

Testimony of Tom Stacy,II
Seneca County, 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, I write as a proponent of SB-52.

My name is Tom Stacy. I was part of a small informal working group formed in 2007 which sought to understand the industrial wind energy business, how it relates to Ohio, and seeking the greater good for all Ohioans through local and state influence. This was my first and only attempt to advise Ohio lawmakers regarding the costs, cautions, and possible benefits of diffuse and inconsistent weather-based power.

Since 2015 I have worked as a consultant, researcher and author attempting to promote low cost, reliable and abundant electricity for states, regions and our nation. Electricity with these attributes is the very foundation of our competitiveness, economy and standard of living.

You might be surprised to learn that I was an influencer supporting the Ohio Power Siting Board having authority over wind energy project siting, made law just two years after Ohio adopted renewable energy requirements. At that time the public was blindsided by wind energy development proposals and claims of economic and environmental benefit. With the limited resources we had at that time we felt creating a state mandated minimum setbacks from non-participating property lines was important, and we were led to believe these would follow wind turbine manufacturers' minimum safety guidelines. At that time the safety manuals for these enormous machines were in the public domain. Generally, these called for 3.5 to 4 times total height setbacks. These guidelines did not consider parcel sizes, simply safety. And in my humble but well-informed opinion, you should too.

Negotiation and compromise within the General assembly at that time led to far inferior minimum setbacks and paved the way for a less than conservative permitting process.

Today circumstances are different. Local public interest groups form and come up to speed quickly– in part due to public notice and public hearing requirements established by the OPSB.

The time has come for local residents to have the right of referendum regarding the development of these sprawling and domineering energy projects.

I urge the passage of the bill you are now considering which does just that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Thomas F Stacy, II
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