

## TESTIMONY OF CATHY BOWDEN

Champaign County

IN OPPOSITION TO Sub. H. B. 114

To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program.

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Committee, I am here to speak against any revision of the setbacks for industrial wind turbines that would measure the distance from a home rather than a property line. I also object to any proposed reduction of the current 1,125-foot setback from property lines.

I would like to speak to whether you have considered the impact to communities that host wind turbine facilities. All we hear are alleged benefits that will accrue to us. But there are costs as well as benefits and I believe that the impacted people in the footprint should have the right to determine whether the costs outweigh the benefits.

In Champaign County, the proposed project claims benefits to the local economy but when you dig deeper you see they are talking about a seven-county region and not our town. The developer claims significant job creation but the local jobs are temporary construction jobs more likely to be filled by imported workers with specific wind training. The permanent jobs are less than ten. My brother and I run the local hardware store where we employ eight people.

We supply many local builders and property owners with the tools and materials to do their jobs. We may see a bump in business if wind is built but after that, I can't imagine anyone living in the Eastern half of Champaign County will want to invest in a property blighted by industrial wind turbines. That could be devastating to a small business, like mine. I know this because my home is one of properties on the east side of the County.

Wind developers claim huge payments to landowners but do not discount the many absentee landowners that live outside the county and the state. In other words, the local benefits are likely overstated.

Let's look at the costs. There are the obvious costs of loss of amenity for those people living within the footprint. Wind developers try to obtain easements for nuisance effects like noise, vibration, moving shadows, flicker and so forth. By their own admission, these nuisance effects are real and they likely will reduce the value of non-participating homes on neighboring properties.

When Invenergy was signing leases in Champaign County, their leases required the signer to allow:

- 1.1 (e) Installing Wind Turbines on adjacent properties that overhang the property; and
- (f) Creating electromagnetic, audio, sound, flicker, visual, electrical, noise or radio interference in connection with or attributable to Grantee's Wind Turbines, the Project or any Project Activities.

Why shouldn't the non-participating landowner be protected from this list of harmful effects? Anyone can see that property burdened with such nuisances will lose value. I have a nice home with a pool in the backyard. Who would want to sit by the pool with spinning blades blocking the sun?

The current setbacks for wind turbines are already among the most lenient in the nation. They should not be further reduced to make Ohio the dumping ground for unsound projects in inappropriate locations. Those who are impacted by a project should have a voice in saying how far they should be from our property lines. It is our community and we should determine our own future.