

Testimony of Gerald F and Penny L Maxhimer
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 the local residents, in an area that is being considered for a wind farm or solar farm, should be able to vote on whether or not they want to have the wind/solar farm. They are the ones who will be most affected by the wind/solar farm and can decide whether or not their land and lives would benefit from the wind/solar farm. The people who work, play, live, hunt, socialize, volunteer in the area know what is best for them; many have resided in the area for generations. Who to better know whether a wind/solar farm would be a positive or negative affect on the area but the local voters.

Voters who live in large cities and elsewhere in Ohio do not thoroughly know or understand what a wind/solar farm could do to a specific area in their state. One must make an educated decision in the voting booth and unless the voter thoroughly knows the area and people, that educated decision can not be made. Jerry and I personally would not like to be asked to make decision that would affect an area we do not live in because we do not know the area, what is needed, how it would affect the residents and so on. That would not be a democratic process.

There also needs to be transparency from the very beginning of the process with the wind/solar companies. Contracts not letting residents, who want to have turbines or solar panels on their property, tell their neighbors and others about what is happening is extremely underhanded . No state official should be allowing this to happen to any voter or resident.

All wind turbines should have a set back limit NO LESS than the manufacturer's suggested set back limit. The manufacturer set the distance as a SAFETY PRECAUTION for a reason.

Sincerely,

Gerald F & Penny L Maxhimer
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