

December 27, 2019

Senator Steve Wilson, Chairman
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee

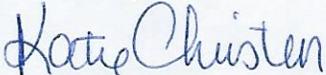
Senator Wilson,

Over the past year, I have watched and listened to my retired parents, who live in the footprint of the proposed Emerson Creek industrial wind project, bemoan the fact that no one listens to the people most affected by these projects. I have listened to them speak about writing numerous letters and comments to the Ohio Power Siting Board and to both local and state politicians. They have spoken about traveling two hours to Columbus to legislative proceedings only to be disappointed by the apparent lack of interest by some members of committees who don't even have the courtesy to listen to what constituents have to say regarding what is, to them, very important issues. This is not how they planned to spend their retirement, nor should it be. Ohio's process for the siting and approval of industrial wind projects in areas zoned for residential and agricultural use is broken, ineffective, bureaucratic and causes division and marginalization of whole communities.

Our elected officials now have the opportunity before them to level the playing field by giving affected Ohio citizens the right to vote on these projects by passing Senate Bill 234 as introduced by Senator McColley from Northwest Ohio. Not only does it provide for a voter referendum but also improves the safety setback requirements from non-participating property owners. The safety and health of our citizens should not be compromised in any way, shape or form.

For these reasons, I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 234 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



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