

TESTIMONY OF CHRISTOPHER ZEMAN

Seneca 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 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.

Good afternoon. My name is Christopher Zeman and I am a resident of Seneca County in Northwest Ohio. In 2016 I learned about the proposed construction of the Republic Wind project being developed by Apex Clean Energy of Charlottesville, VA. Every bit of this project was conceived and developed under the "cover of darkness" while the developer sent out its Representatives and "Right of Way Agents" to acquire land easements.

Many of these easements have been acquired from "absentee land owners"- some as far away as Omaha, Nebraska. As of this hearing, I have learned I will have up to four industrial wind turbines within less than a mile of my home which I purchased in 2009. While my home faces in a west direction and the turbines will be behind my home, during the winter months they will be visible from my backyard as the trees will be devoid of foliage increasing the likelihood for day and nighttime noise.

I am here to tell you that, from the onset, the wind developers have had every intention of playing all of us like "fiddles". Since their application has been submitted, which coincidentally was during the holiday season, they had applied under the current Ohio State setbacks of 1,125' plus blade length from the nearest non-participating property line. However, upon closer examination of various maps and documents submitted in their February 2, 2018 application, all of the setbacks and property line distances were actually measured under the auspices of SB238, or the so-called "Dolan bill".

During the month of March, another document was submitted to the OPSB stating that they had intended on applying under the "Dolan bill" to protect their measurements and other environmentally sensitive distances in order to justify their application. However, within weeks on April 11, 2018, the developer's attorneys submitted yet another letter withdrawing the March 27th correction of setback measurements at the behest of the OPSB.

They instead stated that they once again were filing under current State Laws but were attempting to acquire additional "setback waivers" or "good neighbor agreements". The purpose of this was to satisfy the need to cram up to 58 591' industrial wind turbines within a limited amount of acreage. Interestingly enough, though, in yet another "correction" to the OPSB dated May 11th, 2018, which allegedly added residences that were omitted from the initial February 2nd application, the Dolan setbacks WERE STILL IN PLACE!

This is disturbing since they are almost expecting that they will prevail and the State will adjust the setbacks in THEIR FAVOR! This is an absolutely ludicrous assumption since no normal business would ever wager its investment purely on the speculation that a law that has not been approved to date WILL BE- and not only approved, but the setback distances will be verbatim! I liken this as "stacking the deck" in favor of a positive ruling. Who does this? What business in their right mind would gamble

this way? This is like buying a Ferrari and the dealer believing you will get a loan!

In closing, with what I have mentioned today, “we the people” of Seneca County are asking for a voice in approving the zoning of industrial wind projects within the affected Townships. In addition, ALL setbacks must continue to be measured from the property line as a safety and security measure. The wind industry has been allowed to plague our lands for far too long and at a very large expense to the residents of rural Ohio.

Thank you,

Chris Zeman