

**TO Senator Scott Oelslager, Chair
Senator Gayle Manning, Vice Chairwoman
Senator Michael Skindel**

TESTIMONY - IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED BUDGET BILL AMENDMENT SUB HOUSE BILL 49 TO CHANGE WIND TURBINE SETBACKS

I am opposed to changing the wind turbine setbacks to prior 2014 footage. **Setbacks should be larger** and at least changed to **2,300 feet** as found in Indiana.

In my neighborhood, only one person who actually lives here has leased his land, those others who have leased land do not live nearby. Over 30 other homeowners could be impacted should wind turbines be built. These 34 families, who have worked much of their lives paying taxes and mortgages, raising their children in a country setting, living their American dream, would be impacted if wind turbine setbacks are lessened and wind turbines built.

In the recent propaganda put out by the lobbyist group, American Wind Energy Association, their publication states that Ohio has the most stringent setbacks, which is entirely untrue. The Indiana Supreme Court as recently as May 30, 2017 upheld Rush County Indiana's setback of 2,300 feet (ruling against Apex Energy). Others have either set higher setbacks than Ohio, or are looking into doing so, including Michigan and Illinois.

This area of Ohio is too populated to allow wind turbines to be built, risking property values, noise problems, shadow flickers and human health issues, which have not been properly investigated. Allowing wind turbines to be built would effectively take away our quality of life and our enjoyment of home and property.

I cannot understand how we can afford to lose good Ohio agricultural land to wind turbines; land that once altered would never go back to its pre-wind turbine conditions. How can we be such horrible stewards of our resources?

Wind companies state that only ½ acre is used per turbine; however, a US Department of Energy report shows it is more like one acre and "presents a potentially significant degradation in ecosystem quality." In a 200-turbine wind field that is 200 acres out of production, plus more acreage with drainage problems affecting crop production over time, over 2-3 years, sometimes decades, according to that Department of Energy report. We are told we must be increasing our production, not dropping production.

Do not take our property rights away, do not allow wind companies to infringe on our property without permission or compensation. Do not let them trespass on our land! Do not let one or two people dictate what 34 others can or cannot do to their property.

Don't take away our freedom of enjoying our land and homes which we have worked decades to acquire. Do the right thing!

Do not add Sub House Bill 49 as an amendment to the Ohio budget to lessen setbacks levels. Do what many other states are doing set them at **2,300 feet or more from a property line!** Even better deny them access to good Ohio farmland that is heavily populated and where most of its citizens are opposed to wind energy coming to their area.

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