

Testimony of Gary and Amy Weller
Seneca and Wood Counties, Ohio
In support of SB-52
Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
March 9, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Schuring, ranking member Williams, members of the committee, we write as proponents of SB-52.

John Noel my ancestor purchased a Land Grant to move to Adams Township, Seneca County, Republic Ohio in 1829. His daughter purchased our family farm in 1852. We still reside 169 years later at on the same heritage farm. that is in the heart of the proposed Republic Wind project (case# 17-2295-EL-BGN).

Flash back to the late 2000's. Out of the blue a representative of a "windmill" company stopped by our home to discuss the future of energy in the United States. He was a friend of a friend who was looking out for our best interest. Our participation in this venture would not only bring us a profit for the lease of our land but help the country advance forward in their energy efforts. Elderly in our community were sold that by leasing their land they were giving their children a guaranteed inheritance. With the country going thru the great recession this is an opportune time to participate. He and other representatives came back canvassing us to not miss out on this incredible opportunity. The company went as far as giving us a Holiday Ham for consideration.

Apex and other wind companies have been working in the dark of our community for years to get the leases, as we can testify. Residents were manipulated into signing these leases without legal representation nor complete disclosure. The project was not presented as an Industrial windmill farm with windmills stretching for miles and reaching to the sky at 600 feet tall. We did not realize that 800-1000 cubic yards of concrete would be poured to secure these massive windmills. It was sold as simply putting up a windmill that is similar to those constructed at the Bowling Green Windmill farms.

Once the project was submitted to the Ohio Power Sitting Board residents in the townships are informed of the magnitude and are overwhelmed. Those who signed up for the project feel stupid and duped. Some residents are too proud to admit their mistake. They thought they were giving their children a future revenue stream and did not realize the debt that will occur from loss of crop income due to the compaction of the large cranes and construction.

Other questions have not been answered about the utility infrastructure. Water supply – we maintain our own wells and do not have a source for regional water. Concrete pads that deep will change the flow of our underground sources. Internet has become a necessity as the pandemic has shown. The lack of broadband internet in the rural

communities is detrimental. Satellite does not work in the area. We just found a source for Internet in 2019 that is bounced off a local tower. The windmills will disrupt this source leaving us in a communication dark space again. Ecosystem and wildlife – how will it be protected? Township roads destroyed by construction vehicles such as will be paid by who? Property Value assessment of living in this area? Too many questions have not been answered.

This legislation is important to our community as well as to other townships across the State of Ohio. A democracy should allow community members to have a voice in an Industrial park that will change the landscape of their home and life. The decision should not be made without representation. Your consideration and support of these bills is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Weller, Weller Farms LLC
Adams Township, Seneca County, Republic, Ohio.

Amy Weller, Weller Farms LLC
Plain Township, Wood County, Bowling Green, Ohio