

Testimony of Dawn Davis
Allen county
In opposition to SC 3504
Amendment to Revise Setbacks from Industrial Wind Turbines

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about the Senator Hite industrial turbine setback amendment. I began studying wind turbines 7 years ago when our local school wanted to place one next to a busy student parking lot. As I became educated about the realities and risks associated with these machines, I quickly discovered that ignorance was blissful. Unfortunately, the industrial wind turbine industry, or 'windustry', utilizes this public ignorance to their advantage. It is often how a company enters a rural area, and later, as the realities become visible to the public, families and communities are torn apart. I experienced this first hand, and I now continue to study and share the facts with others.

For the past few years, I have been recording turbine setbacks, as I read about them in the news. I have compiled a listing of more than 230 setbacks. Of these, 212 are GREATER than Ohio's current setback. You read this correctly. 92% of the setbacks are GREATER than Ohio's. Why? There are risks and adverse effects associated with industrial wind energy turbines. In fact, as communities learn these truths, many then try to increase their setback law; unfortunately, they are often met with strong resistance from the 'windustry'. An industry that effectively thwarts these efforts because they can afford to hire the lobbyists and marketing companies to persuade decision makers. Industrial wind energy growth has been slowed in NW Ohio as landowners say no to the contracts. Educated citizens have slowed their growth, not our setback law, as the windustry claims.

Why is it so important for you to decisively destroy Senator Hite's amendment? Because you need to speak for and protect your constituents, your taxpayers, and your neighbors. We have no one else to protect us against the aggressive campaigns of this industry. The Ohio Power Siting Board has failed to provide any real enforceable protections for Ohio residents. The board has NEVER voted in favor of Ohioans, but instead has always consulted with and then voted in favor of the windustry. The Ohio Power Siting Board developed rules that allow wind developers to make decisions based on their 'best guess of probabilities' that bad things could happen. Unfortunately, they never imagined or guessed that human error would turn on a disabled Paulding turbine and throw pieces of a broken blade almost 800 feet away. Almost every week, in the press, there are examples of turbine fires, oil leaks, fallen blades etc. These instances are always reported to be exceedingly rare, but the truth is that they are anything but rare.

As if this is not proof enough, please consider a quote from an Ohio Supreme Court justice in 2016. In this case, the court sided with the industrial wind turbine company, Buckeye Wind. In a dissenting court opinion, two justices found that the industrial wind

turbine setbacks, authorized by the Ohio Power Siting Board, were NOT safe. Even though the the Board was given the power to lengthen setbacks, it did not. These justices found the actions of the Ohio Power Siting Board to be “not only unreasonable, it is unconscionable and unlawful.”

And, finally, just one year ago, the ‘windustry’ lobbied for the Substitute House Bill 190, which would have created a multi-county wind corridor through Northwest Ohio. If passed, this would have given the Ohio Power Siting Board power to effectively destroy any county within the corridor by establishing a setback of only 1.1 times the total height of the turbine to a property line. Thousands of turbines could have taken over communities.

In conclusion, you are in office to protect and speak for your constituents. As you can see, the Ohio Power Siting Board, the majority of the Ohio Supreme Court and some of your colleagues, have been persuaded by the power of the windustry. They are persuaded by things other than the facts. This is an industry that already receives a 70-80% tax break through the Ohio PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program. This is an industry that already receives a 30% federal subsidy through the Production Tax Credit, which has been in existence for almost 40 years now. This is an industry that, therefore, can hire the best lobbyists and marketing companies to push their agenda. How can the average working class Ohioan compete against this? The reality is that our current setback CAN BE WAIVED if the owner agrees to the waiver presented by the industrial wind energy company. Setbacks always begin from a property line. Hold your line, say no to this amendment, and stand up for your neighbors, families and friends. We need your help.

Sincerely,

Dawn Davis
751 Eastgate Dr
Spencerville, OH 45887
419647-6375