

# SENECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michael Kerschner ♦ Shayne Thomas ♦ Holly M. Stacy

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Opponent Testimony on Sub. H. B. No. 114

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Troy Balderson, Chair

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as an opponent of Substitute House Bill 114. My name is Holly Stacy and I am a Seneca County Commissioner.

In Seneca County, we look forward to the future development of a wind farm by Apex Clean Energy: a planned 200-megawatt Republic Wind facility in a rural portion our county. This would generate enough energy to power 57,000 homes and represents a very large investment in our tax base. It would create hundreds of jobs during construction and infuse millions of dollars into the county.

And during operations, the wind farm would continue to deliver economic value for decades. Family farmers and other landowners would receive lease payments that would supplement their income and provide stability to their operations. The community would benefit from sustained tax revenue for local governments and schools and from decades of increased procurement, jobs, and investment involved in maintaining and operating the wind turbines. This, in turn, helps retain families in rural communities by providing diversified revenue streams to the farm and off-farm job opportunities in wind.

Property owners strongly support this project. In my county, landowners are voting with their feet by signing up for wind leases that would place wind turbines on their family's ground. There are limited other opportunities for economic development in this rural part of our county. This is an opportunity to grow the tax base for our rural schools with a \$400 million-dollar investment that would provide \$36 million in revenue for the schools over 30 years. Local government would also benefit, with \$600,000 expected annually from the project. Nearly \$30 million in direct payments will go to landowners and their neighbors.

I ask that the Committee oppose Substitute House Bill 114 and continue Ohio's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards. This will help to encourage additional wind project development, generating further economic activity in our region and state.

Utility scale wind is a desired investment in Seneca County with the prospect to greatly increase the tax base in our rural community. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Holly Stacy, Commissioner  
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