

**Testimony of Vera J Ash
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 am a resident of northern Crawford County and APEX wants to build a wind turbine farm right across my land. I am surrounded on all 4 sides by a resident who has signed a lease with APEX to build wind turbines. I have written emails to my County Trustees voicing my concerns. I am OPPOSED to to ANY elected official making the decision to allow these turbines to be built as I think "We the People" should have our voices heard on whether we should allow turbines to be built. We should be the ones to decide yes or no.

We elected officials to represent us but these officials can't speak for each and every one of us. Everyone has a voice if we are the ones that vote on this, the only fair solution. Big Wind would have to convince all of the citizens if what they are selling is true and good, not just a few individuals in a meeting room. In these days, government is too corrupt and not trusted by citizens. Local communities should vote on big changes to us, not a few higher ups.

I fear for my individual and families safety if these are allowed to be built how APEX wants. Like I stated, my property is surrounded on all 4 sides by leased land for these turbines. Setback distances should be very strictly enforced as I would be in jeopardy no matter which direction a thunderstorm or possible fire from one of these turbines. How would that affect my homeowners insurance? Surely it would increase my costs because my property would be in close proximity of a potential hazard. How would these affect property values? I am sure NOT in a positive way.

My family came from the area where Big Wind turbines were built in the Van Wert area. When I visited there 2 years ago, I was shocked to see how the property values had plummeted after the turbines were built. The area has collapsed and I was physically sick to see all of the turbines on once productive farm land and so many of them broken and not working. People are angry how they were lied to by big wind.

We the people need to have the right to vote on these big wind projects instead of accidentally finding out about them. That is how I found out. I saw a post on Facebook and looked at the map. Only then did I realize that APEX had contracted with everyone around me. I had not been contacted until AFTER the big farmers had signed and then they wanted me to sign a "good

neighbor agreement." They want to pay me pennies to let them build turbines right on top of my home. My health and safety is worth more than their pennies.

PLEASE pass these bills so that "We the Citizens" can make our own decisions.

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