



ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 1/28/2020

Name: Gary Click

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Telephone: 419-307-1413

Organization Representing: Self

Testifying on Bill Number: SB 234

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____

Gary Click Testimony on SB 234

My name is Gary Click. I serve as the pastor of the Fremont Baptist Temple in Sandusky County. I am an elected member of the Republican State Central Committee and a candidate for the 88th House District. I have been asked by some good people in Seneca County to give testimony today in favor of Senate Bill 234 and I am happy to do so.

It is not my desire today to dive into the weeds on the issue of wind. I'm not here to talk about blade failures, ice throws or infra sound or to go in depth on the inefficiency of the wind turbines or the damage they may cause to the aquifers. There are many others who have greater expertise in those areas. My goal is to simply address the role that sovereign citizens should play in determining the fate of their own neighborhoods. The significance of their voices is evident in our community by the vast number of yellow shirts that flood public meetings and the yellow signs that dot our landscape.

While testifying on HB 401, I was asked if the State of Ohio might have an overriding interest that would supersede the interest of the local community. In this case, the answer is that the local community **is** the overriding interest of the State of Ohio. It is common knowledge that these turbines are not efficient and add no stability to the energy grid. The only advantage that they provide are the jobs produced while erecting the turbines.

No one can deny the value of jobs to the Ohio economy. However, all jobs are not created equal. These jobs are temporary and provide little or no benefit to the local community. Taxpayer dollars invested in short-term jobs building inefficient and unwanted turbines are hardly distinguishable from those invested in jobs created for the purpose of building bridges to nowhere and thus they are not in Ohio's greatest interest.

SB 234, however, is not simply about the merits of wind turbines or the short-term jobs they may provide. It is primarily about the role of the local community in either welcoming or rejecting this irrevocable transformation of their rural neighborhoods into heavy industrial zones.

No other energy project has the potential to be so intrusive and invasive as hundreds of these 600' plus industrial machines placed across an entire community. More productive and accepted forms of energy, such as nuclear, have a greater impact on the stability of our energy grid while leaving a substantially smaller footprint. Furthermore, nuclear power plants produce sustainable jobs within the local community generating greater local support. Wind energy shows no promise of the same.

SB 234 is common sense legislation. It demands that investors work **with** rather than work **around** local communities. It demands that they invest themselves in educating the local community and earning the support of local citizens before committing to such a transformative, intrusive and invasive project. If these energy providers are able to earn the trust of the majority rather than simply a few who stand to profit personally, then they have found a place to invest. If, on the other hand, the majority of the citizens remain unconvinced, their voices matter and their community is preserved and protected.

SB 234 places a greater burden on the energy providers to align themselves with the communities in which they desire to invest. Nothing could be more reasonable and therefore I urge you to lend your support to SB 234.

With great appreciation and respect,

Gary Click