

Proponent Testimony on Substitute House Bill 49

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Ohio Senate Finance Committee

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Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Ohio's clean energy industry. We urge you to include legislative language in Substitute House Bill 49 that restores reasonable wind setback standards at or near pre-2014 levels.

No person has the lifelong assurance of an ocean view except for the person who owns the land. And, if you want to experience it, it isn't cheap, even for just a few days. Everyone seems to accept this fact. Yet, residents who have their homes nestled within prime farmland seem to think that they have the right to a lifelong panoramic view without ownership. They pay no property taxes on the farmland around them. They are not caretakers this land. It does not provide their livelihood. Moreover, they feel justified in suppressing the rights of the owner solely in order to keep their view.

The members of anti-wind groups try to mask their true complaint, "obstruction of view," by fear mongering and voicing outdated and skewed facts about national debt, efficiency, variability, subsidies, abandoned foreign projects, utility bills and taxes. However, some of the boldest members have said wind turbines would be OK if they built them somewhere else, a simple yet profound statement that nullifies all the rhetoric.

The same groups also criticize the government for pretty much everything including the realization of a need for alternate energy. At the same time, refusing to acknowledge that this same government is the reason why they have the freedoms to choose where to live and what land to own. Forgetting, this same government is looking out for future generations and asking us to place importance on the environmental factors that will keep our country strong.

Some policies today have promoted an "entitled" attitude, giving rights that are really going to the wrong person. I encourage you to simply keep the rights where they need to be with the landowner. The current setbacks lopsided the rights toward those who give the least and have the least invested.

Thank you for your time and consideration.