

Sub. House Bill 6  
Proponent Testimony  
Steve C. Shuff  
Seneca County, Ohio  
June 19, 2019

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the committee. My name is Steve Shuff and I am a resident of Eden Township in Seneca County, Ohio.

I am providing testimony in general support of Sub. HB 6 and very special support of that portion of the bill that allows a referendum by the residents of a township on whether or not wind farms should be constructed in their township.

As background, I am a life-long resident of Seneca County. I decided to return to Ohio and to Seneca County after law school graduation from Wake Forest University. I have had the pleasure of serving as a private attorney for over 20 years and serving nearly 31 years in public service as a county prosecutor (10 years) and the last 21 years as Judge of the Common Pleas Court in Seneca County.

In my personal and professional experience, major issues that affect local property owners and their rights should be decided at the local level. This is absolutely true involving wind farms. My opinion is based on Ohio's Constitution. Art. I, § 1 of our Constitution states that "acquiring, possessing and protecting property" is an inalienable right.

That is why I support, and encourage you to support, the "Reineke Referendum" provision of Sub. HB 6.

This is not an AEZ issue. This is not a property line setback issue. This is not even an Ohio Power Siting Board issue.

This is simply an issue involving property rights. Who better to decide what is best for their township than the people who live there, pay taxes there, and raise families there? Thank you.