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Ohio Senators,

Setbacks of wind turbines for health and safety are important when siting wind projects. Unlike a conventional electrical generating plant that could be placed on a few hundred acres or less, the footprint for an industrial scale wind farm could include 10,000-20,000 acres. While this acreage is predominantly agricultural there are rural property owners living throughout these project footprints. Although industrial wind generating facilities prefer to be called wind farms these projects have nothing to do with farming.

Rural property owners choose to be near the day to day tasks associated with agricultural farming operations that involve the noises and smells associated with planting, harvesting, and animal husbandry, when living within agricultural zoned land. This calling of an industrial wind facility a farm does not justify putting them on agriculturally zoned land or justify forcing the non-participating property owners to assume, anywhere on their property without their consent, the associated risks of a wind project.

The non-participating property owners rights start at their property line not just the outer corner of their present home. The project's participating property owners have the right to sign a lease, but not to infringe on the rights of his non-participating neighbor by use of a trespassing setback measurement based on the corner of a current residence. All property owners deserve and want the safety and health of themselves and their families to be protected anywhere on their property. The rights of rural property owners whether project participants or not need to be safeguarded. Health and safety setbacks measured from the property line only, (whatever the current turbine manufacturer or Ohio Statue requirement may be), is equal protection for all.

The Ohio Statue needs to protect the property rights of all Ohio property owners within a wind project boundary, and not just those of the project participants and wind developers. Wind developers need to engage with all property owners in a project footprint to promote their project. Any property owner can wave any wind turbines safety setback if they so choose. County Commissioners should not be involved in setback issues. Property rights are protected when each property can make their own decision on this issue.

Respectfully, Gary J. Biglin
Ohio farmer and intervenor in Black Fork Wind project