

January 15, 2020

Dear Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee Members,

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 234. This bill addresses two problems with the present law concerning the siting of Industrial Wind "Farms". It insures the right of local township residents to vote for or against an approved Industrial Wind "Farm", and also ensures that the safety manuals for these industrial wind turbines are used to establish safe setback distances.

This bill fairly addresses the need for reform in the siting of Industrial Wind "Farms". Presently, the law places the approval of these sprawling industrial energy "plants" under the OPSB, and makes them the only industrial energy producer that does not have to comply with local zoning. OPSB's decision supersedes local zoning laws.

In the state of Ohio, it is illegal for someone to build a residential home in an industrial zone. However, these Wind "Farms" presently have the right to invade rural residential areas with their monster industrial Wind Turbines, (proposed turbines in our county are between 500 to over 600 feet tall), without abiding by any rural zoning laws or local vote.

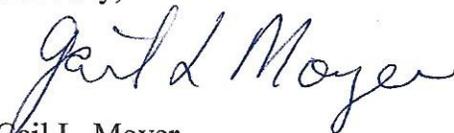
I live in Seneca County. There are presently 2 large industrial wind farms seeking OPSB approval in our county with a third waiting to begin the process, as well as 2 additional projects in adjacent counties. I did not purchase rural property to be forcibly placed in a heavy industrial zone, with as many as 5 proposed wind turbines within a mile and a half of my home.

Denial of the tax abatement, PILOT (supposedly our local control) doesn't affect these projects. Logan County is a recent example. The PILOT was denied, but turbines were still installed.

There has been much debate concerning "set-backs" for wind turbines. The legislature doesn't have the expertise to address this without the knowledge of the manufacturer's safety manuals which are presently considered "trade secrets". (Apex energy recently filed their GE Turbine System manual for the Emerson Creek project with the OPSB. It's one page labeled Confidential.) This bill wisely enforces using these to establish this very important safety measure for anyone living close to an industrial wind turbine.

Thank you for allowing me to express my support for SB 234. I will be following the hearings for this bill and am looking forward to its passage in the Ohio Senate.

Sincerely,



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