

Senate Committee on Energy and Public Utilities
House Bill 6 Proponent Testimony
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Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and esteemed members of the Committee, I am here to provide support to Sub. House Bill 6 and especially the provision on giving affected area citizens a voice in the development of wind projects. My name is Terry Rittenhouse and I live in the footprint of the proposed Buckeye and Champaign Wind Projects. I use "footprint" as a literal term since it seems the developers feel free to trample over the rights of property owners.

A wind developer (a foreign private equity investor) came to our community in about 2006 but we didn't know for several years. Our experience since that time has convinced us beyond a shadow of doubt that meaningful local control is essential to the equitable development of industrial wind across rural residential areas.

Eleven years and counting of litigation have turned our once peaceful community into a landscape of anxiety, anger, despair and isolation. People who could move out did. People who planned to build, remodel or otherwise invest in their property stopped cold on March 22, 2010 when the Ohio Power Siting Board issued a certificate of approval over the objections of five townships and numerous citizens.

How could it happen? Well, maybe a look at a 2011 advertisement in the Columbus C.E.O. magazine placed by the lawyers for the developer gives us a clue. (Attachment A)

In a condescending manner, the lawyers boast of how they "got approval for the first large scale wind farm in Ohio".

There were the Landowners. Yes and 30% of the proposed turbines were planned for property owned by absentee landowners who cared little about the local consequences of industrializing a rural residential area.

There were the neighbors. Many of them were elderly and not able to understand the lease agreements and easements they were signing, including a man with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's' and an elderly woman who was verbally bullied and called stupid for not signing.

There were the environmentalists who sued the developer in federal court and won on the basis of non-compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

There were the Zoning Boards who soon had their authority pre-empted by the State.

There were the land use restrictions. And there was a Comprehensive Plan that expressed the community's desire for open space and farmland preservation. The developer and the OPSB turned the plan on its head by asserting that seventy or more industrial power plants would ensure farmland preservation and was thus compliant with the plan.

There were excavation issues and concerns of broken tile and flooded fields. Concerns that thirty feet of concrete and rebar to build a turbine pad would stay in the ground forever and possibly alter the flow of water.

There were aesthetic issues in the county known for its rolling hills and scenic vistas.

There were the bird lovers and the bat lovers. A study by Boston University estimated bat mortality in Champaign County as a result of the turbines would cost local farmers an additional \$12 million annually in pesticides to control the insects previously devoured by the bats.

There were the noise haters who objected to the developer's use of a background noise threshold that was derived by averaging noise levels across the sixty-four square miles of the project footprint with no enforceable limit required by the OPSB.

And there were the attorneys who fought the citizens every step of the way and felt no shame at publicly ridiculing our community when we lost and they won. Kind of like spiking the football, isn't it?

And finally they boast "We figured it out." What did they figure out? They figured out that the people of Ohio are powerless. They figured out there would be no accountability for the actions of the developer, their predatory sales techniques, their one-sided contracts or their disregard of the community's will.

Until HB 6, there was no accountability to the people who would be asked to shoulder the burden of wind development. Today you have an historic opportunity to restore our rights. These are rights enjoyed by local jurisdictions in nearly every other state in the Union.

I ask that you keep the referendum in the bill and that you give HB 6 your support, demonstrating that even in this fast moving modern age, the government of people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from this Earth.

Thank you.

and the arts, cultures and humanities grew by 5.7 percent (4.1 percent with inflation adjustment). Due to several natural disasters, international giving beat all other sectors, increasing by 15.3 percent in 2010.

In Central Ohio, organizations have held their own. "There might have been some increases, but they were nominal. But the good news is they weren't significantly down," says Lisa Courtice, senior vice president of community research and grant management for the Columbus Foundation.

Organizations that improved their fundraising during the recession have acted strategically, reduced administrative expenses and targeted donors in new ways. For Children's Hunger Alliance, goals include a renewed focus on boosting individual donors. The organization already conducts three direct-mail pieces a year and receives United Way support in five programs. "We think there is an individual contributor base that has an interest in the issues we serve, and we want to be in a relationship with those folks," Langenhop says.

Barry, who has a background in fundraising, and CAHS CEO Rachel Finney include time for donor relations in their regular work. "What I've done is make sure I can carve out sufficient time to work on donor relationships and donor cultivation," he says.

The United Way has also increased its efforts to connect with new donors outside the workplace. Office campaigns effectively bring in donations, but not every office holds one. "Our research has been consistent for years. The No. 1 reason people don't give to United Way is they are not asked," Stewart says.

DONOR DIVERSIFICATION

While not all local nonprofits have seen an uptick yet, many have invested in new strategies to preserve individual and corporation donations. "Overall, we hear the nonprofits that are doing the best have the most diversified portfolios of revenue. Organizations are being more strategic and are working to be as lean as they can," Courtice says.

Nonprofits that find different ways to stay connected to donors see the same individuals return to donate in subsequent years. "There are some fundamentals to relationship building with your donors. We are enhancing those steps to where we contact our donors about five times a year," Barry says. CAHS conducts outreach with annual personal phone calls to donors from board members and numerous thank-you events and open houses. The phone calls are strictly for appreciation, not solicitation for further donations, Barry says. "Each member is engaged in donor relationships. We believe it means a lot

THERE WERE THE LANDOWNERS,
AND THE NEIGHBORS, AND THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS
AND THE ZONING BOARD.

THERE WERE THE HUNTERS, AND THE FARMERS,
AND THE FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND THE LAND USE RESTRICTIONS.

THERE WERE EXCAVATION AND RECLAMATION ISSUES.

THERE WERE AESTHETIC ISSUES.

AND THERE WERE THE BIRD LOVERS,
AND THE BAT LOVERS AND THE NOISE HATERS.

AND THEIR ATTORNEYS.

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LARGE-SCALE WIND FARM IN OHIO?

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