

5 A Fox Run Cv, Norwalk OH 44857

18 January 2020

Attention: Senator Steve Wilson, Chair
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

Dear Committee members:

I write in support of SB 234 to allow local voters in individual townships to vote on industrial wind turbine projects. I am concerned that township voters have not historically been afforded the same opportunity to have their voices heard on matters of land use and environmental impacts, to the extent that voters in municipalities with city charters do. Home rule is a feature of Ohio's constitution that should be applicable to townships just as it is applicable to counties and municipalities.

I believe that vigorous political debate is needed to weigh the benefits and liabilities of industrial wind turbine projects. When landowners are approached by businesses wanting to erect these wind turbines, they are likely only to hear the merits of installing wind turbines. Landowners also need to know the arguments against installing wind turbines before coming to well-reasoned decisions. Furthermore, the location of a wind turbine on one landowner's property could potentially have a negative impact upon a neighboring landowner's property, hence the desirability of setting ground rules at the township level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack L. Williamson".

Jack L. Williamson