

PROPONENT TESTIMONY
SB 234
Anthony Paradiso, Seneca County Commissioner
January 28, 2020

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the committee, my name is Anthony Paradiso and I am here to express my support for Senate Bill 234. I am a resident of Pleasant Township in Seneca County. I am also one of three county commissioners. While I am speaking for myself, I believe my views are shared by my fellow commissioners. On November 14, 2019, we approved a resolution in support of House Bill 401 and have had a number of public discussions in support of this bill.

Many of you may question why a referendum for industrial wind projects is justified. Why should 600-foot tall industrial wind turbines with massive blades spinning at about 200 mph be treated differently than other types of power plants? Wind development is unlike any other power generation because it is an extremely **inefficient** source of power generation. This inefficiency requires wind to cover vast areas of land unlike natural gas or nuclear power plants.

Wind turbine developments cover many square miles of rural residential land representing thousands of acres. One square mile equals 640 acres. Today in Ohio, zoning is pre-empted in the area impacted by any power generator. Normally, a pre-emption to zoning affects a relatively small defined area of land within a local jurisdiction. The zoning pre-emption granted for wind is not simply a locally defined area of exemption but is instead, a **complete overthrow** of zoning crossing multiple jurisdictions and hundreds of square miles. It is not merely an “exemption” but is a **complete disregard for the principle of zoning and the notion of home rule**. It throws the whole concept of zoning on its head. No other power generation source does this.

The number of landowners affected by a nuclear power plant, natural gas facility or coal-fired power plant is relatively small when compared with the number of landowners within the footprint of a wind turbine development. Whereas perhaps a hundred or more households may be impacted by a neighboring baseload power plant, a wind turbine project can adversely impact thousands of households.

One must ask whether the adverse impacts to households within and near the footprint of a wind turbine development can be justified given the need for the power and wind’s value as a generation source? The answer is no. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has found in a recent American Electric Power case that the grid operator, PJM, projects margins of energy and capacity are “more than sufficient” to meet reliability in the region. The North American Energy Reliability Corporation came to a similar conclusion in its most recent assessment of the reserve margin for 2018 and 2019. The NAERC projects that through 2021-22, power reserve margins will average approximately 21.3 percent.¹

Building wind facilities anywhere in the PJM service area is unnecessary since the grid already has sufficient and reliable energy production. Therefore, building in populated rural residential Ohio communities through the use of widespread zoning pre-emption cannot be justified. Moreover, the introduction of intermittent power, provided by wind, is destabilizing to the grid.

This provides yet another argument for why wind should not be accorded the benefit of widespread zoning pre-emption.

Wind power is distinct from baseload power generators which consume far less land and provide a far superior product. When I talk to the people of Seneca County, I often hear that they are doing their own research on these types of projects. I frequently hear from those constituents that the costs of these projects would outweigh any perceived benefits. How can the loss of amenity or the potential barrier to building a home for a family member on one's farm - that has been in the family for generations - but now possibly lies within the safety setback area of an industrial wind turbine, be a condition that is imposed on citizens without their having any ability to say yes or no?

SB 234 will right a terrible wrong. I urge your favorable consideration.

Thank You,
Anthony Paradiso

1 <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/54111666> Overpowered: PJM market rules drive an era of oversupply