

TESTIMONY OF TAMRA ANDREWS

Seneca County

IN OPPOSITION TO Sub. H. B. 114

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

Until the health, safety and welfare issues are resolved in reality, i.e. demonstrated in an existing industrial wind farm and independently assessed, and not just verbal and website reassurances from wind energy companies, I remain in opposition to the proposed wind farms for Seneca County.

A study by Terry Matilsky, Rutgers Physics Professor, explains with math that proves a 300' hub height turbine can throw debris, including ice on the blades, over 1700'. That is greater than the current or proposed setbacks. The proposed wind turbines for Seneca County will be twice the height of turbines in this example, so one can safely assume that debris would be thrown much farther. I don't want my safe home and property suddenly located in an unsafe zone.

A safe setback in case of tower failure or fire was 1640 feet as recommended by a Michigan State study, as well as by turbine manufacturers Vestas and Nordex. Again, this is greater than the current or proposed setbacks, which, again, put our health and safety at risk.

Setbacks measured to property lines and not foundations ensure equitable zoning. Studies have shown that property values within industrial wind farms drop anywhere from 10% to abandon your home. My husband and I are of an age where we could not recoup such a loss on our home.

We may lose access to Life Flight. One of our local fire chiefs explains, "the 600-foot tall turbines would act as a wall that air ambulances would have to fly around on a day where there's a low cloud base . . . The ceiling height, or the window that they can fly into on a cloudy day is affected by the wind turbines."

Additionally, Life Flight access could be hampered for another reason. My stepdaughter is a former paramedic who flew with Life Flight. She has friends who live near an industrial wind farm in western Ohio. While visiting them, she has had to alert her former Life Flight colleagues many times to let them know the lights at the top of some of the turbines were not working at night. Those lights remained off for a few weeks at a time, and some were not working for up to 4 months. (These turbines are not nearly as tall as the proposed turbines for Seneca County.) My husband and I are NOT willing to give up access to Life Flight, especially at our ages.

Another safety issue is fires, as turbines have caught on fire. Our local fire departments cannot spray water 500-600 feet in the air. The only option will be to wait for the burning

turbine to fall to the ground—potentially on dry farm fields. The wind energy leases with farmers do not include a fireproof radius zone around each turbine.

Shadow flicker is a well-documented nuisance effect. Setbacks are recommended to be at least 1000 meters (over 3000 feet), again outside of the current and proposed setbacks. We live on a very busy US highway. Shadow flicker could cause accidents from distracted drivers, as well as health issues for us from the unrelenting flicker effect.

Sincerely,

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