

TESTIMONY OF TERRY RITTENHOUSE  
IN OPPOSITION TO SUB. H. B. 114  
June 20, 2018

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brian, members of the committee, and all assembled here this day. I bring greetings from beautiful Champaign County. My name is Terry Rittenhouse and together with Phyllis, my lovely wife of 35 years, we are employers, commercial property and multi-family complex owners, business, residential and real estate taxpayers, voters, church and board members, civic doers and believers in Champaign County and the great state of O-H-I-O. I am also Vice Chair of the Union Township Board of Zoning Appeals, and the founder and Chair of Champaign County Townships United, a group of citizens who learned through tough lessons that we had to defend ourselves, just like every other county-based opposition group here today, or be subject to the whims of an elite financial and political juggernaut riding the "green wave" of a public marketing program created by their own weighted studies, carefully timed and placed news releases and clever, extended media campaigns. We are Davids versus Goliath.

Big Wind first crawled into Ohio through Champaign County, and more specifically, my Union Twp. and started making secret offers over 10 years ago. I have watched, studied, debated and participated in the process since the beginning. It has proved a sobering education in the realities of Big Wind's legal, financial, political and marketing prowess for me and also for my community. We had local zoning control when this began. Turbines were half the size they are today and my hair was all one color. My how things have changed.

But years of legal hyperbole have yet to change one glaring reality; there are too many people living where developers want to put turbine projects in Champaign County. They want to encroach on our constitutionally protected property rights, and are asking you for permission to do so. This is unprecedented in Ohio. No other entity has the right to trespass zoning. Wars have been started for less. Why should we reverse decades of sound policy and give out-of-state and out-of-country federal revenue stream rent-seekers control of our property rights and energy policy, on top of their invasion of our state and local political campaigns? One is reminded of the Emerald Ash Borer, the insidious shiny green insect that invaded Ohio and eventually decimated every ash tree in the state, one bore hole at a time, killing every tree for the sake of a meal for their off-spring. When the bounty was gone, they disappeared.

In Ohio, we have the advantage to see the results of renewable mandates and their related policies in other states. Billions pour like rain from the public treasure chest, while electric rates go up to pay for the base load generators to maintain the infrastructure integrity issues caused when turbines don't produce as advertised. Big Wind's sales pitch is that we are "buying the future" with the green energy subsidies, and it has become prophetic. They just didn't disclose whose future was getting paid for. Seems the rich man does the dancin' and the poor man pays the band. We should really be reading the fine print on this one, ladies and gentlemen.... This Senate bill does not even resemble the bill that passed the House, except by name. The bottom line is that if forced to, I can afford to uproot my family home, cut my losses and leave Champaign County with more permanent jobs than the wind developer is

promising to bring. One thing is certain. I only have left so much time available to me to live on this Earth and I refuse to live in a fractured net-loss community or a state where dirty money is valued more than the life in that community. My greatest concern is for those who will lose everything they own, the inheritance of their children and their health because they can't afford to run. We look to you through the democratic process for protection. Please don't let us down.