

Written Proponent Testimony of Jim Dillingham
Seneca County, Ohio
SB 234 – Senate Energy and Public Utilities
January 28, 2020

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, ranking member Williams, and members of the committee, my name is James Dillingham. I wish to submit this testimony as a proponent of SB 234 and ask for your support of the Senate Bill which would provide local residents the right to vote on industrial wind turbine projects in our townships and not exclusively by the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). This right is deeply personal to me as a retired United States Army Veteran with 22 years of honorable service to our Nation and a 70% disabled Veteran. Proposed wind turbine projects have forced me to face a life altering decision to relocate my family, all based on my medical condition, should the proposed projects move forward without the voice of the people. One of the major disabilities I live with, determined by the VA, is "chronic vertigo". This life altering condition occurred in July of 2000 and I continue to suffer from this disability to this day. As shown in the provided Google Map (Exhibit 2), my residence will be sandwiched between the Republic and Seneca Wind projects, this situation will unquestionably degrade my quality of life.

I offer these facts and ask that you consider not only my situation but to consider all residents who will be affected by these projects and how it will affect our health, welfare, and daily living conditions. I've been in direct contact with Dr. Jerry Punch, an audiologist and Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University to gain his professional opinion on the issue of wind turbines and its effect on those suffering from vertigo (a copy of his official letter, written on my behalf (Exhibit 1), is included). The issues I face with my condition as noted in his letter include, but are not limited to, shadow-flicker and infrasound.

I ask that you read Dr. Punch's letter to help gain an understanding of my stance on approving a local vote on proposed projects in our townships. In closing, I strongly urge your support of SB 234 to give local residents a voice in decisions that directly affect us.

Thank you.



10615 E TR 8
Republic, OH 44867
440-610-7269
ssgdillingham@gmail.com