



ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date 1/27/20

Name: JASON BOWERS

Address: 8797 E. TWP RD 148, Republic OH 44867

Telephone: 567 228 9221

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: _____

Senator Steve Wilson

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

I am writing you today to encourage you to support SB234. Local residents living within the township where these projects are sited should be given the right to vote. Out of state interests and crony capitalism should not be pushed ahead of local residents.

I believe the negatives that are related to these industrial wind turbines far outweigh any positives. My biggest concern regarding these projects is the value of my home and property. My wife and I do live within the project footprint of Republic Wind. We built our house, which was the result of hard work and a majority of our life savings. We will be directly affected by this project in a severely negative way. I know the wind developers love to cite the 2013 Berkeley study that says wind projects do not lower property values. Fact of the matter is that out of 51,276 real estate transactions in the report, less than 1% of those transactions were for homes that were within a half mile of an industrial wind turbine. In that study the average distance to a turbine was 4.96 miles. Those turbines in that study were 388 feet high. When it comes to the Republic Wind project, the turbines will be over 600 feet high. Many homes in Seneca County will be within a half mile of a turbine. There are other projects being developed next to this one and the other projects. These projects will affect thousands of families in multiple counties. There is a strong opposition to these projects as I attended and spoke out against Republic Wind at the OPSB public hearing. The people opposing the Republic Wind project far outweighed the proponents of the project. <https://www.thenews-messenger.com/story/news/local/2019/09/13/republic-wind-farm-opponents-cite-safety-concerns-during-hearing/2269098001/>

It only takes common sense to realize that the majority doesn't want these projects so who would buy a house in these projects, not very many people. It is simple economics, low demand for something equals low prices. So, our home and property would lose significant value. Not only our home but many other people's homes would also. Only a few residents in our community have something to gain and they are leaseholders. Many people have a lot to lose while only a few have something to gain. One leaseholder has a lot to gain because of the number turbines being sited on his land. If he decides the turbines aren't as great as the wind developer says he will have no financial barrier to being able to just pick up and move out of the area while the rest of us are left to live with the burden and negative effects of these industrial wind turbines.

Please pass SB234 and give the people a true voice in these projects. I know the wind proponents will say SB234 is a poison pill, but they also like to say how great these projects are for a community. Well let the people vote down projects where they are not wanted and let people vote who want them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Bowers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Bowers

Republic, Ohio