

Opponent Testimony of Bonita Agnew on Senate Bill 320
Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
November 29, 2016

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairwoman Jones, Ranking Member Gentile, and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am here to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 320.

My name is Bonita Agnew, and I am a landowner in northwest Ohio. I'm proud of my family farm and excited about the prospect of opening northwest Ohio to new renewable energy development. Unfortunately, significant investment and positive economic impacts from wind power have been blocked by the policies set forth in current law and now continued in Senate Bill 320.

I believe that Senate Bill 320, and the continuation of the renewable portfolio standards ("RPS") freeze, moves Ohio in the wrong direction. Ohio should be encouraging more renewable energy development, not delaying the growth of an industry that is ready to inject millions of new dollars into our communities.

A few utility-scale wind projects are planned in our area but are currently on hold. I am not alone in my support for new renewable energy projects in Ohio. Clean energy investments have the potential to help many agricultural and multi-generational farm families' weather uncertain economic times and attract new industries and jobs.

Senate Bill 320 also does not address the restrictive property line setbacks for wind turbines. I believe that if the General Assembly is going to move legislation addressing renewable energy, then any legislation should also make sure that free market forces are allowed to work. The current property line setbacks, enacted in House Bill 483 a couple years ago, are the most restrictive standards in the nation and are also freezing new development, investment and jobs. The policies enacted by the General Assembly in recent years have quite literally restricted my ability to use my property as I would like.

I believe that Governor Kasich said it best when he committed to ending the RPS freeze and enacting meaningful standards for renewable energy in Ohio. As a proud landowner, I'm excited at the prospect of helping Ohio become an energy leader.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 320. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Bonita Agnew