

**Proponent Testimony of Edwin Kroeger
on Substitute House Bill 49
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
June 15, 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 urge you to include legislative language in Substitute House Bill 49 that restores reasonable wind setback standards.

My name is Edwin Kroeger and I am a landowner in Van Wert County, Ohio. As a member of the community, I am hopeful to bring wind energy investments to our area.

Sub. H.B. 49 is an opportunity to invite significant investment in Ohio. The setbacks imposed in 2014 under HB 483 have halted wind development in Ohio and are preventing renewable energy companies from making significant investments in local communities across the state. I believe the current property line setback rules in Ohio are the most restrictive siting guidelines in the country.

From my perspective, this is an unfair restriction on the free market. Wind companies, like the ones developing in my part of Ohio, often sign long-term agreements with utilities and corporations, sometimes up to 20 or 25 years. This means that even after wind subsidies go away, wind projects will continue to operate, provide much needed local revenue and payments to schools, and support rural economies like mine.

Ohio has an opportunity to attract significant investments with wind power. We've heard that major corporations are increasingly seeking low-cost wind and solar power to meet growth, reinvestment, and sustainability goals. In communities like mine, we want to create more jobs. If wind power will attract such investment, why are we preventing it?

Finally, this is about me and my land. I'm asking for your support in allowing me to use my land in a productive, sustainable way.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on Sub. H. B. 49.