

Testimony of Catherine and James Limbird
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, we write as proponents of HB-118.

We feel that this bill needs to pass. We believe in our democracy and freedom. You, as our elected officials, need to help us out. To us it only makes sense that everyone affected by the wind turbines and solar projects should have a voice by vote. A local vote is the only fair way since wind and solar projects transform our beautiful rural communities in such a big way. Local citizens should be the ones to decide whether we want to live within an industrial zone with 655 foot wind turbines surrounding us.

These projects not only affect us by their presence, but will also lower our property values if our area changes from agricultural and residential to an effectively industrial area. This decision should not be left up to the Ohio Power Siting Board, especially since it will be us, not them, living among the turbines or next to a solar project. We do not think that any politician would be acting fairly if he or she insisted that we local residents should not be able to vote on an issue that would change our community in such a drastic way....forever!!

We would also like to point out that no matter whether people are for or against these projects our personal safety should not be allowed to be threatened by a state regulated construction project. Safety needs to be considered no matter what. The setback distances of the turbines should be at least as far back as the turbine manufacturers say is safe in case of fires and/or thunderstorms.

We think that it is also important to know about these kinds of project plans in the early phases of the planning process.

Please vote for these bills!! Let the local communities vote as to whether a wind or solar project will be built next to us. It is the only fair way!

Thank you,

Catherine and James Limbird
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