

Subject: Senate Bill 234

To: Chairman Wilson and Members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

I write in support of Senate Bill 234 which allows citizens in townships that are to have industrial wind projects the ability to vote and determine if those facilities are wanted in their community.

Industrial wind projects require large areas of land for their project footprints. In certain areas, like Seneca County, there are more than just those with leases or contracts who live in that footprint. Whether positive or negative, the impacts of these projects involve all who have to live with the turbine facilities. It is disappointing there is no method by which the opinions or concerns of local residents are taken into account during development.

Some communities have local zoning laws. When it comes to wind projects but these are ignored and not applied. In other communities without local zoning, citizens rely on their local elected officials to advocate on their behalf. It is unfortunate when local elected officials are leaseholders or work for the wind companies. Such circumstances leave communities without any representation when it comes to industrial wind projects.

A vote by the people in these affected communities avoids any conflict of interest by local elected officials and provides for a community consensus on if a facility is wanted.

Please support Senate Bill 234 and allow "we the people" a vote.

Sincerely,



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