



House Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation
Chair Dick Stein and Chair Michael O'Brien
Opponent Testimony on House Bill 6
Testimony of Mikayla Pieper
Executive Director, Paulding Chamber of Commerce

April 24, 2019

Dear Chair Stein, Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy Generation:

My name is Mikayla Pieper and I am the Executive Director for the Paulding Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony as an opponent to Ohio House Bill 6.

The Paulding Chamber is dedicated to the economic health and vitality of Paulding County and the entire northwest Ohio region. We are committed to working with the business community, educators, and government to establish the best possible business environment.

No greater investment than wind farm development has provided economic growth for our county. Wind farms are our #1 source of tax revenue in Paulding County providing an impressive new tax revenue for our schools, new income for area landowners and new revenues for local businesses who supply goods and services to the wind energy companies. In addition, wind has brought hundreds of new, temporary jobs during the construction phase as well as permanent wind farm jobs with highly-paid, highly-trained staff. Because of these benefits, wind farm development has been the #1 opportunity for economic growth in Paulding County as well as other counties in Ohio with wind farms.

For these reasons, I request you eliminate any language from House Bill 6 that restricts, disqualifies or in any way presents roadblocks or weakens renewable energy development, renewable energy standards or energy efficiency.

Furthermore, based on the success of wind farm development in Paulding County, I ask you to consider no new energy bill without including the restoration of wind siting regulations so that developers are not be hindered by the current, unreasonable setbacks.

The long-term consequences of House Bill 6 as is will stunt economic and job growth in the Buckeye state. Ohio needs to encourage, not discourage renewable energy development, especially as access to renewable energy is often a top site selection priority for Fortune 100 and 500 companies.

Let's not surrender that opportunity to grow our economy and to welcome new jobs to neighboring states.

I appreciate your consideration and I would be pleased to discuss any of the above further.

Sincerely,

Mikayla Pieper
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