



**Testimony of Seth Wilmore**

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**Opposition Testimony 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.

EverPower is a Pittsburgh, PA based company with employees in several states including Ohio. We have seven operating wind projects with a total nameplate capacity of 752MWs in four states.

EverPower has been active in developing wind farms within Ohio since 2005 and during the past 10 plus years we have contracted with a large number of landowners – a number of them farmers – to host a wind farm on their land. All of those landowners have shared with us how difficult farming is given the volatility in global crop prices and the reliance on Mother Nature to deliver weather favorable to producing crops in a given year.

We have plans to build two wind farms in Ohio – one in Champaign County and one in Hardin and Logan Counties. The Buckeye Wind Farm in Champaign County will represent approximately \$200 million in capital investment and the Scioto Ridge Wind Farm in Hardin and Logan Counties will be approximately \$280 Million in capital investment. Our investment in Ohio to date and our commitment going forward is significant.

These farms will each create as many as 100 jobs during construction, employ 8-10 full-time workers with well-paying salaries after entering operation and contribute millions to local schools and municipalities during the life of the project.

We expect the Buckeye Project to contribute as much as \$1.2 Million Dollars per year and the Scioto Ridge Project would contribute even more – as much as \$1.8 Million Dollars per year to the local schools and municipalities.

Passing of SB 320 threatens to derail our plans moving forward and will cost the state millions in investment, cost farmers a much needed source of additional income and deny Ohioans projects that will produce clean energy in the state for years to come.

I appreciate your time and consideration today. I welcome any questions the committee may have.

