

**Testimony of Steve Corthell**  
**Seneca County, Ohio**  
**In support of HB-118**  
**Ohio House Public Utilities Committee**  
**March 9, 2021**

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, ranking member Smith, members of the committee, I write as a proponent of HB-118.

I wish to voice my support of HB 118. As a rural resident in Seneca County, I have an interest in supporting local control via referendum any issues that directly affect our lives in dramatic ways. My rural property has been protected by zoning rules and we have a system in place for considering variances to those rules that involves input from the residents affected. I am totally against a State agency like the Ohio Power Siting Board overriding local zoning and the will of local citizens when their personal safety, health and property values are affected. House Bill 118 will provide for input from citizens who are affected by large scale wind and solar projects. We reside in rural areas by choice and wish to have a voice in matters that drastically affect our local area.

There are major issues for local residents to consider in deciding whether or not to support large scale energy projects in their immediate area. These include personal safety (set back distances from Industrial Wind Turbines) and access to emergency air ambulance service as well as the possible decline in property values for residents in close proximity to these industrial installations. HB 118 includes provisions for affected locals to have a voice in the siting of these projects. Please support this Bill that allows a process for local residents to decide what is best for their communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Corthell  
Eden Township  
Seneca County