

**Testimony of Kevin Oney
Thompson 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 support your efforts in writing and trying to pass HB-118. I was elected to the position of Thompson Township Trustee in November of 2019 due to the tremendous support of the residents of Thompson Township here in Seneca County. The reason for their support is simple and obvious. The residents do not want industrial wind turbines near their homes. In fact, I defeated a well known, popular, and long time incumbent, because he supports the industrial wind turbines and I do not. I was able to collect 60% of the vote on my first attempt. Local residents should most definitely have a say in the decisions that will directly affect them.

This shows how important a local vote on this issue is. Our first concern as an elected official is the safety and well being of the people we represent. Let us not forget the fact that we represent the residents, not the big companies making big, empty promises. They're trying to "shoe-horn" as many turbines as possible into populated areas without regard to their own safety manuals. We get many thunderstorms, ice storms, and even tornadoes here in Seneca County. Any of these storms could compromise a turbine, putting near-by residents in danger.

The wind turbine companies have secretly targeted large land-owners, promising them great sums of money, to use their land however they want without regard to their neighbors. These projects should be more transparent including the release of the wind turbine safety manual, which states no one should be within one kilometer of the turbine during a thunderstorm or catastrophic turbine failure.

Respectfully,

Kevin Oney
Thompson Township Trustee, Seneca County