



November 28, 2016

Dear Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairwoman Jones, Ranking Member Gentile, and Members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to write to you and unfortunately my schedule would not allow me to come down and testify.

I am writing to each of you on behalf of Lincolnview Local Schools and the many benefits of the “Wind Energy” that it has been provided in the State of Ohio the past three years. As a citizen of Van Wert County, as a school leader of a school district in Van Wert County, and as a property and home owner in Van Wert County the Wind Energy expansion into Ohio has been nothing but a win-win for our district and our community. As you look at potential growth for any industry in Northwest Ohio we have always lagged behind that of our fellow Ohioans in all four corners of the state and for once in many decades we have a source of energy that travels across our area in abundance and it has allowed our area to prosper financially. We can all agree over the test of time subsidies have been given to oil, gas, electric companies, airline, automobile, and train industry, and even in agricultural (that includes the farming industry) so that many could prosper and in turn provide the necessary means for all of us to live and flourish. Now is the time for the energy portfolio standards to move forward and not freeze and to continue to be supported by our state, so we may continue to reap the benefits and when I say we I am referring to Northwest Ohio. Our school district has prospered due to the payments in lieu of taxes concept as it has allowed us to receive over \$400,000 per year for the next 20 years from the wind mills that currently turn every day in our district. Our budget is around \$9.3 million dollars that serves around 900 students and around 100 employees in our district. For us to ask our voters for new money through a levy of property taxes to generate \$400,000 we would have to pass a 4-mill levy, which would be very difficult to do in our district and it would take many tries and even then it might not pass. Our last biennial budget from the state only increased any new money for our district to a tune of \$81,000.00. Our district cannot even buy one school bus for that amount of additional revenue, so this new funding stream from “Wind Energy” has allowed our district to maintain cost adjustments for inflation, provide funding to pay our teachers (who do such an incredible job teaching our students), and allow us some other positive opportunities such as:



- First school in the county with a 1:1 computer initiative (all students K-12 have an electronic device to assist in instruction)
- Reduce bond debt on our school facilities building projects, thus causing a reduction in taxes and also reducing our bond debt by five years
- Upgrade to LED lighting in gymnasium, parking lots, lights around the school structure, and the library
- Create new academic programs – Pre-Engineering & Bio-medical in the high school
- Teaching our students about renewable energy first hand and with the hopes that some of our students will graduate and become employed in the wind industry someday
- Future: (possible classroom additions and renovations to our existing school buildings)
- Future: developing co-ops and internships with our students with business and industry in the Van Wert county area for job and population growth in our county
- Future: (build a community center with an emphasis of education and wellness) to give back to our taxpayers as they have supported us for so many years

The sky is the limit on so many more positive opportunities that “Wind Energy” can bring to our little county in Northwest Ohio, and especially to our school district. We want expansion of wind opportunities and growth so please continue to support its benefits and the premise behind the energy portfolio standards. We have two companies now who want to expand and potentially invest in over \$1 billion dollars. Our landowners continually sign lease agreements for this expansion so please “Oppose Senate Bill 320.”

In conclusion I welcome anyone who has questions regarding wind energy and the expansion of it to travel to Lincolnview Local Schools in Van Wert County and have a conversation with myself and community members who live here every day. If you have never had the opportunity to see it first-hand make a difference in a child’s education experience then please come and observe as I would be happy to show you our students, who are the leaders of “tomorrow.”



We are the “Wind Capital of Ohio” and we want wind energy and expansion. Please continue to support this endeavor and in doing so oppose Senate Bill 320.

Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Snyder
Superintendent
Lincolnview Local Schools

CC: Cliff Hite

Tony Burkley