

TESTIMONY of JEANNINE ROEDINGER
VAN WERT COUNTY
IN OPPOSITION TO Sub. H. B. 114

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Committee, I am here to speak against the proposed reduction of the property line setbacks for industrial wind turbines in Sub HB 114.

As opponents of wind energy factories in rural areas, we have cited health issues, loss of property values, noise and flicker issues, infrasound, vibration issues, the inefficiency of wind, its cost to our environment and our farmland as major problems. There are other issues as well.

I have looked at last week's proponent testimonies and see that again they say that Ohio has the most restrictive setbacks. This is an untruth. More and more countries, states and counties are setting larger setbacks to homes knowing that there are real health and safety risks to its inhabitants.

Germany and France both have one-mile setbacks while Holland sets theirs at 3,280 feet. Science states that at least 1,700 feet should be set for safety from debris and ice throw. In Indiana some are set at 2,650 ft. (Montgomery County), Shiawassee County at 350 percent of a turbine height, Miami County at 2,000 ft. Wind turbine service manuals tell employees to stay away at least 1,600 feet. Why then this bill which sets a double standard and would take away our property rights as well?

We know that blade failure, ice throw and fire are the most common problems associated with wind turbines.

A recent blade turbine failure in Canada showed a debris field of 1,837 feet. Other recent failures found debris entering a playground near a school, thankfully on a weekend, and a semitruck hit with an ice throw in February in Minnesota damaging its side. Blade failure has also occurred in our county.

Turbine fires are often in the news and have consumed acres of land nearby. In March, one in Weatherford, Oklahoma burned five acres, another in March occurred in Hanover, Massachusetts, another in Benton County, IN. Just in May there was a fire in Schuylkill County, Pa.; another reported at the same time in Boone County, Iowa. Two fires were reported on Easter Sunday of this year, one near a university in Maine, another in Oklahoma. In past years, wind turbine fires have been reported that consumed acres of land nearby.

Does injury and death have to occur before you understand that rural populations are at great risk if industrial wind turbines are placed close to homes and farm buildings? Yet this bill considers putting these industrial wind turbines even closer to homes endangering our lives and the lives of those we love.

It would be our first responders who would be called to such a scene. I know firsthand how dangerous fire can be in ripe grain fields; it can be catastrophic. Add high winds and you have the potential of great loss of life and property.

Wind turbine factories should not be placed in highly populated rural areas. Setbacks should be increased for health and safety reasons alone and always measured at the property line. The problems exist; please consider the consequences of allowing setbacks to be lessened and to a home where real people live.