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FILE

5-16-19

Dear Matt,

Please may the enclosed LTE from Tiffin's Advertiser-Tribune be made part of the Public Comment in

OPPOSITION TO

Industrial Wind Turbine Projects:

PUBLIC COMMENT

17-2295-EL-BGN
18-0488-EL-BGN
18-1607-EL-BGN

Both writers of the LTE live in Seneca County. IWTs are too big, too close, to our homes in our populated rural communities. We are fighting for our homes, our health, our community ethos. (And the electricity to be generated is going out of Ohio?!!)

Sincerely,

Diane Hudak
6300 TR 151
Tiffin, OH 44883
Ph 419-443-0533

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Opinion

The Advertiser-Tribune

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Rob Weaver, editor rweaver@advertiser-tribune.com

EDITORIAL

Notice the real heroes among us

At a time when skepticism about those to whom we look up is high, Ohioans are fortunate to have two heroes about whom there is no question at all. They are Annie Glenn and her husband, the late John Glenn.

Sunday, the John and Annie Glenn Museum in New Concord is to be dedicated as a site on the National Register of Historic Places. It is in the house where John Glenn grew up.

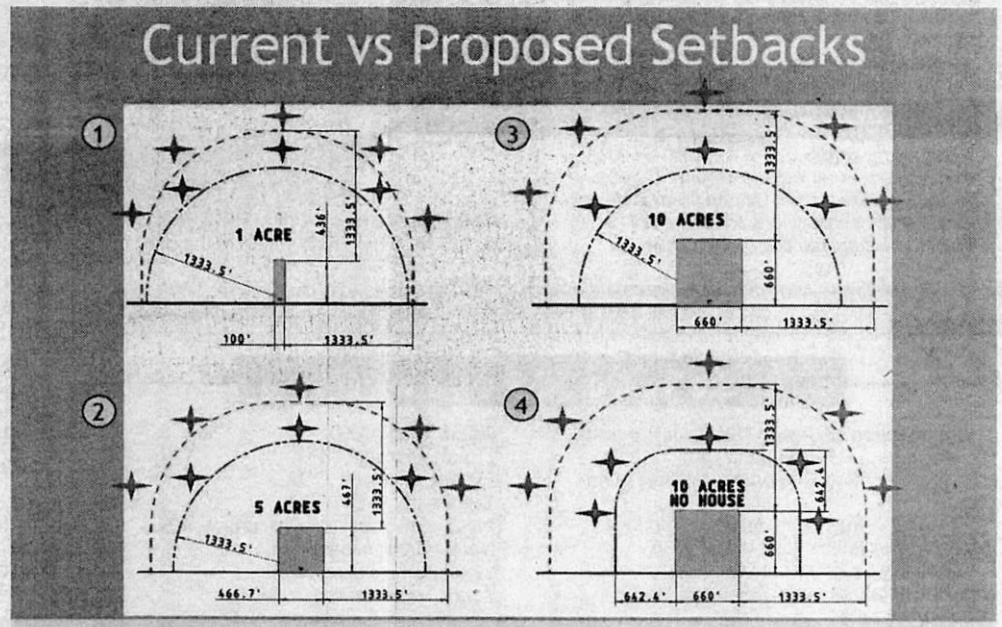
Glenn did it all, in a way. He flew 57 combat missions as a Marine pilot in World War II. He shot down three enemy aircraft during the Korean War. Then he became a test pilot — before, as an astronaut, he helped lead Americans into space.

Wind turbine setbacks not 'burdensome'

Chris Aichholz of Bloomville is a guest columnist.

Industrial wind turbine setbacks have been a hot topic for several years. Developers have uttered words like "overly burdensome," "effective moratorium" and "unreasonable" when describing Ohio's current setbacks. We even have seen on at least two accounts in the last year where our very own Seneca County Commissioner Holly Stacy has submitted testimony requesting that any new energy bill should include "the restoration of reasonable wind siting regulations so that developers are no longer hindered by the current, unreasonable setbacks."

Here is the reality: My family's home lies within the proposed Seneca Wind project and the yard where my children play will have 20 600-plus-feet-tall industrial wind turbines placed within a 1.5-mile radius. The pro-wind lobby and Stacy would have you believe this is impossible with Ohio's current setbacks. But the truth is they are merely pushing their own agendas.



Turbine Model: GE 2.8-127 turbine; 584' tall; 208.5' rotor radius
Current Setback From Property Line = (1125' + rotor radius) = 1333.5' ----
Proposed Setback:
Exterior of Home = 1125' + 208.5' = 1333.5' — · · —
Property Line = 1.1x turbine height = 1.1 x 584' = 642.4'

Under the current Ohio law, landowners and developers are afforded an opportunity to negotiate and sign a "setback easement," aka "Good Neighbor Agreement," allowing developers to place industrial wind turbines closer to people's properties than the law specifies. During this process, landowners have a chance to weigh the cost versus benefit to them. Typically, these agreements pay landowners $500-$2,000 per year. To date, the Seneca Wind and Republic Wind projects in Seneca County have acquired nearly 90% of the necessary setback waivers to build their projects under current setback law.

The real issue here is that the wind industry does not want to work with people who must live less than 1,125ft from a 600-plus-foot industrial wind turbine, but would rather convince our elected officials in Columbus to grant them uncompensated easements and take away our right to live peaceably on our own property. Such a use of force would give more rights to the outsider wind industry than their own Ohio residents.

Shame on you, Stacy, and shame on these politicians from urban areas that are far removed from this controversial issue. HB 223 (current bill aiming to reduce setbacks) is one of the most ill-conceived bills I have ever seen. I encourage anyone who thinks its just wrong to cram industrial wind turbines closer to homes, schools and parks to write your elected officials telling them how you feel. For more information on the topic, you can visit the Seneca Anti-Wind Union's Facebook page.

www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-223

www.advertiser-tribune.com

Opinion

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LETTERS

POPPY SALES COMING

Saturday, members of the American Legion post and auxiliary will be out selling poppies. Members will be posted at I.G.A., Walmart and Rural King. We wish to thank these businesss ahead of time for supporting our veterans and this endeavor to help them. Each poppy is a representative of the lives that were sacrificed to keep our country free.

As we do every year around Memorial Day, rain or shine, we will be selling poppies made by veterans at Sandusky's Ohio Veterans Home. The number of veterans helping is decreasing each year and some post and auxiliaries have stepped up to help them. Every dollar made is spent on veterans and their families. No monies are used on the post homes or auxiliary functions. When you see us out there, we hope you will remember freedom is NOT free. The men and women in uniform will forever be in our hearts. John15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

If you miss us this weekend, you will have another chance to give. The Veterans of Foreign Wars will be out on Memorial Day weekend.

Thank you for all you support.

Barbara Trapp, chaplain,
American Legion Auxiliary #169 Tiffin

KEEP CHILDREN SAFE

This past Mother's Day, Toledo news media reported an incident no mother should ever have to read or fear; yet another child was shot to death with a firearm. A four-year-old boy shot himself with his father's gun. The report stated it was an "accident." The toddler "shot himself in the face after finding an unsecured weapon."

Accident.

Many households do a better job of protecting their children from cleaning solutions than from firearms. If you have a firearm in your home and you have children in your home, you *must*:

- Secure your firearm, and
- Educate your children about firearm safety.

If you have a *loaded* firearm in your home, you *must* keep that firearm secured in a way that it is not accessible to children. Period.

Do these things to keep your children safe:

- Always keep guns locked and out of reach of children.
- Store ammunition in a place different from the guns.
- Never leave a gun out and unattended.
- Tell your kids never to touch a gun or gun parts — in your house or anyone else's.

This is a safety issue, pure and simple. Politics, ideology, Second Amendment rights, legal and other issues aside, as responsible firearms owners, we have an absolute duty to keep firearms away from children.

If you have questions about how to store firearms safely away from children, check out these resources:

Project ChildSafe – www.projectchildsafe.org

Eddie Eagle – www.eddieeagle.nra.org

KidsHealth.org — kidshealth.org/en/parents/gun-safety.html

Be safe. Teach your children to be safe.

Dean Henry,
Tiffin

WIND TURBINES AND CRAZY PEOPLE

A few years ago, I signed a setback waiver agreement so my neighbors could have a wind turbine on their property. It wasn't the smartest thing I ever did. But because I did, I am very wary of where sPower is wanting to build these new turbines.

Just the other day, I read where Ohio Power Siting Board held a workshop on wind turbine blade throws. It seems when these things fail (and around the world, thousands do every year) they have thrown pieces of blade as heavy as brick for distances of 1,158 feet, 1,476 feet, 1,561 feet and even 1,834 feet. And those are just the ones somebody reported. The only calculations they have to predict how far pieces of a blade might fly is a study out of Denmark saying that during normal operating conditions, they should go less than 2,296 feet. Well, that's not too comforting.

sPower's plans are showing they want to build a turbine at about 1,125 feet from my house, the minimum they are allowed because I signed the agreement. If I had not signed the setback waiver, it would have been somewhat farther because of the way my house sits on my land. But what I want to know is how can the OPSB allow any company to build a turbine that close to someone's house, no matter what they convinced me to sign, when they have studies showing chunks as heavy as bricks can fly over twice that far? I didn't think I signed away my guest's, my mailman's, or the UPS person's safety when they come on my property! Would that even be legal?

Now I hear that some politician has introduced a bill in Columbus that would make it OK for wind companies to build a turbine 1,125 feet from anybody's house. At present, they have to stay 1,125 feet from your property line. Are people crazy? These things need to be at least 2,296 feet from property lines, like the study says. And common sense would dictate even a bit farther. Doesn't the safety of the public mean anything anymore?

And speaking of politicians, I see where our own Commissioner Holly Stacy is all in favor of this new bill and moving turbines even closer. Add another one to the crazy list. Anyone who is thinking straight can see that these wind turbine setbacks need to be lengthened to at least 2,296 feet. And, if blade throws that far are possible, then any existing turbine in an already completed project needs to be torn down immediately. Public safety demands it.

We cannot let the crazy people be in charge. I'm pretty sure it's the promise of money that is making them crazy. But trading public safety for money would be a fool's game, and in Seneca county we do not suffer fools.

Jim Hoffert,
Bloomville