

SENECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

◆ Michael J. Kerschner ◆

June 19, 2019

To: Ohio Senate & Public Utilities Committee
Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams

From: Michael J. Kerschner, Seneca County Commissioner

RE: House Bill 6

I would like to focus my testimony on Bill Reineke's amendment as it relates to allowing for local electors to conduct a referendum regarding the approval or rejection of any certificates issued by the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) for large wind farms as defined by the Ohio Revised Code. Seneca County has been dealing with the wind farm issue for several years. My solution to the controversy has been for a path to conduct a local vote since the inception of this discussion.

We have had more than 20 meetings locally to discuss this matter with attendance of between 50 and 400 people. The consensus at each meeting was to not allow these projects to continue.

I support local control, giving the citizens who are most affected and least compensated by these projects an opportunity to cast a vote and allowing my constituents a say as to what happens in their townships as well as their communities.

The overwhelming majority of townships in our County, with proposed wind farm projects, have asked the Board of County Commissioners to rescind the A.E.Z and to indicate our serious concerns about the two major projects in progress proposed by Apex Energy (Republic Wind Projects) and SPower (Seneca Wind).

Those people most affected and least compensated for these projects should be given the opportunity to voice their decision, through the referendum process, regarding the development and implementation of wind farms in their communities. I respectfully ask you to allow Mr. Reineke's amendment to remain as part of HB6 and do the right thing for those you represent.