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January 11, 2020

Senate Energy & Public
Utilities Committee
Senator Steve Wilson

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am writing to you, and urging you to support SB234, to help give all of us residents a vote on industrial wind farms here in Ohio.

I am a resident of Seneca County, Ohio. In the last two years our community has faced many challenges in regard to industrial wind turbines. I am sure many of you in Columbus have heard from us concerned members of Seneca, Huron, Sandusky, Erie and Crawford County, where these large industrial wind farms are being proposed? I would assume that a majority of the people, who have taken the time to contact you and your colleagues, are against these turbines? There are many reasons for that, which is the vast majority of us, do not want these industrial wind farms near our homes.

Passing this bill and giving us the vote would help ensure these projects are placed only where they are wanted. There are many gaps in the process at the Ohio Power Siting Board, and the process for approving an industrial wind farm in Ohio. Some of biggest issues are the half completed surveys and reports, that wind companies are "completing". Some of these especially in the recent hearing for Republic Wind Farm (Case: 17-2295-EL-BGN), the wind company omitted sound study locations from the application. They also lack current surveys, for example the bald eagle surveys, which are old and outdated, the ones being used in this the Republic Wind case were "completed" years ago. It is important to know that eagle populations have significantly increased since their study was complete, therefore not properly accounting for nests and newer/younger bald eagles. So far in the process it does not appear the OPSB has made the wind company complete updated studies. How is this right? This is more of a reason to help give us the vote, and let us decide if these project warrant the certificate granted by the OPSB.

Another reason we deserve the right to vote on these projects is due to the fragile karst ridden countryside, which puts my home, family, and water well all at risk, if these wind farms are built. I could write pages on this alone, but will direct you to the experts on the subject. Please see the written testimony of Ira Daniel Sasowsky filed with the Ohio Power Siting Board on 10/29/2019 under pending case number (17-2295-EL-BGN). This will give you a great idea of how bad this is. Yet another reason we should have voice with these industrial wind farms.

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These wind farm projects are pitting neighbor against neighbor, family member against family member. These wind farms are not wanted here in Seneca County. I urge you again to help give us the voice and vote that we all deserve and help pass SB234. I would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dustin Austin



Seneca County, Ohio