

Testimony of Karl V. Mielke
Resident of Paulding County with owned land located in Timber Road III
Amazon Wind Farm U. S. Central
In Opposition for Ohio Senate Bill 320
11/29/16

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 Karl Mielke. I am here today to discuss the positive impact that wind energy has played in the Paulding County community—including farms, townships, villages, school districts, and nearby neighborhoods. At 73, I have seen a number of changes in the County. And, after moving back to the family farm in 2007, wind turbines are easily the most significant change of all.

In addition to raising corn, soybeans and wheat, we now have an additional “cash crop” and that is utility energy from a wind energy source. I have always enjoyed watching 68+ bushel per acre soybeans, or 200+ bushel per acre corn being loaded into semi-trailers, pulling out of the fields to dump their loads at the elevator. Somehow, the feeling of helping people gets lost when the grain is mingled with millions of metric tons of other grain sent somewhere in boxcars or ships! Now, you can see the wind energy “commodity” benefits come back to the people, within and beyond Paulding County.

As I sit on my deck, I can see the moving blades of the nine newly activated wind turbines shared with my neighbors, and know that the tax dollars are coming back to the school districts, various governmental agencies, and of course lease payments to individual landowners who have turbines on their property. Much of that lease payment money also goes back into the local economy.

The legislative agreement passed before 2014 was supported overwhelmingly, and showed the intent to clear a path to provide a steady, reliable stream of energy coming from NW Ohio benefitting NW Ohio. Senate Bill 320 seems to do everything to ignore the successfully passed agreement of 2008, and to reduce the steady, reliable stream of energy, thus eliminate wind energy efforts in Ohio.

Re-labeling the one-time-acceptable standards to just “goals”, is like saying “will do our best”, “work at it”. This is like telling my former students that our “objectives” for this lesson is to “try and understand the concepts”, “list a couple of reasons”, or “sorta define the two key words”. There is little clarity on intention nor the intention of doing it!

Another way of having a negative impact on wind farm production is to impose the newly proposed setback requirements. Many times the acreage available within a given field is not sufficient to support a turbine if there are new requirements on setbacks from flicker, distances from property boundary lines in case the turbine falls over, and the careful placement of turbines to provide undisturbed air throughout the field.

While EDP Renewables continues to clean up the site areas, and repair any GPS located breaks in drainage due to trenching the buried cables, I hope the committee determines the immense negative impact of Senate Bill 320 and eliminates the freeze imposed in 2014.

By the way, when I testified before the Ohio Siting Board, I told them that it was nice to have the winds from the South, West and North to do more than just blow my leaves across the highway.

I appreciate your time and consideration today. I welcome, and hope I can any questions you may have.