

**Brenda DeLong
Van Wert County
Proponent Testimony - Senate Bill 52
Senate Energy & Public Utilities
March 9, 2021**

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Committee, My name is Brenda DeLong and I live in Van Wert County surrounded by turbines in the Blue Creek wind footprint.

When turbines were brought into our community there was no local vote on the project. Anyone living in an area where wind companies are wanting to build turbines should have a say. The Ohio Power Siting Board, township trustees nor county commissioners should make the decision for the rest of the township. Noise, flicker, health concerns, weather concerns, and drainage are all major concerns with turbines. Our concerns have become a nightmare reality. No rural resident should deal with this industrial nuisance without a say.

It is imperative that a vote should come from those community members living around proposed turbines, not someone who lives in a nearby or far away city or town or even a state representative. In addition, no vote should be cast by a landowner who does not live near the proposed turbines. Many of those who have leases do not live in the area of a turbine. If I were to take you to many of my neighbors' homes the message would be redundant. No turbines.

Many who signed leases no longer want the turbines. They have no voice because of contractual obligations for confidentiality designed intentionally by the wind developer. I have had several neighbors move to another part of the county to get away from the turbines.

I did not have a vote on the turbines surrounding my home. That is why I advocate for local authority so those that would live around them have a voice. What has happened to my neighbors and myself should not happen to others. My community is living proof that a local say is right and just.

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