

**Testimony of Patricia Didion
Huron 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.

Right now we have very, very little local input in these decisions. The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) makes decisions from afar by reading and reviewing information provided by the OPSB employees. They have no direct contact with the local residents. The OPSB employees work very closely with the wind company applicant. They do not directly work with or interact with the local residents.

The local residents have so much at stake. These industrial sized turbines and solar fields transform our landscape and affect our property value. Studies have shown as much as 25-40% of property value is lost where wind turbines are present.

In addition, there has been very little information and education provided to residents in a timely fashion. Firelands Wind provided general public information very late in their planning. It had been as much as 10 years since initial land lease contacts were made before any public information was provided to the community residents. Many people were unaware of the presence and functions of the OPSB. They thought their townships were zoned for their protection!

The poster walk-through form of education is very basic and lacks communication of research and technical information for all participants. Many questions and concerns go unanswered or are just not presented. Is this because a more formal presentation would bring to light the inefficiency, costliness, health issues, environmental and other hazards associated with the huge industrial sized wind turbines?

Many details in the wind application are deemed confidential. Some examples are: the selected turbine model, safety information, artifact locations and financial data. There is no transparency. Lease holders and "good neighbors" are under a "gag rule".

Another grave concern with 650 feet tall wind turbines is the setbacks. These must be required to meet or exceed the manufacturer's safety directions. Many areas are saying the set backs should be at least 2 miles!

Thus, we definitely see there are very many legitimate concerns of the community people. There is a desperate need for local control, input and vote. Other states have it and the developers are always making the case that those states are more open to development than is Ohio currently. That is a lesson which the state of Ohio has been ignoring.

Please support this legislation. Our safety and quality of life are on the line!

Thank you!

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