The Energy and Public Utilities Committee

Chair Steve Wilson

Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 234

Testimony of Paul Dvorak

Retired and member of Cleveland Power of wind Action Team

Chair Wilson and members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee

I am Paul Dvorak, a retired worker now but for the previous nine years, I edited the magazine *Windpower Engineering and Development*. It dealt with the siting and maintenance of wind turbines, and hundreds of other topics that surround the wind industry. Thank you for the opportunity to write to you today as an opponent to Ohio Senate Bill 234. I’ll make three points.

First of all, wind farm development simply stops if this bill passes.  Developers will not spend years and millions of dollars to complete the requirements of the OPSB process and receive a certificate only to have that certificate subject to local referenda.  Make no mistake – with the local action at the END of the process – the bill entirely kills wind farm development. Just fixing Ohio’s setbacks would unleash $4.2 billion in economic development for Ohio.

Second, the bill takes away landowners’ rights.  If a farmer wants a wind turbine on his or her land, they should be able to subject to the safety of the neighbors, which is addressed by a reasonable setback.  HB 401 would subject the property rights of farmers to the electoral preferences of the neighbors who may live on the other side of a township.

And lastly, SB 234 singles out one source of energy generation for worse treatment than the rest. Other Ohio energy industries, including natural gas, coal and nuclear power do not face these obstacles. Voters do not have a say when it comes to fracking or new pipelines which directly impacts people’s groundwater, land, and safety.

I just want to you do your job. Encourage growth to the Ohio economy. Do not kill it.