



**Before the House Public Utilities Committee
House Bill 302 – Wind Turbine Setbacks
Sponsor Testimony by Representative Michael J. Skindell
May 19, 2021**

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chairman Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the House Public Utilities Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to join with my joint sponsor, Representative Kent Smith, and provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 302.

This legislation returns the setback limits of a wind turbine of five megawatts or greater back to the distance they were prior to a last minute Senate floor amendment to House Bill 483 in 2014.

Amended House Bill 483 increased the setback point of 1125 feet from the blade tip to the property line. House Bill 302 simply reverts back to the setback point of 1125 feet from the blade tip to the habitable structure.

The amendment to House Bill 483 changed a standard that stifles wind energy development in Ohio. The setback change has made it more difficult for cities to secure electricity, and created lost potential in construction jobs and a barrier to an evolving renewable energy industry.

With the restrictive setback requirements, the American Wind Energy Association reported that Ohio is missing out on an estimated \$4.2 billion in economic development. In fact, approximately 13,000 jobs, \$660 million in tax payments to local governments and schools and lease payments to landowners totaling more than \$440 million over the next 30 years have been stifled. In addition, plans to generate 3,300 megawatts of new wind projects that would supply electricity to more than 900,000 homes are on hold.

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chairman Ray, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the House Public Utilities Committee, thank you for your consideration of House Bill 302. I would be happy to answer any of your questions following the sponsor testimony of Rep. Smith.