

TESTIMONY OF NATHAN BISSER

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, the changing of setback law allowing the turbines to be located closer to neighboring structures is loosening safety standards and in my opinion lowering the bar to beyond a reasonable effect to other land owners in the proposed areas.

It is a primary function of governing officials to protect the interests of the public. What I see is governing officials that are stretching the limits of reasonable effect to others in order to accommodate a commercial enterprise.

We all would love to see more commercial activity in our county. But we cannot accept it at any cost. Everyone can appreciate the landowner's right to use their property for whatever purpose they choose but how much negative effect to their neighbors should we tolerate to accommodate these wishes?

Measuring from a lease holder's property and proposed turbine site across a neighbor's property to an existing inhabited structure is too far! This has an obvious and egregious effect on property that does not belong to the lease holder. All setback limits should measure at the property line and any reduction in them is lowering established safety standards.

These decisions are difficult ones to make and they reside solely on the shoulders of our elected representatives. With guidelines already in place to protect neighboring land from being diminished by a new venture I believe that changing the guidelines to accommodate a particular entity sends a message that the welfare of the neighbor is not as important as the desire of the enterprise or the hosting landowner. The setbacks have been implemented for a reason and that reason has not changed.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue, fjl/

Nathan Blaser, Bloom Township Fire Chief 4291 S. State Route 19 Bloomville, OH 44818