

Testimony of Gail L Moyer
Seneca County, Ohio
In support of HB-118
Ohio House Public Utilities Committee
March 9, 2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, ranking member Smith, members of the committee, I write as a proponent of HB-118.

I believe this legislation is necessary so that local township residents being affected by proposed wind and solar projects have the ability to vote for or against the building of these projects. I believe that all Ohioans deserve the right to be safe in their homes. The present OPSB process doesn't enforce the safety manual regulations cited in wind turbine manuals during thunderstorms or wind turbine fires, and puts local residents at risk.

I also believe this bill is necessary as local residents are the ones who must personally bear the financial impacts of decreased property values from a proposed industrial wind or solar project and should therefore have the ability to vote for or against them.

This legislation also addresses the lack of transparency in the present siting process under the OPSB. The wind companies had obtained leases with local farmers and absentee landowners for over 8 years locally, before area residents, like me, even knew about the projects here in Seneca County. No one appreciates being blind-sided.

Those of us who have chosen to live in rural areas should be able to vote on having our rural landscape changed into a heavy industrial zone. Those who live in large cities have chosen to do so understanding the ramifications of big city life. Please consider the rights of those of us who are a part of the rural landscape. HB 118 gives us that consideration.

Sincerely,
Gail L. Moyer
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