

December 3, 2019

Representative Nino Vitale, Chair
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
The Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Vitale,

Chairman Vitale, Vice-Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to offer opponent testimony on House Bill 401. My name is Anne Fry and I am a retired teacher and my husband, and I are landowners in Seneca County.

I taught for 35 years in the Seneca East School District. After retiring from the public school I was an adjunct instructor at Heidelberg University in the School of Education, teaching classroom technology. Currently, I am a substitute teacher. I invested my life's work in helping students have a brighter future. During this time, my husband and I also invested in land in rural Seneca County. We worked hard to make these investments and now we have an opportunity to secure our retirement by generating wind energy on our land. Unfortunately, this opportunity is being threatened by House Bill 401. This legislation is a massive and unacceptable threat to private property rights. MY property rights. The property rights of ALL Ohioans.

I worked all my life to bring a brighter future for students and now my own future looks dimmer because of this proposed violation of my property rights. We live in an unzoned township. Our neighbors live in an unzoned township. When you choose to live there, you do that knowing that fact. Knowing that your neighbor is able to do what they wish in order to be productive on their land. Whether that's putting up a new grain silo, a new hog barn, a cell phone tower, or, yes, farming the wind. I would like to understand why wind farms are the only target for House Bill 401.

When our neighbor plants corn around our land, it provides a nice buffer from sound and light from the highway. When he plants soybeans, that buffer is gone. Should we be able to vote to prevent our neighbor from growing soybeans? Of course not. He should have the right to work his land as he chooses to support himself and his family. All I ask is that my husband and I be given the opportunity to do the same. Mr. Chairman and members, please support rural landowners trying to make a living and oppose House Bill 401.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify and I would be pleased to take any questions.

Respectfully,

Anne Fry

cc: Members of the Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Representative Bill Reineke