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In opposition to SC3504  
Amendment to Revise Setbacks from Industrial Wind Turbines

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony against the proposed Hite amendment which robs Ohio citizens of their property rights. Unfortunately, I could not attend in person due to work commitments. My name is Katie Elsasser and I live in Hardin County, Ohio. My family's home and property is located in the footprint of the proposed Scioto Ridge Wind Complex. This project was developed with pre-2014 siting rules which means all turbines in the project are measured from a home's foundation, not a property line. Therefore, my property is being used for safety setbacks by my neighbors at my loss, which becomes their profit, all without my permission.

I suppose I should be pleased for an opportunity to again provide my testimony in opposition to unsafe setbacks, but honesty, I am not. I am extremely frustrated that I must again take my time to share with my legislators what is common sense: Property line setbacks exist for a reason – my property line is where my rights end and where my neighbors' rights begin. That is unless you are a greedy wind developer with the belief that you are entitled to use any property you choose, no matter what the landowner wants. Furthermore, these developers believe the state of Ohio, by law, should grant them that privilege. That is the bottom line. The Hite amendment is the taking of personal property without permission. The last time I checked the name for that is THEFT.

Probably what is even more frustrating is the wining that the wind developers do. "Whoa is me! We can no longer develop industrial wind complexes in Ohio because of such restrictive setbacks!" That is just a flat out lie. I could site location after location with more restrictive setbacks than Ohio, but I am sure you already have that information.

Senator Hite consistently states that his district overwhelmingly supports wind and that wind development has been halted in Ohio due to property line setbacks. Really? You can't have it both ways. As a resident of his district, I do not support wind development and neither do many of my friends and neighbors. If, as Senator Hite states, his district residents are so supportive, wind developers can easily procure a legal waiver agreeing to reduced setbacks from adjoining property owners. The adjoining landowner is then in charge of determining how his personal property will be used—NOT the state of Ohio.

I write on behalf of my family, friends, neighbors, and fellow farmers. Yes, my family farms; in fact, we farm organically. We care enough about the environment and our health to be mindful of how we treat the soil. Pouring tons upon tons of concrete into the earth to support oil-filled metal fans, which may occasionally spin around and produce electricity – at the expense of our neighbors and fellow taxpayers – is far from being environmentally friendly. Not to mention the chemicals that are sprayed on the access roads and around the turbine bases. Not too friendly at all.

I wish that many of my farmer friends would provide testimony, but some cannot speak out. You see, as renters of farm ground from turbine leaseholders, speaking out could cause them to lose that ground—and lose their income and livelihood. Silence doesn't always mean compliance.

My hope is that you will have read my testimony and others, as well as listened to those who oppose the Hite Amendment and that you know this is amendment is an injustice to all landowners in Ohio. Listen to those of us who support property line setbacks and personal property rights. My hope is that your common sense tells you that theft of land from individuals forced to deal with life in the footprint of an industrial wind complex is unacceptable. Finally, I hope that you clearly see there is no place in Ohio law for the Hite amendment – or any amendment for that matter – which has no respect for personal property rights.

Ohio law must continue support property line setbacks.