

March 5, 2021

Dear House Public Utilities Committee Members and Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your support on HB 118 and SB 52.

My family lives in Thompson Township (Seneca County), within the footprint of the proposed Republic Wind project (case# 17-2295-EL-BGN) which is adjacent to the Firelands Wind Project (case #18-1607-EL-BGN). Both projects are proposed to have approximately 600-foot industrial grade wind turbines throughout Sandusky, Seneca, Huron and Erie Counties. These projects were not designed with the input of local stakeholders. My family was not even aware of these projects until we received a small postcard in the mail inviting us to a public meeting in which the proposed industrial facility had already submitted their proposal to the OPSB. It has been my experience that these large wind/solar energy companies do not make good neighbors. I have grave concerns about the way the public meeting for Firelands Wind (Emerson Creek, case # 18-1607-EL-BGN) was conducted by Apex Energy.

As you all are probably aware, the Administrative Rules for the Ohio Power Siting Board under 4906-3-03 provide for a Public Hearing before an application for an economically significant wind facility is filed. Section B states:

B) No more than ninety days prior to submitting a standard certificate application to the board, the applicant shall conduct at least one informational meeting open to the public to be held in the area in which the project is located. If substantial changes are made to the application after the informational meeting, the executive director of the board shall have the authority to require another informational meeting at his/her discretion.

On November 15, 2018 at 5:00 PM, I attended the public meeting in Norwalk for the Firelands Wind project. I was followed closely by an Apex associate, Santa Brescia, who is a Solar and Wind Agent for Apex (see attached business card). Ms. Brescia ultimately requested that the sheriff deputies, assigned to the meeting, have me thrown out before I could officially comment at the OPSB table. I assume it is because I had been vocal in opposition to the Republic Wind facility. In addition, I have family in Huron County who could not attend the hearing and I had hoped to obtain information for them. We had many questions and concerns regarding this wind project and my 14 year old daughter was at the meeting with me.

At one point during the meeting I stopped to speak with a couple I knew from Erie County. I had opened my folder to make a note of the location of one of the turbines in that county. That is when Ms. Brescia rushed at me and loudly stated "she is signing people up". I showed her what I had written on my folder, but Ms. Brescia proceeded to insist that the sheriff deputies make me leave.

The sheriff deputies were polite and explained that because this was a private venue and Apex had rented it, Apex had the authority to make me leave. I questioned how this could be a public event, posted in the Sandusky Register, yet I could be discriminated against in this way. The officers explained that I had done nothing wrong and if it was a public venue, such as a school building, they would not have to make me leave. I did leave as the officers said they would have to charge me with trespassing if I did not leave at the request of Apex.

These wind energy companies have been working in the dark of night in our counties for years. They finally have a public event required by the OPSB, and they chose a private venue. A venue which was a significant distance from the footprint of the actual project. A public meeting where I was not welcome.

I strongly feel this meeting did not meet the standards for a public meeting as defined by regulation. This meeting did not meet the spirit of the law and appropriately engage the community without room for discrimination. Preferably a public location such as a school or community center should be the meeting location.

I believe that my experience is just one more example of the disregard wind developers show toward the people in their targeted communities. Because we have no say in approving projects or how they will be sited, they really do not think they need to be accountable to us or to take our concerns seriously. They can throw me out of a public meeting and then [malign me in the local newspaper on March 9th 2019](#) and [again on March 11th 2019](#) (also see attached screen shots). After seeing the digital version of the news articles, I contacted the editor of the Sandusky Register, Matt Westerhold. He allowed me to provide my version of the occurrence on November 15th, 2018 and provide legitimate witnesses before it went to print. I had previous contact with Mr. Westerhold as he had allowed me to participate in a [podcast with the "Bird Nerd", Jilly Burns](#), in May 2017 as well as [an interview with Tom Jackson](#). The podcast and subsequent interview highlighted the potential negative impacts to wildlife from Industrial Wind Projects. I have also been involved in news articles with the Fremont News Messenger with regard to [karst/water concerns related to the wind turbines](#) along [with local residents concerns related to effects in living conditions](#).

Who would wish for neighbors like this? Why should we have confidence in these big wind/solar energy companies? My supervisor at work read the articles in March 2019 which maligned me. She contacted me about it. She had a hard time envisioning me harassing people and yelling at them during a public meeting, but she needed to ask me about it because there was an accusation, from a large energy company reported in the local newspaper. She was appalled to find out they had thrown me out while my 14-year-old daughter was attending with me. What a horrible example of public policy to a young mind. All of my children know how tirelessly I have worked to protect and educate our community regarding the industrialization of our rural landscapes with wind and solar projects.

Thank you for considering this legislation which would give our community back not only it's voice but it's dignity. The exchange which occurred between me and Ms. Brescia/officers was recorded. You can view it at this link: [Apex Emerson Creek Public Meeting - 11-15-2018.MOV.](#)

Respectfully Submitted,
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