

#28

November 13, 2019

Re: House Bill 401; Senate Bill 234

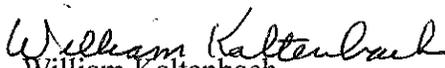
To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to urge you to support the two bills referenced above both of which provide local citizens the opportunity to seek a referendum allowing those citizens to vote on whether or not to allow industrial wind turbine projects to be built in their townships that are zoned agricultural and residential. Currently, there is very little, if any, consideration of how the majority of citizens feel about this invasion of thousands of acres of land by these giant, 650 foot turbines. Current wind projects and expected future projects will transform approximately 250 square miles of Northwest Ohio into one huge industrial project. Ongoing research estimates the loss of property value on property near industrial wind projects to be devalued up to 43% depending on how close the property is to the project. Just using 20% as a conservative estimate, my property value would be adversely affected by over \$60,000. By signing a so-called "good neighbor agreement" I would have to live an additional 122 years just to break even! Multiply this by the thousands of homeowners who would be affected. Where is our "just compensation"? The heavily subsidized (with our tax dollars) wind developers have the money to hire attorneys, lobbyists, "expert witnesses", advertising, etc. to push their agenda. We, the people who will be affected the most, do not have the same resources available to fight for our rights as property owners. If the majority of voters in a township approve, than so be it. That's the democratic way instead of having outsiders come into our area causing marginalization, anger and frustration with the current bureaucratic process. Please, give us a voice in our future and the future of our communities. Grant us the right to vote on these projects.

In addition, the two bills offer some improvement in the safety setbacks from non-participating property lines. The current minimum setback is approximately 500 feet shorter than the manufacturers minimum recommended safety zone. It is over two football fields shorter than a documented case here in Ohio where a six pound chunk of a turbine blade was hurled over 1800 feet and that was from a shorter turbine than the ones proposed for Huron County. In addition, more and more studies conclude that living in close proximity to these industrial giants bring additional health risks caused by shadow flicker, infrasound, vibration, etc.. Many areas of the country and indeed the world, that have years and years of experience with wind turbines are significantly lengthening their setbacks, not shortening them. If these projects are allowed to be built, the health and safety of Ohio citizens must be enhanced not compromised.

Once again, please support the prompt passage of these two bills.

Sincerely,

  
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