



Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony of Susan Munroe, President/CEO, Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce
Interested Party on Substitute House Bill 114
Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Susan Munroe, President and CEO of the Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce, and I am here to testify as an interested party on Substitute H.B. 114.

Like you, I represent people: hundreds of businesses leaders who touch thousands of lives by the work they do daily. Together with my board, it is my responsibility to advocate for business, promote commerce, and strengthen our local communities by encouraging economic growth.

In Van Wert County, we represent both the promise of clean energy investment achieved and denied, since we have the largest wind farm built but others stalled due to the uncertain legal and political climate.

As of May 21, 2018, it has been four long years since the setbacks were lengthened to such a great extent that they function as a moratorium. Is Ohio open for business? Or, are we closed to an innovative industry ready to invest \$4.2 billion in the Buckeye State?

Time is money: every additional month of delay costs Ohio communities jobs, growth, and talent attraction that we can ill-afford to lose. The time to act is now to support reasonable setback revisions that would signal Ohio is once again "open for business" to responsible development and that also do not include restrictive, over-regulated, local-vote-option language.

Please accept the attached letter from chamber of commerce and economic development leaders across Ohio supporting timely action (before the summer recess) to restore reasonable turbine setback standards—that do *not* include restrictive, over-regulated, local-vote-option language—and lift a functional moratorium on wind energy development.

As champions of economic growth in the areas we serve, we wish you every success as you work to spur economic development via swift and timely action.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I am happy to answer questions from the committee.

Susan Munroe
President/CEO, Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce
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The Honorable Larry Obhof, President
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Troy Balderson, Chair
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Kirk Schuring, Speaker Pro Tem
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Kris Jordan, Vice Chair
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

June 5, 2018

Dear President Obhof, Speaker Pro Tem Schuring, Chairman Balderson, and Vice Chairman Jordan:

We respectfully request that you take prompt action before the summer legislative recess to lift the current functional moratorium on wind project development in Ohio by fixing Ohio's wind setback law.

Restoring reasonable setbacks would help our communities reap the many benefits from wind development — and better position our state to compete for the jobs, investment dollars, and tax revenue from the fast-growing wind energy industry.

Those of us with wind farms in our communities have seen firsthand what a positive difference these investments make for our businesses, schools, and communities. They deliver reliable and significant benefits to students, our businesses, family farmers, and our entire tax base.

In fact, this past April, almost a dozen local chamber of commerce executives, economic development officials, county commissioners, school superintendents and landowners traveled to the Statehouse to participate in a press conference with Sen. Matt Dolan and Rep. Bill Reineke expressing support for the economic benefits of wind development in Ohio.

As of May 21, 2018, it has been four long years since the setbacks were lengthened to such a great extent that they function as a moratorium. Time is money: every additional month of delay costs Ohio communities jobs, growth, and talent attraction that we can ill-afford to lose.

The time to act is now to support reasonable setback revisions that would signal Ohio is once again “open for business” to responsible development and that also do not include restrictive, over-regulated, local-vote-option language.

We request that you and your colleagues adopt this pro-business, commonsense, “all of the above” approach to energy policy for the state of Ohio prior to the summer legislative recess.

Respectfully,

Susan Munroe
President & CEO, Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce

Holly Gross
Vice President of Government Relations, Columbus Chamber of Commerce

Jed Metzger
President & CEO, Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce

Nathan Strum
Director of Economic Development, Licking County Chamber of Commerce,
Executive Director, GROW Licking County

David Zak
President & CEO, Seneca Industrial & Economic Development Corporation

Jerry Zielke
Executive Director, Paulding County Economic Development, Inc.
President, Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association

Mikayla Pieper
Executive Director, Paulding Chamber of Commerce

Matt Gilroy
Executive Director, Fulton County Economic Development Corporation

Josh Torres
Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce Executives of Ohio
Anthony Wayne Regional Chamber of Commerce™
Holland-Springfield Chamber of Commerce™
Northwest Ohio Hispanic Chambers of Commerce™



cc: The Honorable Bob Peterson
cc: The Honorable Randy Gardner
cc: The Honorable Gayle Manning
cc: The Honorable Sean O'Brien
cc: The Honorable Kevin Bacon
cc: The Honorable Bill Beagle
cc: The Honorable Matt Dolan
cc: The Honorable Frank Hoagland
cc: The Honorable Jay Hottinger
cc: The Honorable Frank LaRose
cc: The Honorable Michael J. Skindell
cc: The Honorable Sandra Williams

