

January 2020 272

Senator Steve Wilson  
Chairman, Senate Energy  
Public Utilities Commission

Dear Senator Wilson,

My family and I are deeply concerned that huge, unsightly, wind turbines could be part of our landscape, in our "back yards."

We, as well as our neighbors are distressed with this proposal, as we have had to real "vote" on this. Property values are a concern. Many of our families have been here on family-owned land for years — paying taxes.

Another concern in our area is the wild life; eagles, deer. Their habitat would be disrupted, as well as that of our domestic animals.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia F. Bilger  
Lyone Township  
Huron County, Oh

**Senator Steve Wilson  
Chairman  
Senate Energy and Public Utilities  
Committee**

**Dear Senator Wilson,**

**What are the financial risks of wind energy? Subsidies and incentives offered by the government are creating a sense of urgency for utility providers and co-ops to install wind farms. But even with the financial breaks, wind energy is a cost-intensive operation. According to the American Wind Energy Association, construction a 50 megawatt wind farm (around 25 wind turbines) carries an up-front cost of around \$65 million, and that's before a single kilowatt of electricity is generated. That's a pretty steep price tag for a venture that rests completely on something as unpredictable as the wind.**

**Another risk associated with wind farming is blighting the landscape with acres upon acres of massive turbines. The same hypothetical 50 megawatt wind farm we just discussed, for example, would require nearly 4,000 acres or around 150 acres per turbine. So even in areas that are relatively isolated, these installations can turn an otherwise pristine desert mesa into an industrial eyesore. And because sweeping mountain ranges and breezy coastlines are ideal locations for both wind farms and tourists, communities are resisting wind farm development out of fear that visitors will opt for other destinations.**

**Please know that I support HB234 and get the vote back to the people.**

**Thank you,**

*Kevin Smith*  
*Kevin H. [unclear]*  
*Bellefonte Sandusky Conroy*

Senator Steve Wilson  
Chairman  
Senate Energy and Public Utilities  
Committee

Dear Senator Wilson,

A 2013 study published in The Wildlife Society Bulletin found that wind turbines killed an estimated 573,000 birds annually in the U.S. And that figure was almost 7 years ago. According to the U.S. Wind Energy State Facts (Oct. 2016), there are over 52,000 wind turbines installed across 40 U.S. States plus Puerto Rico & Guam. An even more alarming fact is that the data on the number of deaths is gathered by paid consultants to the wind industry. That's the fox guarding the chicken house!

Since the diet of Bald Eagles is primarily fish, when wind turbine developers begin constructing wind farms on our coasts such as Lake Erie, the mortality rate for Bald Eagles will skyrocket. We cannot let this happen. Attempts to manage the wind industry with voluntary as opposed to mandatory permitting guidelines are clearly not working. Wind developers are siting turbines in areas of vital importance to birds and other wildlife.

According to the American Bird Conservancy the number of birds taken annually by wind energy facilities (not including associated power lines and towers) has been estimated to exceed 1.4 billion birds by 2030 if there is no change in U.S. policy toward wind energy development.

Please put me down as supporting HB234.

Thank you, Brad Smith



Ridge Field Township  
Huron County



Senator Steve Wilson  
Chairman  
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

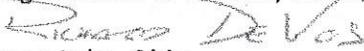
1/19/2020

Mr. Wilson

I am writing this letter to you to let you know I'm in support of Bill HB234.

I am a Ohio Resident for the past 50 years. My late wife was born and raised on our family farm in Huron County. Our family has owned this farm in Monroeville Ohio for over a century. My son resides there today and I still visit often. My late wife's father was also born and raised on this property. He was a full time farmer and very active in the local government and school board. In Monroeville like most places one is required to pull building permits and abide by the local zoning laws. These laws were created and enforced by the local people. Local Zoning laws were created for the people by the people so to protect its local residents on what, where and how a structure could be built. My entire family is still struggling with how the Community has lost the right to vote to say what can be constructed in our local area. How can the government come in and take away all voting rights on what can be constructed in our area? I do not know where you reside in. I am sure you would want the right to vote on what could be constructed/erected in your area. Do you want a Wind Tower next or in view of your home? Do you want a nuclear power plant next or in view of your home? Wouldn't you want the right to vote to decide this? Myself and family are all for alternate energy as so is the town of Monroeville. Are you aware that in Monroeville has a community solar panel field? The city and its people were and our excited about this. The land was donated by a local business man. The local college students even helped with the construction process. What a great college experience for them. Oh yes and the power it produces is shipped into the local electrical grid system. The local building department and zoning laws were also involved and enforced in this project. A great project for all. Do you know you can't even see it unless you drive down the small access road or in a plane flying over head! Not even a issues for our local birds and the one that migrate through our county. We grow crops to feed the people. That is what we do. People should come by at night a see our bat population. Eating the bugs that eat our crops. Will they know not to fly into the turbines. Will our yields go down??? Now the big corporate money machine wants to come in and take over our landscape, risk the people and wildlife health. Plus the power it produces they are shipping it out of town. Local people need to decide how they want to live and live with what. My entire family is sicken by this BIG Corporate Profit Project. Our family farm will never be the same. Our family farm views being blocked and taken away of some of the most surreal God Sunsets and daytime views! Our family farm property values will be slashed with these wind turbines surrounding us. Plus future health issues from the effects of the blades and sounds of these Monster Wind Generators. I am just asking for our right back to vote. I'm sure you would also ask for a vote where your reside. Please listen to the local people!

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter,



Richard De Vos - Avon Lake, Ohio

Senator Steve Wilson,

276  
1/9

My name is Dr. Amber Alt, and I reside at 8336 State Route 18, Bellevue, Ohio which is located in Thompson Township, Seneca County. I was born and raised nearby, on a piece of my grandparents' land located in Sherman Township in Huron County. I would first like to thank Senator Rob McColley for introducing SB 234, which I am writing to you in support of.

As a child in rural Ohio, I spent my summers and weekends at my Grandparents' farm, playing in the woods, building forts, stomping through our creek, and enjoying everything our rural community has to offer. When it came time for me to choose a career path and head to college, I was blessed to receive an all tuition and books paid undergraduate scholarship to Cleveland State University. I spent seven years of my life pursuing my dream to be a physical therapist, surrounded by concrete, skyscrapers and little to no green space. I was homesick on a regular basis, but every time I felt like giving up and coming home, my Grandparents would give me the pep talk I needed to continue my journey and always remind me of what would be waiting for me when I graduated.

I graduated with my Doctorate in Physical Therapy in December of 2014 with \$150,000 in student loan debt due to an unfortunate change in Graduate Student Plus loans beginning to acquire interest immediately. After walking across the stage with my hood and brand new title, I packed my bags and moved back home with my parents to serve the rural community I love so much. After passing my boards, I worked for 3 years in the Galion, Ohio community but realized that I wanted to get married and raise a family closer to where I grew up. So in 2018, my fiancé and I both took large pay cuts for local Seneca and Huron County jobs, and went to the local bank to sign on the dotted line for the farmhouse and 3.1 acres of our dreams.

In the first and only year of owning our rural Bellevue, Ohio home, we have had many positive experiences. We got married in May 2019, and in September 2019 we found out we were expecting our first child. While there have been many happy memories in this home, the most devastating news we could learn is that the Republic Wind Project would be coming to our back yard. What was more devastating was learning that the farmers, who live less than a country block from us, were going to be making a large amount of money to not only destroy our beautiful country view, but ruin our home equity as well. The dream that we had of raising our children in a rural community, with an unobstructed view plentiful of wildlife was crushed. We felt betrayed, knowing that one person would have the sole power and ability to make a decision that would affect our entire community.

As I prepare to become a full-time working mother, already fearful of how I will re-pay my federal student loans as the healthcare system becomes greedier with access to care, I too wonder how I will be able to stay financially afloat if the addition of wind turbines from the Republic Wind Project ruins my property value. I am already in debt due to an overpriced education, and can't afford to be paying on a mortgage worth more than double the new value of my home. Furthermore, when it comes time to continue expanding my family, I wonder what will happen if my children are in an accident or I go into labor with complications and require use of life flight. Living in an area already grid-locked for miles by stopped trains, life flight may be my, and or my future children's' only chance for survival. If the Republic Wind Project is successfully completed, we would likely die in this situation.

SB 234 would give local citizens in townships, like myself, the opportunity to have a voice and vote for or against these industrial sized wind turbines that would otherwise be forced upon us based on contracts signed by a handful of farmers in the area. This bill is the only hope for myself, and my family, to have a path to financial freedom and medical safety in the future.

276  
2 of 2

Senator Steve Wilson, when you make your vote, I hope that you can remember what our beautiful country was founded on and why our ancestors fought so hard for democracy. Please give the people of rural Ohio, whose families have remained rooted within the Seneca, Erie and Huron counties for centuries a voice. Please vote yes on SB 234.

Thank You,



Dr. Amber M. Alt