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Committees:

Finance - *Ranking Minority Member*
Agriculture
Energy & Natural Resources
Finance - General Government
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Government Oversight and Reform
Judiciary

Michael J. Skindell
State Senator
23rd District

Before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Bill 184 – Alter minimum setbacks for windfarm turbines of five megawatts or more
Sponsor Testimony by Senator Michael J. Skindell
September 27, 2017

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Minority Member O'Brien, and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 184, which would put the setback limits of a wind turbine of five megawatts or greater back to the distance they were prior to a last minute Senate floor amendment to House Bill 483 in 2014.

Amended House Bill 483 increased the setback point of 1125 feet from the blade tip to the property line. Senate Bill 184 simply reverts back to the setback point of 1125 feet from the blade tip to the habitable structure.

The amendment to House Bill 483 changed a standard that stifles wind energy development in Ohio. The setback change has made it more difficult for cities to secure electricity, and created lost potential in construction jobs and a barrier to an evolving renewable energy industry.

With the restrictive setback requirements, the American Wind Energy Association reported that Ohio is missing out on an estimated \$4.2 billion in economic development. In fact, approximately 13,000 jobs, \$660 million in tax payments to local governments and schools and lease payments to landowners totaling more than \$440 million over the next 30 years have been stifled. In addition, plans to generate 3,300 megawatts of new wind projects that would supply electricity to more than 900,000 homes are on hold.

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the committee, thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 184 this afternoon. I would be happy to answer any of your questions at this time.