

Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senate Bill 234
Proponent Testimony

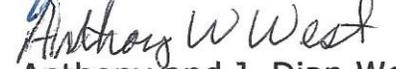
Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, please support Senate Bill 234 and allow every member of a community a voice when it comes to the siting of industrial wind projects in Ohio.

We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 234. We are second generation Seneca County residents. We were first made aware of the Republic Wind project approximately two years ago. We did our own extensive research when we first became aware of the proposed wind projects slated for construction in Seneca and surrounding counties. It was after our research we began to question how industrial wind turbines could be placed in a zoned township or occur without any say of the people in a host community. We reside in Pleasant Township which is a zoned township. Our property lies less than a quarter of a mile outside the Republic Wind project footprint. The closest proposed turbines are approximately one mile from our home. We have had absolutely NO say in this entire process! The only individuals who stand to benefit from these wind projects are those with the financial gains of hosting a turbine, good neighbor agreements, or power line transmissions. How is it acceptable that property owners in Pleasant Township did not even become aware of this project for 8 to 10 years after the first leases were signed? Why are these industrial wind projects not subject to local zoning?

We are demanding a voice in the siting of industrial wind projects. You have the ability to do the right thing and allow the actual people who live in the affected townships the right to have a voice in the process. We are asking you please support Senate Bill 234 and give us that voice.

Thank you for your support in Senate Bill 234.

Sincerely,

Anthony and J. Dian West
3040 North Township Road 155
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Phone: (419) 202-7804

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Chairman Wilson, Vice-Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the committee, please vote yes on Senate Bill 234 as introduced by Senator McColley.

The process for siting industrial wind projects in Ohio is clearly devoid of any input by the citizens of the local community. It is completely unacceptable to allow corporations the ability to spend a decade scheming to construct a project without the public's knowledge and once local citizens learn of and object to such a plan the citizens have no other recourse! When opposition to the projects is expressed by our local elected officials the wind companies still continue with their development. Any local zoning laws enacted by citizens for the protection of all residents have no meaning and are completely disregarded when it comes to industrial wind projects. The only method of justly determining whether an industrial wind project is a good fit for a host community is to allow those citizens affected the ability to review what is proposed and employ that democratic principle of letting the people vote to decide.

Safety should be an absolute priority when it comes to these massive industrial wind projects. As an engineer, I find it deeply concerning that Ohio law allows the wind companies to keep a manufacture safety manual hidden as a "trade secret". The reasoning for wind companies not wanting this information disclosed is made clear when the information contained in the manufacture safety manuals shows safety setback distances for wind company employees that is greater than Ohio's current minimum safety setback distance. When did the safety of wind company employees become more important than the safety of the citizens of Ohio?

Please support allowing Ohio's citizens the opportunity to have a voice when it comes to the siting of industrial wind projects. Please support the safety of Ohio's citizens by requiring disclosure of turbine manufacture safety manuals. Please support Senate Bill 234.

Sincerely,

Travis West

Travis West
3040 North Twp. Road 155
Tiffin, OH 44883

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Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and Members of the Committee, please allow every member of a community a voice in the siting of industrial wind projects by supporting Senate Bill 234.

I have lived in the community for several years and was completely surprised when the first industrial wind project was announced for Seneca County. I was deeply disappointed to learn that this project was in development for nearly a decade. At no point during those ten years was I ever given an opportunity to vote on this dramatic transformation of my community. Since the project announcement, I have witnessed the continued deterioration of civility in my community. Neighbors are at odds with neighbors. Those who would financially benefit from the project want to do so at the expense of their neighbors who in turn would have to live with the impacts.

I have heard the wind project developers and their allies tout the so called "benefits" for the community. I remain skeptical of these so called "benefits" and find it suspicious that such benefits are hyped only AFTER a project has been developed and filed. I have come to seriously doubt anything stated by the wind project developers given their behavior in the community. I do not approve of the wind projects in my community. I find it ironic that I am repeatedly told the wind project is "good" for me by an out of state company only after that company has paid off landowners, bought off township and county officials, and hired numerous lawyers. The wind companies do all of this in an effort to force their project through the Ohio Power Siting Board and onto unwilling communities.

I continue to support my fellow community members who have to fight these wind companies. It is sad this process could have been handled in very different manner by allowing every community member the opportunity to vote and approve or disapprove of a wind project.

Do not allow others to decide what is best for my community. It is time to put the matter of industrial wind projects to a vote by the people.

Thank you,



Barb Everhart
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Tiffin, Ohio 44883
419-618-9211

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Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and Members of the Committee, I write to express my support for Senate Bill 234.

I strongly believe Ohio needs to allow the local citizens to decide what is best for their communities when it comes to industrial wind projects. I and countless members of my community have struggled over the last two years fighting multiple industrial wind projects slated for our area. At no time were any of us ever given an opportunity to vote on whether we even wanted a wind project in the community. I have been rendered voiceless in the current process which instead favors out of state wind companies and those who would financially benefit from such a project. I do not approve of my community being "for sale" without my consent. It is only proper that every member of a community have the opportunity to vote on a matter that affects so many individuals.

In addition, Ohio must make publicly available the wind turbine manufacturer's safety manuals as required in S.B. 234. It is a matter of public safety that the safe setback distances required of employees is made available so that the information may be used in the appropriate siting of industrial wind projects in Ohio.

I ask that you please support S.B. 234 and allow the citizens of Ohio to decide what is best for their communities!

Thank you,



Tom Everhart
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419-618-9212