

June 18, 2019

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

From: Greg Smith, Seneca County, Concerned Citizen

RE: House Bill 6

I am providing my written testimony in support of HB6 and the Reineke Referendum amendment.

Maintaining Ohio's nuclear power plants is critical given the immense capacity of clean energy that these plants produce. Nuclear power is very efficient, especially compared to the poor efficiencies of any renewable energy source, and the power plants are reported to be in good operational condition with many years of remaining useful life. Why would we consider spending a huge amount of money to decommission them?

Regarding the Reineke Referendum, I feel strongly of the need for a local vote by the citizens of the effected townships for Ohio Power Siting Board approved wind turbine projects. Why shouldn't the people directly affected by these projects not be given the option to have some local control?

- Seneca County has been enrolled in the Alternative Energy Zone program since 2011. The PILOT taxes are automatically approved once a renewable energy project is certified as a qualified energy project. With the AEZ, there is NO LOCAL CONTROL.
- There is no AEZ in Erie and Huron Counties and the County Commissioners voted unanimously to deny the PILOT but Apex has stated that they will build the project with or without the PILOT. With the PILOT, there is NO LOCAL CONTROL.
- Each of my three Township Trustees are wind lease holders, they did not vote to intervene with the Ohio Power Siting Board process given their conflict of interest despite the overwhelming opposition with their constituents. My township government does not provide a method for me to participate in the Ohio Power Siting Board's process. Therefore there is NO LOCAL CONTROL with my township government.
- If I choose to intervene in the process as an individual, I must hire an attorney to do so. Why should I have to pay enormous attorney fees to protect my constitutional rights?

Article One of our Ohio Constitution states:

*1.01 Inalienable Rights (1851)*

*All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety.*

The current process does not allow residents directly affected by proposed wind turbine projects any means to influence their fate. Since these residents will be faced with potential health/safety risks and a devaluation of their personal property, I believe it is their constitutional right to have a voice in the process.

I strongly encourage you to support HB6 that includes the Reineke Referendum.