

Testimony of Kevin Ledet
Huron County, Ohio
In support of HB 6
June 19, 2019

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams, and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide oral testimony in support of HB 6. I would like to address the need for a local referendum opportunity.

HB 6 is important for the well-being and protection of Ohio citizens who find themselves inside of or near the footprint of an industrial wind project. I will be referencing Greenwich Wind Park, also known as Crosswinds Wind Power. This wind project has been approved by the OPSB for Greenwich Township, Huron County Ohio, which is part of the 13th Senate district represented by Senator Nathan Manning.

The Greenwich wind project is approved for up to 60 megawatts and consists of 25 wind turbines. There are 29 participating property owners that are signed up for this project. What is incredible to me is that 13 of these 25 turbines are to be placed on land that belongs to absentee land owners. More astonishing is that 11 of these 13 turbines are to be placed on land that is owned by foreign investors from Germany.

What this means is that 52% of the turbines for this project will be placed on land that belongs to people who don't live here. The outcome is that people who don't live here have the ability to make a devastating impact on the people that do live here. We have had no recourse to have our voices truly heard. HB 6 will give the members of the affected townships the right of referendum and the ability to vote yes or no on the project that will directly affect them.

The 29 participating owners are contrasted against a group of 124 non-participating adjacent property owners that were defined by the developer, Windlab. We took a survey of the 124 non-participating adjacent property owners back in 2014 and this survey with signatures can be found on the OPSB website in the public comments section. There were 75 non-participating adjacent property owners that responded. 73 out of the 75 are against the project. 97 % against the project. If you concede that the 29 participating property owners are still for the project that translates to 31 for and 73 against. Roughly 70% against. How can such numbers be overlooked?

We know that the Greenwich Wind project will not be affected by this bill because it has already been issued a certificate. But if the developer wishes to expand or if another developer comes to Huron County, we will have a more level playing field. The passage of HB 6 will correct the injustice of preempting our local zoning and taking away our right to determine the character of our own community. Going forward, this injustice will be rectified in the truly American way - the ballot.

Greenwich Neighbors United (GNU) is a group of local township residents that have banded together to not only protect their property rights but to educate and advise anyone that is interested in the effects of industrial wind on a community. As the President of Greenwich Neighbors United I'm asking you to support HB 6 in its' entirety.

Thank you.