

January 11, 2020

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Dear Senator Steve Wilson and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee,

I would like to ask for your support of SB234, a bill that would help allow local residents within an effected township to hold a referendum vote on whether or not to allow a utility scale wind project to be developed.

I will be brief, but here are some commonsense facts that need to be considered that make SB234 an important piece of legislation:

First off, the current process that is in place by the State is not "USER FRIENDLY", meaning, an average "joe" must have a law degree in order to work through the convoluted process the OPSB utilizes. Second, COST- the average "joe" cannot afford, let alone has the time to participate, write, submit, or pay lawyer fees in order to have a "voice" in this process. Third, the average "joe" IS NOT capable of pushing back against large investor backed corporations such as the wind industry, who by the way, have a myriad of lobbyists and supporters ready to "jump in" when the trumpet is sounded. With that being said, the wind industry is the big player here, they are the "Key-masters". The wind project in our area alone has at least 800 pages of documentation in the form of studies, maps, exhibits, addendums, amendments, corrections, changes, etc. All of this documentation contains something of importance to the project, however, without the expertise or knowledge to know where exactly to look or what to look for, the whole mess just begins to blend together into a mind boggling, head spinning stack of confusion. So, now that I have briefly described the current process the average "joe" must deal with on the OPSB level in order to have a voice, then what? Well, I suggest simplifying the process and give the average "joe" a REAL VOICE through his or her individual right to a vote. This process is the only true answer to help the average "joe's" that do not have the means, time, or expertise to protect what is theirs, but instead, can now stand up for the their rights by answering it with a vote! In fact, this is the simplest answer to what has become a complex problem- so complex in fact, that the wind industry and its cronies have taken full advantage of the process to get what they want. This is the single biggest reason as to why big wind has stepped up its game along with its supporters to stop these bills from passing. The wind industry is arguing that bills such as SB234 are redundant and unnecessary, however, nothing could be further from the truth. In the end, they fear that an informed public could steal away the keys that they so desperately covet. SB234 and its companion bill in the House will no longer make it necessary for the average "joe" to get deeply involved in the OPSB process, but instead, they can concentrate their efforts to the "home turf". The wind industry is *scared*, *scared* the average "joe" can take their "keys", *scared* they can not cover our land with 600' tall wind turbines, *scared* like little kids in the night- and they want you and your fellow Senators along with the members of the House to squash these forms of legislation as quick as possible. Please do not give in to this, big corporations have muscled their way over the average "joe" for far too long. Please give us the voice we so desperately ask for in SB234.

Regards,

Chris Zeman