

November 28, 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 Tom Schock. As a life-long Ohio resident, I am opposed to House Bill 401 because it will end new wind farm development in Ohio. No wind developer will take the risk of investing millions of upfront costs and obtaining multiple approvals only to see his efforts defeated by a township vote.

Wind energy is the cleanest, safest and most economical way to produce electricity. It offers annual cash payments to farmers, increased revenue for schools and local governments, and jobs for the rural areas.

With the passage of House Bill 6 this year, Ohio has rolled back the Renewable Portfolio Standards. Previously, the Legislature greatly increased the wind turbine setback requirements. What message does this send to companies that want 100% renewable energy and future residents that want a forward looking state? Utilities are phasing out of coal and nuclear is too costly to build and maintain. Ohio will be 90% dependent on natural gas. What happens if we discover a problem with fracking or the producers decide to raise the prices?

Wind farms are spread over multiple townships. Based on the misleading ads for HB 6, I have no doubt that the fossil fuel and big utilities will spread misinformation to defeat any wind farm proposed. That is why the independent Ohio Power Sitting Board is the proper authority to determine where wind farms should be developed. Please do not pass HB 401.

Sincerely,

Tom Schock  
3941 Fielding Dr.  
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

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