

**Testimony of Robert and Judy Watson**  
**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, this testimony as presented in opposition to the idea of reducing the setback for industrial wind turbines.

We are retired from professional jobs. My wife retired after 41 years in education from Seneca East Schools as High School Principal and I retired after 48 years in accounting from Tiffin University as Assistant Vice President and Controller. My wife and I are lifelong residents of Seneca County who own properties totaling 126 acres in Reed and Scipio townships and these farms have been in the family for some 4-5 generations. Our son and daughter both have families that live on or adjacent to the properties which adjoin family owned farm land. Our children and our grandchildren were involved in raising and showing Registered Holstein cattle at the county, state and national level. Whereas, the grandchildren have continued the 4-H tradition by raising dairy cattle, beef cattle, rabbits, goats, honey bees, and chickens. Our children and grandchildren have experienced valuable life lessons through 4-H, and these experiences along with the lessons learned from living on the farm are cherished. With that said, our families have remained here and continue to love the farm life.

We have been repeatedly approached by Apex (Republic Wind Project) and S-Power (Seneca Wind Project) representatives to sign a good neighbor agreement of which we have refused to sign. We live here because of the secure peaceful atmosphere that the farm environment offers. After researching the pros and cons regarding the industrial 591 feet turbines intended to be erected by these planned projects we have decided the set-back guidelines should not be reduced.

In addition, as stated in an editorial in The Advertiser-Tribune written by Travis West on June 9, 2018 "the **safe distance** the wind industry uses for its employees is further than our current state setbacks and the current argument should not be to shorten setbacks but instead to make them greater in distance".

Therefore, we are in strong opposition to the industrial wind turbine project designed for Seneca County. We adamantly oppose the idea of reducing the setback distances of wind turbines especially since they are some of the shortest compared to neighboring states. As conscious citizens we must recognize individual property rights and assure public health and safety for all individuals.

Please reconsider the proposed changes to the setback rules. Thank you for the opportunity to consider my feedback.

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