors for his meager yearly check. What a terrible sacrifice!

The cost of this fiasco will be catastrophic, and most of all, neighborhoods will be destroyed along with life-long relationships.

How do I respond to Congressman Reineke's bill? He understands the imminent destruction of a society and culture. People who live in cities and towns don't understand what will happen if these deceitful "energy" companies take over our counties. It's not in their back yard! Should these companies prevail, people will drive north and south on Ohio 4 and see the long lines of wind turbines, one here, three in another place, and maybe, seven or eight in another, all connected by overhead lines. No birds. "What happened here," they will ask.

The people of these counties, my next-door neighbors, me. We deserve the right to vote on what happens to our properties and land. Having an idea of the desecration and damage these turbines will cause, it boggles my mind to think that people in the Ohio Senate and House would not support this bill. If they want wind farms, then find a large piece of land and plant the turbines all together...not put them helter-skelter up and down our townships. For our electorates to give these companies permission to destroy our neighborhoods for what benefit they know not, that is not being loyal to the oaths they took to protect and serve the people in their districts. It's obscene! Money and power do not supercede the rights of landowners. Not to give us the right to vote for protection of our land will be a travesty.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia M. Olsen Ph.D." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Patricia M. Olsen Ph.D.