



## ***Paulding County Economic Development, Inc.***

A 501c3 non-profit corporation

101 East Perry St., Paulding, OH 45879

Phone 419-399-8282 Fax 419-399-8284

*Jerry L. Zielke, Director*

*Email [pced63director@gmail.com](mailto:pced63director@gmail.com)*

*[www.pced.net](http://www.pced.net)*

### **House Energy and Natural Resources Committee**

Chairman Nino Vitale

#### **Opponent Testimony – House Bill 401**

Written Testimony of Jerry L Zielke

Paulding County Economic Development Director

**December 2, 2019**

Chairman Vitale, Vice-Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson. My name is Jerry L Zielke and I am the Paulding County Economic Development Director.

I am writing you today as an opponent to House Bill 401. HB 401 would once again would add one more unnecessary new regulation on Clean Energy wind development projects here in the State of Ohio. We currently have major policy barrier that blocks future projects with the current setback requirements passed in a previous budget bill in the dark of night. Are we here in the State of Ohio open for future business development or not. House bill HB 401 is saying no do not come to Ohio.

I continue to see major new businesses secure purchase power agreement in other States. We have had additional requests for information from Out of State businesses looking to locate in Ohio if clean energy renewable power could be supplied here.

We here Paulding County are **OPEN** for business. Our community supports a diversification of Ohio's energy portfolio to include a greater share of clean energy both wind and solar. We have asked our legislator to let are local county government officials (Commissioners) to decide the setbacks and rules not the townships. Our current wind projects cover a number of townships the bill would make it impossible to get a project built.

I do not support HB 401 in its present form. I can only support county control to make the choice to open the door to pursue these wind farm projects and promote economic growth for their communities here our county and other county in the State of Ohio.

Paulding County has seen tremendous positive impacts from the development of wind farms projects built by Avangrid Renewables LLC, Consumer Energy(Northwest Ohio Wind) and EDP Renewables North America LLC here in our county. The power purchase agreements have been made with major companies including Amazon, Microsoft and General Motors. These wind farms have provided needed funding resource for are local school districts, local townships, local libraries, the Vantage Career Center and other county governmental agencies. The lease payments have been very beneficial to our landowners and we have seen major donations to support community project do to this additional revenue source.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 401. If you have any additional questions or need additional information please contact me.

Sincerely

Jerry L Zielke, Executive Director

Paulding County Economic Development, Inc.

(419) 399-8282 or Cell 260-312-2081

E-mail: [pced63director@gmail.com](mailto:pced63director@gmail.com) or [jerryzielke@gmail.com](mailto:jerryzielke@gmail.com)

#### **Our Mission Statement**

**To assist Business, Industry and Local Government in developing job opportunities and prosperity in Paulding County**