

Testimony of Thomas J Scheele
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 feel this new legislation would be welcomed with open arms here in the state of Ohio.

Many of my colleagues feel the same as I do about having a vote on Industrial wind and Solar projects however most are not aware that testimony is being taken on this issue and or don't know how to testify. Many of our legislators probably don't understand all the grievances that are associated with these projects because there are so many. I will try to keep my testimony short and concise. I feel it is fair for all involved to be able to have a vote in this process. I have heard testimony from proponents and opponents in regard to Industrial wind. Everyone that has testified believes their point of view is the way to look at the issue, I'm sure all of you understand in a democracy, all of our opinions matter, and the fairest way for all our voices to be heard is through a vote.

I feel a lot of good would come out of the passing of this bill as everyone would now have a say in the matter. If the wind or solar developer were more transparent in the beginning and the community were able to have input the project might be more accepted. An example would be property devaluation. I have read many studies that show that property devaluation occurs. Wind companies deny so and I believe that topics as such should be addressed before the certification of a wind farm be approved.

I am a non participating land owner. I found out about the Republic wind project after it was completely designed and on its way to be certified. My property will be devastated by this project as the transformer station is in my backyard 750 feet from my bedroom window and all the transmission lines would be buried next to my property then my front view from my house would be destroyed by Turbines as far as the eye can see. I feel that my home is the most devastated property in the project and I had no idea it was coming. I listened to experts testify that property values won't be affected by this project. You and I know better. I will make the last payment on my house in May 2021. Republic wind hopes to start construction at the same time. How would you feel to work your whole life, pay your mortgage on time and as soon as it's paid off watch the value sink by as much as 50% to 70% and your house be uninhabitable?

Please let me have my one vote on this issue. That is all I ask.

Thank You,

Thomas J. Scheele
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