

TESTIMONY OF BRENDA DELONG
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 am here to speak against any revision of the setbacks for industrial wind turbines that would measure the distance from my home rather than my property line. I also object to any proposed reduction of the current 1,125-foot setback from property lines.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

My name is Brenda DeLong and I am a resident and property owner in Van Wert County. I live in the Blue Creek Wind project. I do not have any wind turbines on my property, but yet they affect my life by trespassing on my property. I built my home in 2004 on my parent's farmland thinking I could enjoy peace and quiet as a country home should be.

Not long ago, I was in Dublin viewing a home my son and his wife were buying. As we stood on the deck in the back of the house, my daughter-in-law's father made the comment, it is so peaceful here. I thought, WOW, yes it is. I cannot say that where I live. Since turbines have come into my life, it is difficult to sit outside and enjoy a peaceful evening. The whooshing sound coming from the turbines are far from peaceful. Even sitting inside my home is not peaceful. With windows closed, a TV or radio on, the whoosh can be heard. Two years ago a siren like sound began. After listening for a while I determined it was coming from a turbine. This went on for at least 6 months. I had to leave my home because the noise was unbearable at times. I have been told a car or semi noise is worse but those pass and the sound is gone, a turbine noise doesn't disappear. Many refer to the noise as a constant jet overhead.

Another concern is flicker. I have turbines to the East and West of my home. On days the Sun is shining I have flicker from the East in the morning and from the West in the afternoon.

Drainage issues are another concern that have risen since turbines were installed. Tile was crushed and not fixed properly; therefore, water stands for days after a rain. Large transmission lines and poles were placed approximately 67 feet from my home. No one came to my home and told me this was going to happen.

Health issues that have arisen since turbines have come to my area include: dizziness, head pulses, headaches, migraines, and chest pain. One could even feel their heart beating in rhythm with the turbine.

As I write this on a hot humid day and on many other hot and humid days, turbines are not moving. When there is a peak demand no energy is being produced.

There are some areas such as Paulding County where wind development has been embraced. Certainly, there are counties in Indiana and Michigan that host many wind turbines. Indiana and Michigan have local control through township zoning. Shouldn't we not have township voting where the township is inside the footprint of a wind development? That would go a long way toward healing our communities who have been tipped apart by industrial wind.

Many who are pro wind will never live near a turbine. Many who have leases do not live close to a turbine. They are absentee lease holders. The Blue Creek Manager, Neil Voje, lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana where Allen County has prohibited industrial wind turbines as a permitted land use.

I ask you to think of these issues as you consider HB 114. I did not have a vote on the turbines surrounding my home, that is why I advocate for a local township vote amendment so that others can have a voice in whether turbines are placed around their home. What has happened to me should not happen to others.

The turbines near me are too close now, and I object to any legislation reducing property line setbacks for wind turbines.

Thank you for your time today.