

## **OPPONENT TESTIMONY of JOHN C. DIGNAN**

Long-term resident of Van Wert County and Agricultural Business Owner, Rural Communications, Inc., Agri-Tech, Ag-Tester- current  
Van Wert County  
Sub. H. B. 114

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Ohio Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is John Dignan, and I am here to testify as an opponent on Substitute H.B. 114.

I hope today to represent the views of hundreds of home owners that are very personally affected by the proposed wind energy project in Van Wert County. My love for my home in Van Wert County is based in many respects on my childhood history.

I grew up on the West Side of Cleveland. EXHIBITS 1 and 2 shows a satellite image of my childhood home. It was a wonderful neighborhood to grow up in the 1950s and 60s. My friends and I would play in the fields which, in the late 60s and 70s, became a train station and Interstate 71. We would catch frogs and tadpoles, pick berries and do the things kids love to do.

I was educated through electronic engineering technologies in Cleveland.

In the 1960s, Cleveland was a mess with pollution. The Cuyahoga River would actually catch on fire from the pollutants dumped into the river by paint and chemical companies. Every Saturday night the city would burn its trash on the river front. The beautiful Edgewater Beach was covered with dead fish and any fish you would catch in the lake contained toxic levels of mercury. The downtown area was littered with trash.

All this mess was created in the interest of CREATING MORE MONEY FOR GOVERNMENT AND HIGH PAYING JOBS- THE EASY WAY. Big lobbying groups kept it all legal but the destruction was done. In the 1970s the people decided they didn't want to live that way. For the last 40 years huge progress has been made to clean up the mess.

I've been in business, writing my own paychecks since 1972. While operating a communications company in Columbus, I discovered agriculture and the rural lifestyle.

My wife and I moved to beautiful Van Wert County in 1976. SEE EXHIBITS 3 and 4. We bought an old farm house and 6 plus acres, carved out of a 50 acre farm field. It offered lots of land to build our life, surrounded by farm fields. I started building my place in agriculture with the business and my wife and I started building our lives.

My closest neighbor to the Southwest was a hog farmer. There was an unbelievably bad odor in late July and August when the farmer would spread his manure directly in front of my home. As a member of the ag- community I quickly learned, "that smells like green money". In other words I knew I moved to an agricultural area.

My fight against this wind driven industrial power project is personal to me. Your decisions will have a direct effect on my life and that of my family along with hundreds of citizens like me.

Did you ever go out at night with you kids or grandkids and look up at the sky and marvel at the vastness? Look and imagine as you watch the planes flying at 35000 feet. See the reflection of satellites in the sky. Watch for meteors? Perhaps you've taken the family out to the country for a better view? When you walk out the back door at our home, look up in the sky, you see nothing but a sea of stars. Now imagine that same look at the sky but now all your eyes can see are bright red lights flashing in sync! HOW COULD YOU CONSIDER DOING THAT TO US?

Shadow Flicker is a very big concern for me. To give you a better understanding of my concern please notice the photo of the Columbus Skyline in EXHIBIT 5.

The tallest building in Columbus is 629 feet tall. Wind turbines are 660 tall. Notice the shadow created by the LeVeque Tower, 555 feet tall on the State Office Building. The shadow creates a situation where some offices are shaded and others are not. Not a problem. Now imagine that shadow is flickering on and off once per second continually for hours on end. The employees would not tolerate it and I'm confident if exposed they would become sick. HOW COULD YOU CONSIDER SUBJECTING US TO THIS? Please do the research. Watch the YouTube Videos available on Wind Turbine Shadow Flicker.

Another big concern for me is the infra-structure that accompanies wind turbine projects. The power generated is too much for underground installation. There is a good possibility that, when installed, the power lines exiting the site will be installed directly off my property, 60 feet from my home.

All home owners build their own environment. In the city, home owners put in flower gardens and fences to create their environment. Most Americans live in housing where the decisions to allow installation of things as simple as a TV tower. They can't put it up, not because it's too dangerous but because "it's considered ugly".

Have you and your family ever been to the beach? Sit in a lawn chair and look out into the ocean? You might say- Wow look at that view! The view- Nothing. Why don't they put wind turbines on the beach? Great wind speed; BUT THEY ARE UGLY! The ocean view would no longer attract viewers.

Van Wert County is my beach. You can sit anywhere on my place and feel relaxed like you're at the beach. Many if not most land owners and wind proponents don't live in the area or they have vacation homes at a lake or in Florida or both. We, the rural concerned residents live our lives here. Please don't ruin our environment by supporting HB114 changing the setback rules.

I can't begin to address all my concerns and the express our love for home and community in the allotted time. PLEASE PROTECT OUR HOMES AND ENVIRONMENT. LEAVE SETBACKS AS THEY ARE.

Please accept my thanks for your attention to my testimony.

John C. Dignan

Ag-Business Person and resident in Van Wert County.