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**Ohio Power Siting Board** Attn: Docketing Division Case # 14-1557-EL-BGA 180 East Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215

October 4, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Case Number: 14-1557-EL-BGA

**Hardin Wind LLC Amendment** 

I, Anthony Elsasser, and I, Devin Elsasser, of Elsasser Farms, respectfully petition the Ohio Power Siting Board for leave to intervene in the proceedings initiated by Hardin Wind LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of EverPower Wind Holdings, Inc. requesting approval to amend its certificate to construct the Scioto Wind Ridge Farm issued by the Board on March 17, 2014 in Case Nos. 13-1177-EL-BGN, 13-1767-EL-BSB, 13-1768-EL-BTX.

We are non-participating farmers who farm 160 acres on Township Road 200 within the project area. We have three main concerns about the property that we farm. First, the amendment has an access road running immediately next to our transitional field of non-GMO crops; Fig. 05-4, part 3 of 8, sheet number 6 of 15, access road to turbine number 129; the field we are referring to previously held turbine number 125. (This field is in its first year of transition and will become certified organic after two more years of chemical free farming. We have three fields further down the road currently certified as organic.) Our concern is how the access road will be maintained - i.e. will it be chemically sprayed to control weeds? Will the fence row adjoining the two properties remain wholly intact? We understand that "our side of the fence row" cannot be removed, but the use of chemical sprays on the other side of the fence row or removal of trees will negatively impact our buffer zone between our non-GMO crops and the use of chemicals to maintain an access road. If the use of chemical sprays is intended to maintain an access road, we will be forced to extend our buffer zone and thereby remove a portion of our current farmable ground and use it as a buffer zone, reducing our total farmable acres. Additionally,

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we had previously informed neighboring farmers of our organic and transitional crops and stated our intention to maintain the fence row as a buffer zone from chemical sprays as any "drift" from other farmers would begin our transition period over again and we would lose our non-GMO and possibly organic farming certification. This "drift" can also come from any sprays used to maintain an access road.

Our second concern is how this access road will affect drainage in this field now that a (presumably stone) road will be running perpendicular to a small gully that runs through a large portion of the middle of the field. This field had brand new drainage tile installed 3 years ago. We do not want to see that money has been wasted because of new drainage issues stemming from this access road.

Our final concern is for the waterway that runs through property we farm just down and across the road from this property. Our field is the large field with the McDonald Township label on it on the map Fig. 05-4, part 3 of 8, sheet number 6 of 15; the waterway beings on our property where the field with turbine number 122 has the two different fields meeting (the waterway runs there too). It continues across the McDonald Township labeled property and across the road into the wooded area where it becomes a stream; we own this wooded property. In general, we have concerns about what will occur with drainage and flooding to the waterway with new construction, access lines and access roads. The proposed new substation will also undoubtedly affect drainage as lots of earth is moved to construct it; it lies just to the northeast of the waterways visible on the map that all drain through our properties. As farmers we understand what a few inches here and there can do to the flow of water and to drainage.

Finally, to make certain that we have the ability to intervene properly, the properties that we are addressing are owned by Rebecca Herring, the grandmother of Anthony Elsasser's wife. Anthony and Devin farm all of her property, pay rent and jointly own property with her as well. Rebecca currently lives in a nursing home suffering with dementia and if intervention by her is required, it would have to be by her daughter through power of attorney. When we called the OPSB about intervention, we inquired about this situation and were told that it was most likely not necessary. We just want to make sure we have the ability to intervene properly and without difficulty.

We respectfully note that no one else is intervening about our specific property interests, we would like to see a just and expeditious resolution to our concerns and by granting the requested intervention will not unduly delay the proceeding or unjustly prejudice Hardin Wind, LLC.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Respectfully submitted,

**Anthony Elsasser** 

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