

TESTIMONY OF DEBORAH HAY

Seneca County

IN OPPOSITION TO Sub. H. B. 114

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

Please support safe setbacks for wind turbines in Ohio and local control on approving these turbines. I ask you to support any legislation that would give residents living within the footprint of these wind projects a vote on whether to approve them and to accept or reject setbacks. It is my firm opinion that only townships/unincorporated areas in Ohio directly within any proposed wind turbine project area should be able to vote for/against these wind projects. It is only fair that land and homeowners who must carry the burden of living in close proximity to these turbines should be allowed to vote.

You should know that lease holders cannot speak up publicly to oppose turbines but many of our neighbors/lease holders feel betrayed by the wind companies who never told them how massive these machines would be on their properties. They deserve a vote as well! Townships that would not be in a proposed wind project area should not be allowed to vote as their property rights would not be affected.

Any setback legislation should require also transparency related to matters of safety. The safety/operating manual of the specific turbine(s) should be required in the application process in order for safe setbacks to be considered. Safety recommendations are NEVER proprietary information and should be public knowledge as they are in other states and countries which have safe setbacks.

It is my belief that most of the wind turbines being proposed in Ohio are a costly and ineffective source of energy and a waste of taxpayer incentives. The 591- foot turbines proposed for Seneca and Sandusky counties could alter the natural flow of water due to the numerous sinkholes/karst flooding in our area and underground rivers. The ground will need to be blasted to secure these structures. Ground water contamination has occurred in other locations where industrial turbines have been installed with a similar geology.

There will be about 10 non-union maintenance positions left after Apex is done. It is shameful that the state won't assist Davis Besse to stay open with subsidies like they are giving these multinational/foreign wind companies. There are 706 good paying jobs at Davis Besse. There are another 2100 plus people working at First Energy nuclear plants. These projects don't provide the solid employment and reliable energy needs that support the economy in the long run. We will sacrifice our property values....property rights....quality of life....and our utility bills will go up just like they have in other states with numerous expensive wind projects that have to be paid for with our tax dollars and utility bills.

These turbines will strain the bird and bat populations. The bat is one of the few creatures we have that lowers nuisance insect populations such as mosquitos naturally. The OPSB only requires 1 year of data on wildlife impacts. This is grossly inadequate for determining wildlife impacts. Three years of recent data should be required to adequately determine wildlife impacts.

There is data indicating that property values decline significantly on average for homes within the proximity of these industrial turbines. Even at the current setback the noise pollution from these turbines will be significant and audible for over a mile away. I understand that some residents have experienced health issues from the infra-sound associated with these turbines.

It is my understanding that the wind industry is lobbying hard in Ohio to change the setback in order to allow these structures to be placed closer to homes and public spaces where their debris throws, noise and flickering shadow be very disruptive. It would be especially unfortunate if a person with special needs were in proximity to these turbines

It seems unfathomable that in this day and age the designs of wind turbines proposed for our great state would be so harmful and noxious to beautiful rural settings. As the technology advances in other forms of energy these industrial wind turbines will be seen in the future as a monumental mistake and a scar on the land for future generations.

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