

**Testimony of Roger and Susan Murray
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 are residents of Seneca County, living in Eden Township. There are several concerns we have with the proposed legislation.

Ohio was founded on the principle of "local control", especially for those issues that directly impact the safety of its residents. This principle was enacted to protect local citizens, as well as give them a say in the decision making process regardless of which side of the issue they may take.

Local citizens should be the ones deciding whether the promised benefits are valid and whether they outweigh the negatives which come with such industrialization.

We urge you to support greater safety provisions in both SB52 and HB118 than minimal manufacturers recommendations. It is imperative that setback distances should be at least as far back as the turbine manufacturers say is safe in case of fires or during thunderstorms. The bill addresses the need to ensure the safety of local residents if such a project is built. It is fundamental that their personal safety should not be allowed to be threatened by state regulated construction projects of this magnitude.

We find it inconceivable that neighbors' property values can be negatively affected by the changes from an agricultural/residential to an industrial nature without a local vote. This makes a mockery of people who've been cited for violating regulations for structures in excess of the zoning laws, while ignoring the elephant in the room.

We question what individual legislator's stance would be if a State agency over-rode the will of local citizens because polls said controversial projects are needed. Would the vote be, "OK as long as it's not in MY back yard"? Do you think it's fair for those in big cities to vote for an issue that will drastically change our community? Wouldn't you want to be treated fairly in issues regarding your future?

We appreciate your support for local control and safety concerns for the residents who will be impacted by SB53 and HB118.

Respectfully submitted,
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