

Opponent Testimony of Darle Baker on Sub. HB 49  
Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
June 9, 2017

Chairman Oeslager, Vice Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee, thank you for giving me the privilege of sharing my testimony with you.

My name is Darle Baker. I am a lifelong resident of Van Wert County and have been an active farm operator for forty-five years farming close to 900 acres. I am writing in opposition to the amendment that changes setback requirements for the placement of wind turbines in Sub. HB 49.

I received my private pilot's license in 1975 and have had a private runway on my farm off and on over the years with the latest being reestablished in early 2013 when I purchased an ultralight sport airplane. I purposefully purchased this plane for the intent of spraying my own crops and to do inspections of my own fields. I received my private ag pilot endorsement the summer of 2015. At about the same time I was made aware that the Long Prairie Wind Project was moving along and all of my properties would be in the Phase II plan. I started to ask questions of the FAA and ODOT if my private runway would be protected and was told that a wind turbine could be placed at the end of my runway unless I constructed a public runway. I already knew that a nearby meteorological tower was a hindrance to my flying in the area and had heard horror stories from ag pilots who had near death experiences flying near the wind turbines in the Blue Creek project.

The public runway does not stop the wind developer from building but it does limit the height of the turbine that can be built. It does not protect my other farm properties. Allowing a closer setback distance for the placement of wind turbines would block my rights and abilities to provide aerial application and field inspections to the rest of my farm operation. Professional ag pilots already refuse to spray in the Blue Creek Wind project because the turbines are placed close together.

Changing of setback rules needs to be addressed separately with a lot of input by those that will be affected. Participating leaseholders that reside on the leased property could have a closer setback to the front door of their house but non-participating landowners should have a setback measured to their property line.

The property rights of everyone should be considered not just the desires of wind developers. That is why I oppose this amendment being a part of the budget bill.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

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