

Ohio House Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Sub. HB 6

TESTIMONY

Dennis W. Schreiner

Sandusky, Ohio

May 23, 2019

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chairman Kick, Ranking Member Denson and members of the Committee, I am here to provide support for Sub. House Bill 6 and would like to speak to the provision on giving impacted communities a voice in the development of wind and solar projects.

I commend the efforts by the Ohio General Assembly and its development of legislation that now seeks to invest in our State's clean energy production. With growing concerns about air pollution, it is encouraging to see the development of legislation that aims to invest in Ohio's largest carbon-free, reliable, and highly productive source of clean energy that is nuclear.

The siting of industrial wind and solar power plants in rural areas that are zoned as residential and agricultural has been a process with all the advantages on the side of the developer. Under a cloak of secrecy land agents use predatory practices to secure leases from landowners who do not understand the ramifications of the document they have signed. Peer pressure is used to convince owners to sign because everyone else has signed so the project is moving forward – why not cash in on your share of the money? The cash projections used to “sell” the deal extend to 40 years or more with very misleading assumptions.

Not all areas are so keen on the development of wind farm. In our areas the local geology is unsuitable such as the karst areas where underground water flows are at risk. In addition, negatively impacting the drainage of farm fields is a real concern. Only the people who will be directly affected that can accurately assess the impact and determine whether or not the risk outweighs the “proposed” benefits.

I have attached a map of four proposed projects in the Seneca County area. As you can easily see, the cumulative effects of these developments will have a profound effect on the quality of life of the people who live there. I think there can be no question that property values will suffer leading to reduced government revenues. Would you choose to move to this area? Would your children want to return home to a place where the horizon has been obliterated and the night sky can no longer be seen – replaced by dozens of flashing lights? How will our employers attract talented young people to the area?

In most areas of the US, local zoning or control governs how and where industrial wind turbine projects are developed. Wind turbines are industrial power plants being forced into rural residential communities who are denied the right to zoning. Sub. HB 6 will restore some rights to the community and I urge your support.