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Statement for the Ohio Power Siting Board
RE: Buckeye Wind Project
Case No: 08-0666-EL-BGN

My name is Anita Bartlett and I've lived at 6044 E US Highway 36, Cable, OH 43009 for the last 32 years. I would like to state my opinion and address the subject of wind farms proposed for this area.

I have a degree in visual art from Wright State University and taught art in Kettering City Schools. My training and teaching dealt with the perception of positive and negative space, form, color, balance, design, functionality, attitude and purpose in two and three-dimensional art.

Turbines appear out of place in the natural world. The civilized world bends and displaces nature by adding disturbing shapes, sounds and movement from structures made by man. Many zoning laws have been enacted so there aren't 50 story buildings constructed in the middle of a park or quiet neighborhood. The stark, rigid shapes and movement of wind turbines subtract from the look of the natural surroundings. Nature doesn't contain images, motion or sounds that blend with the mechanical shape, movement or sound of turbines.

The world is full of visual details inherent in design, whether good or bad. The vistas in eastern Champaign County will be changed forever when turbines become the center of attention in every direction. Even the majesty or fascination for landmarks across our country are partially due to the rarity of the attraction. The view of hundreds of turbines quickly will grow tiresome and irritating, not more charming or interesting.

Just as homeowners learn from real estate agents at the sale of a home, buyers are looking for mature well-landscaped grounds. Trees, both deciduous and evergreen, and a variety of shrubs and plants as well as open areas to view sunsets, starry skies and geological forms add value to a property. Emotional impressions are formed before a person actually articulates an opinion so reasons for disliking an area may not be immediately apparent. Landscapes that feature industrial zones cannot be appealing to those searching for unity of design in nature.

Screening the view of industrial wind turbines with trees is an option but not very effective and takes money and years to develop. Trees need to be planted very near to homes so the canopy of the trees will conceal the turbines constructed at unwise setbacks to homes. This plan of fencing off existing homes with trees ruins the distant views that many in our community enjoy. Visual screens do nothing to mitigate natural sounds being adulterated by the noise of turbines, either. A countryside lit up at night by hundreds of flashing lights on the engines of turbines is a form of light pollution and another negative impact. In the case of our county, these industrial wind turbines, if not isolated and restricted, will discourage buyers and growth due to the negative visual and acoustic impact.

My husband and I have visited the Fenner Wind Farm near Cazenovia, NY, which has been operating for 7 years. We spoke to Wayne Danley, a resident, who described his life under the disruption from turbines. His property was well-landscaped and screened by various, mature trees, but that didn't stop the shadow flicker through his windows and across his property or the noise that he described as awakening him at night with a loud, continuous sound reminiscent of a train's roar. His wife suffered with migraine headaches from the sound and vibration of nearby turbines and finally took a job and apartment in a town several hours west of their home. He mentioned that many neighbors who had welcomed turbines in the beginning have changed their minds and wish they had known more about the effects industrial wind turbines would have on their lives.

Distraction, disturbance and devaluation of homes, not beauty and organic unity of our countryside, will be the scene if industrial wind turbines are constructed without increased setbacks and isolated to appropriate zones away from homes and the residents who have loved living here so far.

Sincerely,
Anita Bartlett
6044 E. US Highway 36
Cable, OH 43009
937-653-5125



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