

TESTIMONY OF MARK ZIEGLER
Seneca 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 against any revision of the setbacks for industrial wind turbines that would measure the distance from my home rather than my property line. I also object to any proposed reduction of the current 1,125-foot setback from property lines. My name is Mark Ziegler and my wife and I own a 200 acre farm in Eden Township located in Seneca County.

I am writing this letter to address my situation with the setback distance for the wind turbines. In 2008, John Deere Wind came to our area to sign up acreage for a wind farm. They had several meetings to inform potential lessors what the project was about. During these meetings a number of people expressed concerns about loss of crops, compaction of soil, broken tiles, location of roads and power lines, and so on. There was also concern about location of the turbines on people's property. At that time, we were assured that the turbines would not be located near any buildings, that they would be located in the middle of the fields and away from woods, buildings and homes.

On October 2008 my wife and I signed a lease agreement with John Deere Wind. The project has changed hands twice since then. First to Exelon Wind and then last year to S Power. S Power had a public meeting for the proposed Seneca Wind project this April. At that meeting I asked an S Power agent what the setback would be for the leaseholder. He said they treat the leaseholder fairly and they would locate the turbine from the foundation of the home the distance amount in the current law.

Since then we have learned they want to put turbines on adjacent property lines. One closest to our house would only be 610 feet from the turbine to the foundation of our home. This is much closer than current law allows. We feel we need to break our lease so our home will also be a safe distance away. We feel the law needs to include all people.