

**WRITTEN PROPONENT TESTIMONY
MARK WHITE – PRESIDENT VANCREST
SB 234 ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES
JANUARY 28, 2020**

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee, my name is Mark White and I am the President of Vancrest Management Corp., a regional full-service senior health care provider. We operate eleven facilities across western Ohio along with a regional Physical and Occupational Therapy (Therapy Solutions), and home health care (Fountain Park). We serve 700 nursing home residents and have an additional 400 assisted living apartments and many more in their homes. Vancrest employs over 1,700 Ohioans in Urbana, Van Wert, Ada, Delphos, St. Mary's, Payne and beyond.

We strive for a reputation for quality care which rests on our corporate commitment in partnership with a quality workforce. We pride ourselves on understanding that most people want to stay in their homes as they age, but sometimes that isn't always possible. Vancrest provides a comfortable and accessible alternative for seniors and their families.

In the coming years, we look forward to continuing the growth of our company as we explore partnerships with area hospitals to enable the community to stay local when obtaining joint replacements or other medical procedures.

Staying local is a commitment to the community. Staying local means providing good job opportunities for the next generation. Staying local means, it is likely you will be served by a familiar face at Vancrest.

Staying local means that families, who grew up in the community and want to give the quality of life they enjoyed to their children, can do so. For Vancrest, it means relying on a committed workforce who are not only dedicated to the mission of care, but also to their community and the quality of life they find here.

Vancrest is uniquely positioned where we have communities that support wind development, such as our Payne facility in Paulding County. However, we are deeply concerned that our other communities will be negatively impacted by wind projects that they don't want. We do not oppose renewable energy *everywhere*, but we object to wind turbines *anywhere* if the community determines it is an incompatible development. We want employees who want to be here and are happy to live here. Giving the right of referendum to our citizens will ensure the continued growth of our business through our ability to attract and retain a quality staff. We want a workforce who chose to live in Vancrest communities and who had a choice in the character of those communities.