

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,

My name is Ronald Smith and I live in rural Seneca County, Ohio with property within the proposed Republic Wind Farm and I am opposed to House Bill 401.

House Bill 401 includes a referendum on wind energy projects after they receive a permit from the state. I find this amendment to be an attack on property rights and an attack on businesses investing in the state.

Participation in these wind projects is a choice, one that many in my community have made. Whether folks are choosing to participate as a source of income, to see the state move forward to more renewable energy sources, or for any other reasons, this is a choice for the landowner and the landowner alone to make. A referendum process like the one proposed strips away that choice from landowners such as myself and gives the township control over what I do with my land. This takes away my property rights and the other participating landowners' property rights.

I oppose the proposed House Bill 401. This is a bailout for noncompetitive coal and nuclear plants and an attack on a market competitor in wind and solar energy. Free markets should not have the government picking winners and losers, and this bill picks both winners and losers by propping up one half of the power industry and attacking the other half.

This bill should not become law, and I encourage you to vote against this bill. Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully,

Ronald Smith

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