

**Testimony of Krista Beck
Erie 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.

As Ohio's legislature begins a new year, I urge you, as you consider and debate bills on clean energy, that you and your fellow legislators give consideration to the position of rural communities that are directly impacted by these projects.

Jane Harf, executive director of Green Energy Ohio, in her disapproval of HB786, states that "the sponsors are apparently unfamiliar with the rigorous certification process of the Ohio Power Siting Board and the mechanisms through which local residents can provide input."

As a life-long resident of rural Groton township, Erie County and a member of a group fighting the Emerson Creek Wind Project, I can personally attest that the certification process through the OPSB may be rigorous as far as the required legal mumbo jumbo, but there is NOTHING rigorous or meritorious about any of the studies that are completed for the project on behalf of the wind companies.

If you would like details of this, please read the post hearing brief by Mr Jack Van Kley on behalf of the local residents. This brief clearly outlines the lack of scientific rigor, as well as purposeful deception in Apex's "studies."

<http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/DocumentRecord.aspx?DocID=4543ac55-1fb5-4d30-9aa8-a0758acd5aff>

If this reading interests you, believe me, there is plenty more testimony in the public record from expert witnesses such as Mark Shieldcastle, Ken Smallwood, Dennis Schreiner, and Dr. Ira Sasowsky that shows no such rigor that Apex attests to.

Ms Harf also states there are several "mechanisms through which local residents can provide input." She is correct, in part, but members of OPSB will tell you that public comments, input, or concern have NO BEARING on these cases. OPSB voting members are not at any of these public meetings, nor are they required to read even one of the public documents that are submitted.

Believe me, we've done our due diligence! We've shown up by the hundreds, in Columbus for various testimony, hearings, and workshops, and at all public meetings and hearings, whether in person or virtual. We have written thousands of public comments, backing up our statements with facts from renowned experts. Our township officials have voiced their opposition and intervened against the project, but their voice and their zoning laws are impotent! Our county commissioners unanimously denied the PILOT that Apex so ardently requested (to the point that one of Apex's employees verbally attacked one of our commissioners at the meeting and had to be restrained!!!!) and they also legally intervened against the case at the OPSB. BUT, NONE OF THIS MATTERS!!!

So on behalf of all rural Ohioans, I urge you to press that "reset" button and do your due diligence for your constituents! Siting rules, in their current form, do nothing more than tie the hands of the OPSB and trample on the rights of local governments and rural residents.

Respectfully,

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