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Testimony of Chris Zeman
Seneca County
In opposition to SC3504
Amendment to Revise Setbacks from Industrial Wind Turbines

Dear members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** as a concerned citizen to the proposed revision of the setback standards set by the State of Ohio for Industrial Wind Turbines (IWT). My reason for this is quite simple- I am a "small" property owner in rural Seneca County which my wife and I purchased in June of 2009. Surrounding my property are several acres of open farmland that could possibly have the potential of hosting IWT's. However, with the current setback standards that are in place my property rights will remain protected. Unfortunately though, if the setbacks *were* changed then I personally, as well as several other rural property owners, could be affected by that decision as it will inhibit the opportunity for us to improve our properties.

Over the years vast acres of farmland have been broken down into smaller lots and sold to private individuals whom have built or plan on building new homes. Other portions of land have had homes on them for several years, some decades- however; regardless of the age of the home, the fact is that if the setback provisions are changed then the property owners of these homes will lose say on what they wish to do with them. Every individual property owner has the **RIGHT** too their property and the decision to do with it as they please. These decisions may include too build something as simple as a porch, add an addition to an attached garage, convert an old barn into living space, or even build a new home and later demolish the old one- and with these types of decisions comes investment. The minute *any* property owner commits to their property and invests in their home money is put back into **OHIO'S ECONOMY**- banks make money on loan interest, contractors and construction workers are able to gain work, local stores and businesses sell building materials and other products, and our Townships, Counties, and State gain tax revenue. Unfortunately however, the decision to allow the wind industry to come into our rural Ohio Counties will undoubtedly stymie this growth and thus paralyze our area into nothing more than a plot of land used for unreliable wind energy.

There is old saying that says that "**EVERY ACTION HAS A REACTION**"- nothing is more true than in this situation. If Ohio elects to change the setback standards then they have made the decision to shunt out the residents of rural Ohio and curtail individual investment in those portions of the State. In exchange, IWT construction and operation will replace that investment. Future generations will further suffer as no one will ever know how many homes or investment opportunities could have been had as the IWT's footprint is vast and wide. So now is the time, invest in Ohio with wind and *only* wind, or keep Ohio as it is and let **THE PEOPLE** make the investment.

Chris Zeman