



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Written Testimony of Eric Thumma  
Director, Policy and Regulatory Affairs  
Avangrid Renewables, LLC

June 6, 2018

Testimony for Substitute House Bill 114

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O' Brien, and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present today's written testimony. I am Eric Thumma, Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs for Avangrid Renewables (formerly Iberdrola Renewables). Our company is one of the largest owners and operators of commercial scale wind farms in the United States, including the Blue Creek wind farm in Northwest, Ohio. Blue Creek is a 152 turbine wind farm totaling 304 MW in Van Wert and Paulding counties.

Avangrid Renewables is disappointed that Sub. H.B. 114 proposes to reduce the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard ("AEPS") to 8.5% by 2022 instead of 12.5% by 2026. Portfolio standard policies have proven to be cost effective policies to promote energy diversity by creating a competitive driver for clean, renewable energy investments. Avangrid Renewables respectfully requests that the committee revisit this provision and restore the AEPS standard to 12.5% by 2026.

The primary purpose of my testimony is to offer support to provisions which restore sensible and protective minimum setback requirements for commercial scale wind farms that will enable responsible wind farm siting in Ohio. Avangrid Renewables strongly supports these provisions.

The Blue Creek wind farm is an example of the type of investment which sound wind farm regulations can spur. Blue Creek was the single largest private investment in Ohio in 2011 at \$600 million. Thirty Ohio companies worked on its construction and for nearly seven years it has been providing clean energy and local benefits. The local benefits are significant. Blue Creek is the largest taxpayer in Van Wert County and has historically been the second largest taxpayer in Paulding County (another wind farm is the largest). The benefits flow to the local school districts which are investing in new technologies. The projects landowners also benefit. Landowner payments from the project currently total \$2.4 million annually.

Community participation has been essential to Blue Creek's success. There are more than 250 families participating in the project either through wind energy lease agreements or other easement agreements. There are more neighbor agreements at Blue Creek than any other Avangrid Renewables wind farm. The project exceeded the property line and residential setback

requirement required at the time and has been operating safely with little public concern since its operation began in 2011.

To date, the project has received 26 total complaints. That is over seven years of operating 152 turbines. Seventeen were related to television reception and those have been resolved favorably. Five complaints were for shadow flicker and two for sound. All the complaints have been resolved. This record further demonstrates that properly sited wind farms, based on the minimum setbacks found in Sub. H.B. 114 can coexist with Ohio's communities.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony and encourage its support for the wind setback requirements found in Sub. H.B. 114. Questions regarding this testimony can be directed to me at [eric.thumma@avangrid.com](mailto:eric.thumma@avangrid.com) or 484-680-9085.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Thumma', is centered on the page.

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Eric Thumma  
Director, Policy and Regulatory Affairs