

FILE

17-2295-EL-BGN

18-0488-EL-BGN

**IN THE MATTER OF: RESOLUTION – SUNSETTING SENECA COUNTY’S ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ZONE, EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2019**

Mr. Kerschner offered the following resolution and moved the adoption of the same, which was duly seconded by \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Thomas

**WHEREAS**, The Seneca County Commissioners Shayne E. Thomas, Michael Kerschner and Holly M. Stacy met in open and regular session on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019 and

**WHEREAS**, the Seneca Wind and Republic Wind utility-scale wind projects are accepted under the 2011 Alternative Energy Zone and they are moving forward under the Ohio Power Siting Board process, which is the state regulatory agency charged with approving and regulating utility wind development, and

**WHEREAS** the Ohio Legislative Service Commission, a non-partisan research agency of the Ohio House of Representatives has indicated that “relative to the day-to-day operation of an average coal-burning power plant in Ohio, wind farms represent a minimal public health threat with minimal environmental impacts,” and further states that they are “unable to find an article in a peer-reviewed journal that substantiated claims that wind turbines cause physiological harm,” and

**WHEREAS** our concerned citizens want us to address potentially serious drawbacks to wind development including the impact of karst zones, low-frequency sound, wildlife, aircraft navigation, flicker, ice throw, groundwater and the effect on schools, and

**WHEREAS** the Seneca County Board of Commissioners desires to support property owners in their right under Ohio Law, which we take an oath to support, to lease land for use in utility-scale wind farms, and

**WHEREAS** an inauguration of an energy sector in Seneca County offers an additional degree of diversity to the local economy. The projects also portend to offer significant new resources to schools, townships, the county, libraries and fire and EMS districts, and

**WHEREAS** the wind companies agree to be governed by a road use and maintenance agreement managed by the county engineer. The companies also agree to partner with local universities to fund educational activities and to train local fire and EMS personnel, and

**WHEREAS** township trustees across the county have asked the commissioners to rescind the Alternative Energy Zone, and

**WHEREAS** county commissioners in Ohio take an oath to support the laws of the state of Ohio and not undermine them,

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioners of Seneca County hereby formally support our property owners in their right to participate in these projects and by extension support the projects. This board formally requests that the Ohio Power Siting Board, the FAA, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife, the OEPA, ODOT, and all other relevant regulatory agencies diligently evaluate all matters related to ground and well water, karst zones, health and welfare, noise and flicker, as well as wildlife impact, specifically bats, raptors, and migratory birds. Also, that new applications under the 2011 Alternative Energy Zone must be submitted to the proper authorities by June 30, 2019. At that time the Alternative Energy Zone will rescind to new applications, thus sunsetting the Alternative Energy Zone program in Seneca County. Although the Seneca Wind and Republic Wind projects are accepted under the 2011 AEZ agreement, if they must resubmit their application they would no longer be grandfathered under the agreement, based on a determination made by the Ohio Power Siting Board.

Mrs. Stacy – NO

Mr. Kerschner – Yes

Mr. Thomas – Yes

Holly M. Stacy  
Shayne E. Thomas  
Michael J. Kerschner

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I, the undersigned, Clerk to the Board, Seneca County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy from the official record of said Board of County Commissioners as recorded in Res 19 - 73

Nicki Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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