

January 10, 2020

Dear Senator Steve Wilson, Chairman, Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

I am asking you to please support SB234!

My daughters are the 7th generation of my family to be born and raised in Groton Township, Erie County. Several of my family members still live in the area as well, and we have invested our lives into our rural community. If Apex (Firelands Wind, LLC) receives approval for the Emerson Creek Wind Project, up to 87 Industrial Turbines, with a height of 655 feet will be strewn across the rural landscape that I, and tens of thousands of other rural residents call home. I will have 13 of these monsters within 1.5 miles of my home!

To give you some perspective, the Rhodes Tower in downtown Columbus is 629 ft tall. These INDUSTRIAL turbines are the largest on-shore turbines in the country! The operating wind projects in Van Wert and Paulding County are "only" 400-470 ft tall, and they have far less residents in their counties than we do. Please see the attached **Ohio Census snippet** that shows how heavily populated our 4 county area is. Hundreds of Industrial sized turbines do not belong in heavily populated rural, agricultural areas!

We have every right to protect our homes, our property, and our rural communities from Industrial sprawl that will provide no benefit for our area. Apex has stated repeatedly at township/public meetings that they intend to sell the Emerson Creek Wind Project once it becomes operational! Not ONE DROP of the energy generated by this project will benefit anyone in the state of Ohio!

Our local zoning laws are impotent! None of our county or township elected officials have any jurisdiction or say in this matter, and that is completely due to the laws that are written for the benefit of the wind companies, not for Ohio citizens! We are not even afforded the right to know about such projects until the wind company is required by OPSB to have a public informational meeting. Property owners around me signed leases more than 10 years ago, and I just found out about the Emerson Creek Wind Project in November 2018!

Even our Township Trustees are Leaseholders, who never informed us of these projects, so we have NO LOCAL REPRESENTATION! Our township recently had to have a new trustee appointed because of the unexpected death of our only vocal, anti-wind trustee. This trustee was replaced with another local leaseholder! One of our neighboring township trustees is actually a paid employee of Apex! His name has been submitted to the Ohio Ethics Commission, but they have not pursued this blatant, unethical conflict of interest. Again, you can see how those of us who live in the project areas have NO REPRESENTATION, NO VOICE in a matter that will critically affect-for

generations to come- the rural way of life that my family has enjoyed in Groton Township for 7 generations!

PUCO Chairman Randazzo has stated that even though the OPSB is aware of overwhelming public opposition to many of the proposed wind projects, the OPSB must make a determination based on the laws that govern the OPSB, not public opinion. So when Ranking Member Denson questioned if HB 401 is redundant because of the public hearings provided by the OPSB, I can say emphatically, NO! HB 401 is the only way that citizens in affected communities will be able to make our voices heard!

There are currently 5 Industrial Wind Turbine Projects proposed in the 4 county area of Erie, Huron, Sandusky, and Seneca counties. How many of our cities and towns will succumb to hundreds of turbines over 600 feet tall? Based on Apex's own applications, I will be able to see more than 300 turbines from my property! This will ruin not only my property value, but more importantly, my right to be able to enjoy the countryside that I have been born and raised in! If I wanted to live near an industrial center, I would move to a big city!

Please stand with us, the citizens of rural Ohio, not the foreign big wind companies! Give us, the rural residents, a voice by allowing us the opportunity to vote on proposed wind projects that will directly affect our families, homes, property, communities, and our way of life! Please support SB234!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Beck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Krista Beck
11304 Strecker Rd
Bellevue, Ohio 44811
Groton Township/Erie County

What's New & FAQs >

QuickFacts

Huron County, Ohio; Seneca County, Ohio; Sandusky County, Ohio; Erie County, Ohio; Van Wert County, Ohio; Paulding County, Ohio

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more

Table

All Topics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Huron County, Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seneca County, Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandusky County, Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erie County, Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Van Wert County, Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulding County, Ohio
Population estimates, July 1, 2018, (V2018)	58,504	55,207	58,799	74,615	28,281	18,760
PEOPLE						
Population						