Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

My name is Paul Seasly and I live in Willard in the proposed Emerson Creek Wind Farm and I oppose House Bill 6. House Bill 6 has an amendment attached to it that creates a referendum on wind energy projects after the Ohio Power Siting Board permitting process. This is unfair to myself, the other landowners in the project, and the business working on developing the project. No one has forced me to participate in the project, and no one has forced anyone else in the community to participate. There are over 300 landowners that have chosen to participate in the Emerson Creek Wind Farm project in Erie and Huron Counties. Creating a referendum process like what is proposed makes it so I no longer have control over what I do with my land, and gives that control to my neighbors and my township. I own my land and I want to participate in this wind project. The Ohio Power Siting Board is tasked with determining if the project follows the rules and regulations of the state to either allow or disallow the project, and if a permit is granted, then this is a legal and permitted use of my land no different than building a barn. Adding a referendum process is an attack on my property rights, an attack on businesses investing in Ohio, and an attack on the free market. If this passes, how long until a referendum process is put in place for hog barns, cell phone towers, or grain silos? At what point is the township voting on any permissible use of my land? Allowing a referendum process on a permitted land use strips away mine and all of the other participating landowners’ property rights.

Beyond this single aspect of House Bill 6, I disagree with the bill as a whole. I do not believe industries should be bailed out if they are not competitive. A free market system does not include a government picking winners and losers. If the coal and nuclear plants that are seeking a bail out are not competitive in a free market, then they should not receive additional taxpayer funding to gain an advantage on the rest of the market.

I don’t believe this bill should become law, and I encourage you to vote against the bill, or at the very least vote against the anti-property rights wind referendum language. Thank you very much for your time.

 Sincerely,

Paul Seasly