

#58

To the Ohio General Assembly,

Re: Industrial Wind Turbine projects in Ohio counties

I am a resident of Eden Township, Seneca County and would like to go on record as being opposed to the Industrial Wind Turbine projects proposed for Seneca County and other Ohio counties. I am not opposed to wind turbines or alternative energy, but I am opposed to the construction of industrial scale wind farms covering thousands of acres in heavily populated areas. I also wish to express my support for HB401 and SB234 that would allow a referendum that would assure a local Township vote by residents directly affected by wind farms in their areas.

One of my objections to the wind projects in our area relates to limiting access to large areas of our densely populated county by Air Ambulance Emergency Services. There are many county, township and state roads in near proximity to proposed Industrial Wind Turbine projects that will not be accessible to air emergency services. When First Responders and Emergency Care personnel deem it necessary to transport a victim from the scene of an accident, the last thing they need is Industrial Wind Turbines in the immediate area that will prevent air ambulances from landing at the required site. The turbines will pose safety hazards to emergency helicopters and will necessitate route deviations and designated landing areas away from turbine locations. When minutes can mean the difference between saving and losing a life after an auto accident, I find this situation unacceptable.

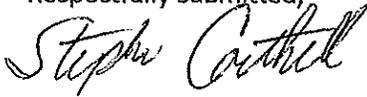
I urge the lawmakers of Ohio and Ohio Power Siting Board Staff to investigate the air ambulance access situation in the proposed wind farm area to insure that the health and safety of the area residents are not put at risk. Seneca county receives air ambulance service from Mercy Life Flight in Toledo, ProMedica in Toledo, Metro Life Flight in Cleveland and MedFlight in Columbus when required. The explanation for so many services in this area is very simple. The population density requires these services. Mercy Life Flight has flown from Mercy Hospital in Tiffin over 100 times in calendar year 2018. I requested but did not receive information from Mercy Life Flight and ProMedica, on the number of flights from accident scenes in Seneca County. I do know that there is rarely a week that goes by without air ambulances landing at accident sites for transport of critically injured in Seneca County. Mercy Hospital in Tiffin is located one half mile from the Seneca County Airport and the hospital has a helicopter landing pad because it makes no sense to load critically ill patients into an ambulance and transport them by road to the airport for transfer by air ambulance.

The other main objection the siting an industrial wind farm in Seneca County is the effect it will have on property values and future housing development in the vicinity. I object to the OPSB overriding our local zoning regulations. We purchased our rural property in Eden Township and we thought that we had a degree of protection from large industrial facilities being erected in our township by virtue of our zoning variance procedures that allow input from affected property owners. The system is in place for our personal safety and protection of our property values but we are not allowed to use it. The wind

projects should be subject to a vote by the local residents who will be affected by the project. If the locals vote for the project then so be it. If they vote against the project it indicates that the project is not suitable to the local residents and should not be built. There are hundreds of property owners in this designated project area that sought a peaceful area to live, enjoy and raise their families. I, like many of my friends and neighbors take pride in our properties and would not like to see our property values decline due to the near proximity of large industrial wind turbines. This area of Seneca County is far too densely populated for a wind project of this magnitude and is not zoned for industrial use. A recent housing study in nearby Tiffin indicated the serious need for housing. New housing will be virtually eliminated in the area of an industrial wind facility such as those proposed by Seneca Wind and Republic Wind, thus greatly affecting our local economy.

Also, I do not think there is a need for the proposed energy production. If there was a need in our area for increased energy production, we would logically build natural gas powered facilities using the abundant supply of gas that currently travels via pipeline through our county. Much of the gas travelling through the Rover Pipeline ends up in Michigan or Canada because there is no real need for it in our area. The Industrial Wind Turbines that are proposed are very inefficient and unreliable compared to a gas plant or a Generation IV Nuclear plant and do not have the ability to replace any existing power producing facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Cortell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Stephen Cortell

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