

**Proponent Testimony of Gary Baldosser, Seneca County Farmer**  
**On Substitute House Bill 49**  
**Ohio Senate Finance Committee**  
**June 7, 2017**

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. I am asking you to include legislative language in Substitute House Bill 49 that restores reasonable wind setback standards at or near pre-2014 levels.

I am here today to hopefully provide some perspective. The perspective of someone who will be directly impacted by Wind Farms, and is currently negatively impacted by existing setback standards.

First, some introductions:

My name is Gary Baldosser. I am a Farmer from Seneca County that raises corn, wheat, soybeans and cattle. I am also a land owner that is participating in the Apex wind development project, Republic Wind LLC. My wife and I are the fourth generation that has made a living from managing the Natural Resources on our farms. I have two sons who have both graduated from The Ohio State University that would like the same opportunity. I have served and volunteered on many boards and committees that support Agriculture and my community. I have been a Trustee for The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. I served a year as a Trustee for The American Farm Bureau Federation. I am Currently Vice Chairman for my local Federal Farm Credit institution. I have been a 4H advisor for 10 years. I coached little league baseball for 15 years when my boys were growing up. I am a retired 27 year Volunteer Fireman and served as Chief of our department that serves and protects the village of Republic and the surrounding community.

My point here is....I live in this community. My family lives in this community. My neighbors make their living off the land in this community. I pay taxes in this community. And I vote in this community.

You might recognize the Village of Republic. It looks a lot like Rural America. We have two mom and pop restraints. A lumberyard and hardware store. A local elevator to support the farmers. And AGRICULTURE. There is no manufacturing. There are no retail outlet stores in Republic. There are no four lane highways that bring in Industry and Commerce. Our industrial park is a feed lot where my family raise cattle and sell freezer beef. So you see, there are farms in Republic..... and the people who manage the resources on those farms.

My friends and neighbors look forward to the opportunity to farm the wind as a resource and let that resource provide for their families.

Since July of 2007 when neighbors and landowners representing about 10,000 acres met in my farm shop to discuss bringing a Wind Farm to the area surrounding Republic, people have talked about the changes these turbines would make on our landscape. I have to admit, I was surprised at the overwhelming acceptance of the project. This community-My community has recognized and embraced the opportunities that a Wind Farm would bring. Opportunities like...

- A diversified off farm income to help as a safety net when the Ag industry is in a slump.
- A chance to provide a legacy to the next generation and keep the family farm financially strong.
- An improved tax revenue stream for our schools. The schools that educated my children and will someday educate my grandchildren.
- An additional income source for my township government and our county government. To fix roads and bridges to keep people from other communities safe as they travel through Seneca County to get to Lake Erie for the weekend.
- Jobs for my neighbors and family.
- Additional farm Income from the project will help landowners pay their property taxes

It seems clear to this farmer, everyone wins with a Wind Farm in their community. Without a change in current legislation to restore the setbacks to pre-2014 levels... all these opportunities disappear and we all lose, the whole State of Ohio loses.

I again ask that you change the current legislation and include language in Substitute House Bill 49 that restores reasonable wind setback standards at or near pre-2014 levels.

Thank you for your time, patience, and the opportunity to provide comment on Substitute H. B. 49.

It is a privilege to participate in this process.