

TESTIMONY OF JERID SHURYAN
Champaign County
IN OPPOSITION TO Sub. H. B. 114

To revise the provisions governing renewable energy, energy efficiency, and peak demand reduction and to alter funding allocations under the Home Energy Assistance Program.

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Committee, I'm an environmental professional with over 25 years of experience focusing on innovative green solutions to build sustainable environmental programs. Throughout my career I've seen firsthand how green initiatives fail for one reason or another. There are 3 pillars that must work in harmony for a program to truly be successful. These pillars are Innovation, Sustainability, and Community.

We can all agree that we need alternative energy sources to support our growing energy demands and to reduce our carbon footprint. But if we don't fully embrace all 3 pillars, the program will fail.

Innovation = a new method, idea or product

Sustainability = (environment) the avoidance of the depletion of natural resources in order to maintain an ecological balance. (financial) any form of financial service integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into a business or investment decisions for the lasting benefit of both clients and society as large.

Community = group of people living in the same place having a characteristic in common, or a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

So, where does the State of Ohio want to be in the pursuit of building innovative sustainable energy solutions that embrace the community? Does the State want to be the leader in this sector by forcing communities to accept reduced setbacks? Or does the State want to build stronger communities that can fully embrace technology while reducing our overall carbon footprint and establish safe setbacks standards that ensure the stability of green innovation. Wouldn't it be nice if 100% of the community could embrace new technology by being informed and part of the process?

The State must require these turbine projects to be 100% transparent by embracing feedback from the community, enforcing stricter setbacks, participating in a competitive bid processes, and allowing the local government to choose the right solution for its residents.

The State MUST enforce stricter setbacks to ensure the safety of everyone in the community. The current proposal to reduce setbacks to allow turbines to interfere with non-participating landowner property rights is NOT ACCEPTABLE. We all pay taxes on the property we own. The ability to use our land for personal use is a right that every landowner must be granted without compromise.

Another concern of mine is the placement of these turbines in Champaign County along Parkview and 36. These roads have significant turns, hills, and blind spots. With the ever-growing national concern related to distracted driving, why would the State of Ohio want to bear the responsibility for approving this location and risking the lives of residents? Parkview is a major artery leading to the K through 12 school located in Mechanicsburg, Ohio. As students turn 15 they will get their learner's permit and start to drive on their own. Students who have very little driving experience will be required to travel along

Parkview Avenue on their way to school. Adding additional distractions along Parkview is a recipe for destruction.

Let's also consider the Sunday drivers that may come from surrounding cities to enjoy the landscape in Mechanicsburg Ohio. Those individuals will not be familiar with our roads and will add to the already potential deadly scenario related to left of center accidents. There are already numerous accidents that occur along Parkview and 36, many of them requiring significant medical assistance or Life Flight. I challenge anybody in this room who is not driven down these roads to take that Sunday drive, witness the winding hilly roads that define our landscape. I want you to see firsthand the potential dangers presented by adding distractions to this landscape without considering proper setbacks.

I'm certain that with the installation of these wind turbines along Parkview and 36, the State will see an increase in vehicle accidents. I pray that it is not your child, my child, or anybody's child that is involved in a head-on collision resulting from distracted by looking at these turbines.

The State of Ohio must focus on establishing safe setbacks that eliminates all negative impacts to non-participating landowners.