

Testimony of Carrie Boes
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 would like to express my concern of allowing these large commercial wind turbines in our rural community. It has been proven that these machines could place my family and others in our neighborhood in harms way by being detrimental to our safety. Many other communities have fought back and proven the setbacks need to be revised to follow manufacturer's safe distance for fires and during thunderstorms.

Local residents, property and homeowners should be granted a vote in the planning and construction of these projects. We found out well after the project was underway and had no warning that something this size, which would impact the safety of our family, were already into the final planning stages and we had no vote in the process. Even if a thunderstorm never damaged a turbine, shattering its blade and sending shrapnel for great distances, the mental anguish of knowing it could happen with the next passing storm is a horrible burden to place on residents without their consent.

Our home has been the biggest financial investment we have made. My husband and I put a great deal of time into deciding where we were going to buy property, build our home, and raise our children. A industrial wind project will change our rural agricultural landscape into a industrial like setting. This unattractive scenery would not only be unappealing to us, but would negatively affect the value of our home and most importantly our health and safety.

Ohio bureaucrats and out of state developers should not be able to have the final say and make important decisions for those living in rural America. Those who reside in the local area and will live with the projects, experiencing both the benefits and the negative effects, should be voting to make these decisions which have such an enormous impact on our community. We are speaking out and asking that at the very least, each local citizen be given our one vote.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie Boes
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