

**Testimony of Adam Lutz  
Bloom Township Trustee  
Seneca County, Ohio  
In support of HB-118  
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee  
March 9, 2021**

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, ranking member Smith, members of the committee, I write as a proponent of HB-118.

I am writing to you on behalf of myself, my family and a large number of the community members that I represent. I am a Township Trustee in Bloom Township located in Bloomville, Ohio. This small village and township is located in Northwest Ohio, a prospective site for several large scale wind turbine projects. We would like to fully support this legislation before your committee.

Large scale wind projects and large scale solar projects can have huge impacts on residents of the area in several aspects including social and economic aftermath that will last for years after the projects have been initiated. The proposed legislation gives a great avenue for residents to have control of the future of the landscapes that they will reside in for years to come.

The current system, without a resident vote, allows for projects to advance several stages, without educating those residents who do not have potential for a positive financial impact, until construction has all but started. A vote prior to the initial steps for such facilities allows residents to become educated regarding any positive and negative influences that such projects will have on their prospective communities. It allows residents to gather data regarding what additional revenue may do for an area along with how this could impact property values. Residents spend large portions of their income to acquire property and homes that are good long term investments only to realize that values may be diminished throughout the area with no voice by vote on the projects that area having that impact.

Taking a local vote also alleviates social animosity that is created when residents with a positive financial interest are promised large incomes from representatives of the projects prior to any approval. In this situation, when others intervene to stop a project, neighbors are pitted against each other. A vote would allow for projects to be either approved or denied before anyone begins to make economic plans prior to any income.

These are just a couple reasons that we fully support this legislation. The people within the footprints of these projects have the most to gain or lose in many ways. This is why the proposed bill is so necessary. When the consequences are so far reaching and long lasting the

citizens should have the ability to put their futures in their own hands in the form of a voice at the polls.

Thank you,

Adam Lutz

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