

Opponent Testimony of Linda Baker on the Substitute House Bill 49
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
June 8, 2017

Dear Chairman Oeslager, Vice Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me to share my concerns with you.

My name is Linda Baker, and my husband and I have owned and operated farm ground in Van Wert County for over forty years. I am writing you in opposition to the substitute budget bill which includes an amendment that changes setback requirements for wind turbines.

This is a disappointment that a wind turbine setback change would even be considered as a part of the state budget. A setback change in Ohio should not be taken lightly as the lives of many people would be affected. As a resident of Van Wert County I have experienced first hand how the possibility of building the Long Prairie Wind project has divided not only the county but families such as ours when one brother signs a lease and the other does not.

Since proposed wind turbines are being considered at the 660' height as compared to the 476' of the Blue Creek project, shouldn't we consider instead the lengthening of setback footage for everyone's safety instead of reducing it as suggested by the amendment sponsored by Senator Hite? Zoning begins at my property line not the wall or front door of my house.

Both BP and Apex, who are wind developers, have included in their leases with landowners that participating property owners cannot build a habitable dwelling within 1320' of a wind turbine. Why should there be any less of a setback for the constituents of the state of Ohio? In fact, why should municipalities or public facilities be exempt from wind turbine placement if these turbines are so safe?

I would like to invite this committee to Van Wert County not only to see the turbines but also to visit with residents who have been affected by them before any setback changes be approved. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Linda Baker
Citizens for Clear Skies

