

6601 Road 124
Payne, Ohio 45880
November 29, 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 Richard King and I am a farm owner in Payne, Ohio, Paulding County. I was a farm host for a delegation to tour wind farms in Paulding County recently. I write today to express opposition to House Bill 401. The wind farms have been a large asset to Paulding County. We only wish the elected officials of the State would allow counties to determine the setback and terms for wind farms locally. I am not for building wind farms against the wishes of local residents, but current law allows for their input in this process. Currently elected officials that represent the residents of the county play a major role in the process. In Paulding County landowners worked with the commissioners and schools before the process started. I believe all people in the community deserve to be heard, but current rules allow for this participation! This bill would make it far too costly for a wind farm to be considered for any location in Ohio. Why would you invest all of the necessary funds when it could be overturned at the last minute? We did the research in Paulding County before allowing the wind farms to proceed and now feel that we were correct in the decision to allow their development. The new setback rules have already made the damage to our farms much more significant and the cost of the projects much more costly. They have also caused much area that could have been used for producing energy to go unused. I believe if the state legislators truly would study wind energy, it would be seen that much better ideas could be put forth to allow for wind energy growth! I am a Farm Bureau Board member in Paulding County and will make sure the state Farm Bureau realizes the true intent of this bill is to block wind energy in Ohio. Rural counties that wish to participate in wind energy should be allowed to pursue this endeavor without the state legislators constantly putting obstacles in the path of development. I wish more members of congress would tour Paulding County and hear what it has meant for our county! Again, please do not pass this bill as I believe it will harm future development in the State as many companies dedicated to green energy will stop looking to our state for growth.

Respectfully,
Richard King