

PROPONENT TESTIMONY – HB 118
House Public Utilities Committee
Karen and Steven Aichholz
Seneca County
3/9/2021

Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Ray, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Committee. Our names are Karen and Steven Aichholz, and we reside in Seneca County. We are writing this letter in support of HB 118 which would allow a referendum in affected townships in large wind farms.

We have witnessed the proposed industrial wind turbine projects divide our community. The overwhelming majority is in opposition, but they have little to no voice over the siting and approval of the projects. The Commissioners, local school board, park district, local airport, many local Township Trustees, and residents have opposed these projects, yet they continue to progress forward. How can this be? It is possible because their voice goes largely ignored. HB 118 goes a long way at giving these people substantive voices in the process.

We acknowledge that many communities across Ohio will be accepting of wind and solar projects however, some communities are not. Only the local community can decide what is best. They have ideas and plans in place for the future of their area and not having a voice in the current process only undermines this. It is critical that HB 118 get passed to ensure ALL Ohioans have a seat at the table in these massively transformative projects. Again, please help our community start to heal by ensuring that EVERY resident has their voice and concerns heard.

Thank You

Karen & Steven Aichholz
Seneca County Residents