



October 11, 2017

We strongly support Senate Bill 188 and urge the Committee's passage of this legislation. The 2014 legislation (HB 483), that doubled the wind setbacks has essentially ended the development of wind projects in Ohio that had not been certificated prior to the change in law - - making Ohio one of the most restrictive states for wind energy development. Senate Bill 188 provides fair and reasonable setback requirements that would open the market again to rational new wind development and the associated economic development benefits of this form of energy generation.

The current law, which measures the setback of 1,125 feet from the tip of the turbine blade to the nearest property line, strips the ability of property owners, many of whom are and farmers, from leasing their property to wind energy developers. This law deprives them from the opportunity of receiving income from wind energy projects that helps sustain their farms. Many businesses interested in locating in Ohio favor renewable energy as part of their sustainability goals. Additionally, they often prefer purchasing wind energy, which has no fuel price, under multi-year contracts to ensure that they receive stable, low-cost energy for the long-term. Having highly restrictive laws against renewable energy has been expressed as a reason for companies not wanting to locate or expand in Ohio. We also stress that the rural communities where wind farms are usually located also benefit from the local taxes paid by wind energy projects. Quite often these wind farms are one of the highest paying taxpayers in the counties where they are situated.

We think the approach to setbacks contained in Senate Bill 188 is a reasonable standard that allows for responsible wind energy development and protections for neighboring property and therefor urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bruce H. Burcat'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Bruce H. Burcat
Executive Director