



Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Chairman Steve Wilson
Opponent Testimony – Senate Bill 234
Written Testimony of Jerry L Zielke
February 11, 2020

Chairman Wilson, Vice-Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams. My name is Jerry L Zielke and I am the former Paulding County Economic Development Director and the current President of Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development.

I am writing you today as an opponent to Senate Bill 234. SB 234, once again, would add one more unnecessary new regulation on clean energy wind development projects here in the State of Ohio. We currently have major policy barrier that blocks future projects with the current setback requirements passed in a previous budget bill in the dark of night. Are we here in the State of Ohio open for future business development or not? SB 234 is would be telling the wind industry to not come to Ohio as well as raise concern with site development consultant on other development projects in the State of Ohio.

I continue to see major new business secure purchase renewable power agreement in other states. We have had additional requests for information from out of state businesses looking to locate in Ohio if clean energy renewable power could be supplied here.

In Paulding County we are OPEN for business. Our community supports a diversification of Ohio's energy portfolio to include a greater share of clean energy both wind and solar. We have asked our legislator to let are local county government officials (Commissioners) to decide the setbacks and rules not the townships. Our current wind projects cover a number of townships the bill would make it impossible to get a project built.

Paulding County has seen tremendous positive impacts from the development of wind farms projects built by Avangrid Renewables LLC, Consumer Energy (Northwest Ohio Wind) and EDP Renewables North America LLC here in our county. The power purchase agreements have been made with major companies including Amazon, Microsoft and General Motors. These wind farms have provided needed funding resource for are local school districts, local townships, local libraries, the Vantage Career Center and other county governmental agencies. The lease payments have been very beneficial to our landowners and we have seen major donations to support community project do to this additional revenue source.

I do not support SB 234 in its present form. I can only support county control to make the choice to open the door to pursue these wind farm projects and promote economic growth for their communities here in county and the State of Ohio.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 234.

Jerry L Zielke

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