

TESTIMONY OF JOY MOHR

Wayne Township, 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 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.

When industrial wind came to Ohio and Governor Strickland blessed very short setbacks measured from homes and not property lines, it was understood that they were to be minimum standards. All over rural Ohio citizens worried that the minimum would default to the maximum and it did courtesy of the Ohio Power Siting Board. Then, four years ago, Senate President Keith Faber – my Senator – acted to protect the families that the Power Siting Board had put in harm's way.

With setbacks established from the property line, **Governor Kasich** spoke out publicly saying, ***"Private property rights are important. People choose to live somewhere. You just don't go in there and disrupt their life."***¹

But that is what the setback in House Bill 114 will do. It will disrupt my life and the lives of thousands of families. In Champaign County, there are thousands today who will live within a mile of a proposed EverPower wind turbine. I am one of those people and I am a gardener. Most of my days are spent in my garden and it is central to my life. Why do you want to take that away from me?

I know that I will be surrounded by wind turbines if the Buckeye Wind project is built. I know that I will have to look at them every day. I know my husband, John, and I may never be able to sell the home we have loved and cared for over thirty-one years. But can't I have my garden? Can't I enjoy the peace I find there without moving shadows or the unnatural noises of grinding gearboxes?

Turbine manufacturer, Vestas recommends people stay 1,300 feet from turbines. Vestas also recommends that governments supplement relative noise limits with a low absolute maximum limit in areas of very low background noise (e.g. quiet countryside), which ensures minimal noise disturbance for turbine neighbors also in these places. The OPSB totally disregards recommendations such those made by Vestas. In my community, they approved an average planning goal for noise across the 64 square miles of the project. The goal is unreasonable and it is unenforceable. I really have no protection and I have no recourse. The current setback is all I have.

I have what my Senator Keith Faber gave me: a law that says industrial wind turbines will be setback from my property line a minimum of 1,125 feet. That is all I have. Don't take it from me.

¹." (<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/07/15/kasich-defends-local-government-cuts-common-core-in-speech-today.html>)