

March 6,2021

Members of the House Public Utilities Committee,

I am writing in support of HB118. In March 2018 I received a letter from an attorney informing me of The Seneca Wind Industrial Wind Farm being built and that I would be in or near the footprint of that project. In October 2018 I received a letter from a different attorney informing me I would be in the footprint of the Emerson Creek Industrial Wind Project. I have spent the past three years reading, attending meetings and preparing letters and speeches. SB 52 will provide a local referendum or vote and protect citizens by making the setbacks the same as that in the manufacturers manual.

I was sent information about a possible wind farm years ago, I said no and moved on with life. I assumed all the people around me said no as I never heard anything else until receiving the letters from the attorneys. Providing information to the township trustees and to the general public sooner would be in the best interest of the developer and the residents. If it was discovered that there was not a lot of interest the developer could move on without investing any more time or money.

The setbacks in Ohio are less than the setbacks recommended by the manufacturers' safety manual. There was a workshop at the OPSB that discussed safety issues such as blade throw. The safety of residents in their own homes or while driving down the road to their home should be of the utmost concern. I heard it may be proposed to return to the pre 2014 setback distance. THAT SHOULD NEVER BE DONE. This is a time when many counties are implementing greater setbacks (1 mile or more) to protect their citizens from the health effects of noise, infrasound and shadow flicker. The least Ohio can do is to protect us from blade throw, ice throw, etc.

I listened to the introduction of SB 52 and HB 118 on the Ohio channel. For the Senate hearing a senator asked what was the difference for solar and wind as compared with coal, nuclear and natural gas. She asks "why should the rules be different for them; why should they have a local vote". I must speak from my personal stand point of being in a proposed wind farm footprint and having a pipeline for oil and gas to the south of my property. I do not live near a nuclear or coal facility. After the pipeline was installed it was covered up with soil and most people would not know it is there. If the proposed Industrial wind farm would be built I would be exposed 24 hours a day to noise, infrasound and shadow flicker and the health consequences of them. Instead of the pipeline covered with soil where the farmer plants there would be 650 foot infrastructures scattered across the scenic rural area where I live. I am not aware of a pipeline affecting property values. There are studies that show decrease in property values near wind farms. These projects are so intrusive and disruptive to the quality of life of people living within 10 miles of these projects, especially those living in the project foot print. For this reason, residents should be given the opportunity to vote. The benefits to the out of state companies should not come before the quality life of rural Ohio residents. The money promised, the unreliability of wind and solar generation versus the quality of life of rural Ohio residents should not be decided solely by the OPSB; local residents should have a chance to vote.

Due to work commitments I cannot attend in person.

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