

December 1, 2019

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chairman Vitale,

My name is Norman Robbins, a long term Ohio resident and member of the bipartisan Power of Wind volunteer group in Northeast, Ohio. I write today to express opposition to House Bill 401, because it will put the final nail in the coffin of onshore wind power development in Ohio. HB401, on top of Ohio's already forbidding setback restrictions and reduced renewable portfolio standards, will surely discourage wind energy development, and ensure that our state continues to be noncompetitive in terms of electricity cost. It will also discourage large corporations now seeking abundant renewable power as they decide where to move.

The growing economic importance of wind power was [recently highlighted](#) by Keycorp (which, as you know, has its Keybank HQ in Ohio), pointing out "...onshore wind costs less than 6 {cents} per kWh. Fossil fuel-fired power, by comparison, ranges from 5 to 17 cents per kWh, according to the [International Renewable Energy Agency](#). And prices are expected to fall further still. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory projects that the cost of solar will fall by 60 percent by 2050 and onshore wind could decline by 30 percent. With technological breakthroughs, such as cheaper storage and transmission, those costs could fall even more." Indeed, battery storage of wind and solar energy could become the leading source of "peaking" electricity, which would be far less costly than peaking from fossil fuels.

Conclusion 1: HB401, by shutting down wind development, will increase cost of electricity in Ohio compared to other states that encourage wind power.

[According to OSU](#), unusually heavy precipitation and droughts increasingly experienced by Ohio farmers will [increase](#) in future years. [Federal bailouts](#) do not compensate for crop (and tariff-related) losses for many farmers, even though they amounted to \$12 billion in 2018 and \$16 billion in 2019. Taxpayers have a right to ask why farmers should get their hard earned tax dollars in bailouts when farmers could take advantage of large payments from wind developers to offset farming losses. Or why the private property of farmers who favor wind development should be "taken" by state laws such as HB401 that deprive them of that right, when no such takings are proposed for fracking sites in Ohio.

Conclusion 2: Farmers, especially smaller ones, will need off-setting income to deal with future climate challenges without massive federal subsidies. Wind power provides a private source of income for this purpose, which should not be undermined by state rules like HB401 that specifically target wind but not fracking.

Respectfully,
Norman Robbins
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cc: Members of the Ohio House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Representative Bill Reineke