

TESTIMONY OF MARY JO PARELLO
Champaign County
IN OPPOSITION TO SC3504
Amendment to Revise Setbacks from Industrial Wind Turbines

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the Committee, I am here to speak against any revision of the setbacks for industrial wind turbines that would measure the distance from my home rather than my property line. I also oppose any reduction in the current property line setback. If anything, setbacks should be reviewed to increase not decrease distances.

I am a lifelong resident of Ohio and a 16-year resident of Champaign County. After a thirty-year teaching career, I wanted a peaceful and scenic home where my husband and I could enjoy retirement. We found that home on four acres in 2000. We have an adjoining lot with another six and a half acres which provides a bit of a buffer in an area zoned rural residential.

Unfortunately, my husband had open heart surgery and the perfect home is no longer perfect. We need to downsize. Our home has been on the market now five times over the past 5 or 6 years. We cannot sell our home because there is a threat of wind development that has been hanging over us for years and because the wind industry continues to threaten what little protection we have.

During this time, we received one low-ball offer which we refused. The prospective buyer felt the low price was justified because he would have to see the wind turbines.

Our community has repeatedly said we do not support wind development because it is not right for our area. I can tell you that it will destroy the economy just as it has destroyed the value of my property. There is something wrong when a private for-profit company making an inefficient product stands to take in enormous sums of money because of bad public policy.

When Governor Strickland took away our right to zone wind turbines, he took away our ability to envision a future. Now the one little thing we have – the only thing we have is a setback from our property lines that one pundit called “vanishingly small”.

There are others like me. I assume some will be in more urgent circumstances and need to sell their home. The wind industry would like nothing more than to have the OPSB determine what is appropriate for setbacks. Of course, they would. The Ohio Power Siting Board has been 100% anti citizen and 100% pro-wind. It is a scandal. The legislature needs to look out for the people. Wind turbines don't vote – people do.

I ask that you reject the Hite Amendment.