



**From:** [Ohio Power Siting Board](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 17-2295 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0MIab4:ref ]  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2019 12:10:27 PM

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We live in the area of the Republic Wind Farm. We would like to see it completed. My family moved here in 1829 from Pennsylvania. I am the sixth generation to live and farm here. This would be a big economic boost to our area. We also need to get renewable energy going. This is as important as getting electricity itself, when North Central Electric Coop hooked up, to the farm, the power in 1938.

Lynn J. Eberhard

Bellevue, Ohio  


ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0MIab4:ref

**From:** [Ohio Power Siting Board](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** comment 17-2295 [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0MZWzk:ref ]  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2019 11:57:17 AM

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Subject: Creation of Electrical or Creation of Jobs and Tax \$\$

In April 2018 (when sPower applied to construct Seneca Wind), I began researching the use of industrial wind turbines to generate electricity. From the beginning I questioned whether this is the best way to produce more electricity. It seems to me that the OPSB would want to only approve construction of new electric generating facilities that would be safe, the most efficient, most reliable, and most economical source of electricity for the end user. I am not convinced that 600-foot tall turbines sprawled across acres and acres of agricultural land meet these requirements. Wind developers, however, talk a lot about how much various entities (County Commissioners, Township Trustees, Schools, etc.) will realize in tax dollars paid to them for the construction of huge industrial turbines in rural communities, and how many short-term and long-term jobs their development would provide. I am not convinced that 600-foot tall turbines meet the requirements for safety, for efficiency, for reliability, or for lowest end cost to the end user. It is not only about the money, although the economics must be considered. I am providing a link to an article entitled, "THE POINT OF THE ENERGY INDUSTRY IS TO PRODUCE ENERGY, NOT JOBS" written by John Phelan and published on April 11, 2019. Mr. Phelan's comments regarding wind energy appear at the end of this short article. <https://www.americanexperiment.org/2019/04/the-point-of-the-energy-industry-is-to-produce-energy-not-jobs/?fbclid=IwAR3qDboZDJV9cCeq2K956OEYLPj64M7xeqWKipaGVLM211dgq9j1O7oud3M> The author specifically references Minnesota jobs in energy efficiency and renewable energy, but I ask the voting members of the OPSB to consider Mr. Phelan's article with respect to all of the industrial wind turbine projects in Ohio that are currently in pre-approval status or pending status, and particularly in respect to Republic Wind, LLC.

Jan Sampson  
Tiffin, Ohio 

ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0MZWzk:ref

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 17-2295  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2019 9:36:44 AM

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**From:** Kevin Meyers <meyerskja@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 14, 2019 9:25 AM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Republic Wind Farm

To whom it may concern,

As a concerned citizen and joint land owner of property considered for wind turbine construction in the Republic Wind Farm Project, I strongly support this project.

When I was first approached to lease land for a wind power project I was reluctant to sign up. The first companies were not open to negotiation and it wasn't economically in our interest. EXEL was different. They worked with us and the Ohio Farm Bureau to create a fair and equitable lease. They addressed all our concerns.

There are many reasons for my support. They are best described by an article I found on the internet. As with any energy technology, there are pros and cons. Any rational person would have to agree, the pros greatly outweigh the cons.

#### Economic Advantages

- Revitalizes Rural Economies: Wind energy can diversify the economies of rural communities, adding to the tax base and providing new types of income. Wind turbines can add a new source of property taxes in rural areas that otherwise have a hard time attracting new industry. Each 100 MW of wind development in southwest Minnesota has generated about \$1 million per year in property tax revenue and about \$250,000 per year in direct lease payments to landowners.
- Fewer subsidies: All energy systems are subsidized, and wind is no exception. However, wind receives considerably less than other forms of energy. According to Renewable Energy World magazine, conventional energy receives US\$300 billion in subsidies per year, while renewable energy has received less than US\$20 billion of tax-payers' money in the last 30 years. A study published by researchers at Harvard in 2011 found that the full life cycle cost of coal power is between about 9.5 and 27 cents per kilowatt-hour, most of which is paid by taxpayers in the form of increased health-related costs. These "indirect" subsidies amount to between \$175 billion and over \$500 billion/year. (Numbers are in 2008 dollars)
- Free Fuel: Unlike other forms of electrical generation where fuel is shipped to a processing plant, wind energy generates electricity at the source of fuel, which is free. Wind is a native fuel that does not need to be mined or transported, taking two expensive costs out of long-term energy expenses.

- **Price Stability:** The price of electricity from fossil fuels and nuclear power can fluctuate greatly due to highly variable mining and transportation costs. Wind can help buffer these costs because the price of fuel is fixed and free.
- **Promotes Cost-Effective Energy Production:** The cost of wind-generated electricity has fallen from nearly 40¢ per kWh in the early 1980s to 2.5-5¢ per kWh today depending on wind speed and project size.
- **Creates Jobs:** Wind energy projects create new short and long term jobs. Related employment ranges from meteorologists and surveyors to structural engineers, assembly workers, lawyers, bankers, and technicians. Wind energy creates 30% more jobs than a coal plant and 66% more than a nuclear power plant per unit of energy generated.

#### Social Advantages

- **National Security/Energy Independence:** Wind turbines diversify our energy portfolio and reduce our dependence on foreign fossil fuel. Wind energy is homegrown electricity, and can help control spikes in fossil fuel cost. Distributed generation facilities, like many community wind projects, provide a safeguard against potential terrorist threats to power plants.
- **Supports Agriculture:** It is not often a new crop emerges from thin air. Wind turbines can be installed amid cropland without interfering with people, livestock, or production.
- **Local Ownership:** A significant contribution to the worldwide energy mix can be made by small clusters of turbines or even single turbines, operated by local landowners and small businesses. Developing local sources of electricity means we import less fuel from other states, regions, and nations. It also means our energy dollars are plowed back into the local economy.

#### Environmental Advantages

- **Conserves and Keeps Water Clean:** Turbines produce no particulate emissions that contribute to mercury contamination in our lakes and streams. Wind energy also conserves water resources. For example, producing the same amount of electricity can take about 600 times more water with nuclear power than wind, and about 500 times more water with coal than wind.
- **Clean Air:** Other sources of electricity produce harmful particulate emissions which contribute to global climate change and acid rain. Wind energy is pollution free.
- **Negligible Greenhouse Gases:** The sources of most of our power, coal and natural gas, produce large quantities of greenhouse gases. (Coal much more than natural gas.) Wind power produces none, other than in the manufacture, installation and maintenance of the turbines. On average those greenhouse gases are offset by the clean power the turbines produce within 9 months of operation.
- **Mining & Transportation:** Harvesting the wind preserves our resources because there no need for destructive resource mining or fuel transportation to a processing facility.
- **Land Preservation:** Wind farms are spaced over a large geographic area, but their actual "footprint" covers only a small portion of the land resulting in a minimum impact on crop production or

livestock grazing.

#### Disadvantages

- A Variable Resource: Turbines produce electricity only when the wind blows. This variability is monitored and compensated in the same way utilities monitor demand changes each day, so there are not any actual changes in power supply for the end users.
- Aesthetics: People have widely varied reactions to seeing wind turbines on the landscape. Some people see graceful symbols of economic development and environmental progress or sleek icons of modern technology. Others might see industrial encroachment in natural and rural landscapes. There are many ways to minimize the visual impact of wind turbines, including painting them a neutral color, arraying them in a visually pleasing manner, and designing each turbine uniformly.
- Shadow Flicker: Shadow flicker occurs when the blades of the rotor cast a shadow as they turn. Research has shown the worst-case conditions would affect, by way of light alteration, neighboring residents a total of 100 minutes per year, and only 20 minutes per year under normal circumstances. Designers of wind farms avoid placing turbines in locations where shadow flicker would be a problem any significant amount of time.
- Sound: Wind turbines are not silent. The sounds they produce are typically foreign to the rural settings where wind turbines are most often used, but as turbine technology has improved over the years, the amount of sound has fallen considerably. The sounds of wind turbines do not interfere with normal activities, such as quietly talking to one's neighbor.
- Biological Resource Impacts: As with any construction project or large structure, wind energy can impact plants and animals, depending on the sensitivity of the area. Loss of wildlife habitat and natural vegetation are the primary wildlife concerns associated with wind energy. With modern turbines, mounted on tubular towers and whose blades spin only about 15 times per minute, bird collisions are now rare. Extensive environmental impact analysis is an integral part of project development to mitigate impacts as much as possible. The Audubon Society and Sierra Club both support wind energy development, because the environmental advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.
- Construction: Wind systems can involve the transportation of large and heavy equipment. This can cause a large temporarily disturbed area near the turbines. Erosion is another potential environmental problem that can stem from construction projects. The single most reliable technique for limiting erosion is to avoid grading roads and to perform site reclamation post construction.
- Radar: Radar interference by wind turbines is rare and easily avoided through technological improvements and proper siting of turbines that are close to sensitive areas. A number of U.S. government installations have both wind turbines and functional radar, and the British military has a track record of successfully addressing these challenges.

#### In Summary

For the sake of the planet, national security, rural economic revitalization, and resource preservation we must promote a renewable energy economy. Wind power can be a cornerstone of that

sustainable energy future because it is affordable, provides jobs, substantial and distributed revenue, and treads lightly on our environment without causing pollution, generating hazardous wastes, or depleting natural resources. Embracing wind energy today will lay the foundation for a healthy tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Meyers  
3913 Hilltop Drive  
Huron, Ohio 44839

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 17-2295-EL-BGN  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2019 9:39:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[image.png](#)  
[Shumway Home in amended project.png](#)

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**From:** Deb H <hayyou87@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2019 10:54 PM

**To:** Rep. Bill Reineke <rep88@ohiohouse.gov>; State Senator Dave Burke <Burke@ohiosenate.gov>

**Cc:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>; tparadiso@senecacountyohio.gov; mkerschner@senecacountyohio.gov; Gillcrist, Michelle <Michelle.Gillcrist@governor.ohio.gov>; Randazzo, Samuel <Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov>; Representative A. Nino Vitale <Rep85@ohiohouse.gov>; William J. Seitz <rep30@ohiohouse.gov>; Rep. Dick Stein <rep57@ohiohouse.gov>; Williams, Sandra <Williams@ohiosenate.gov>; Wilson, Steve <wilson@ohiosenate.gov>

**Subject:** Biased Public Hearings for Republic Wind Case # 17-2295-EL-BGN, September 12th 2019

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

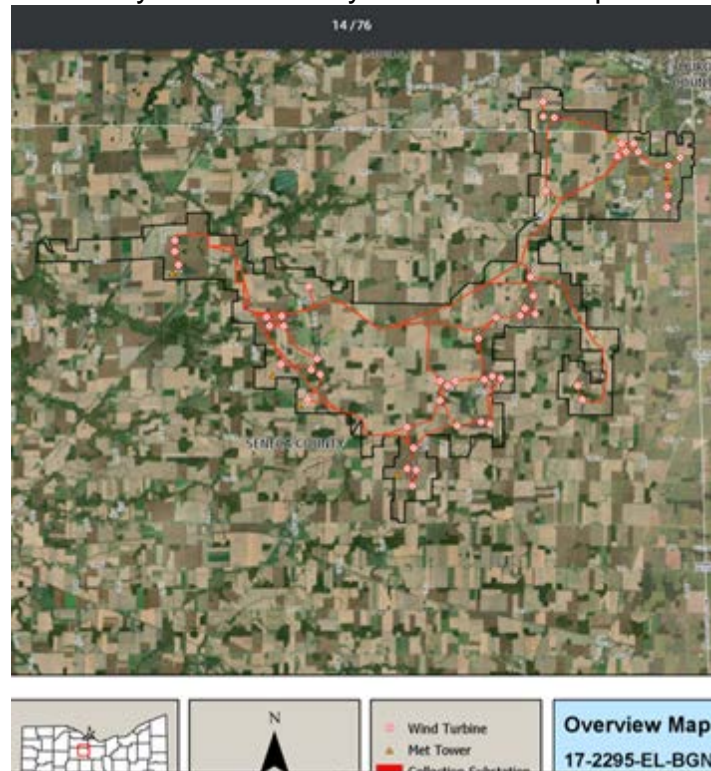
Rep. Bill Reineke (House District 88)  
77 S. High Street  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus Ohio 43215

Sen. David Burke (Senate District 26)  
Senate Building  
1 Capital Square, Ground Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Bill Reineke, and Senator David Burke

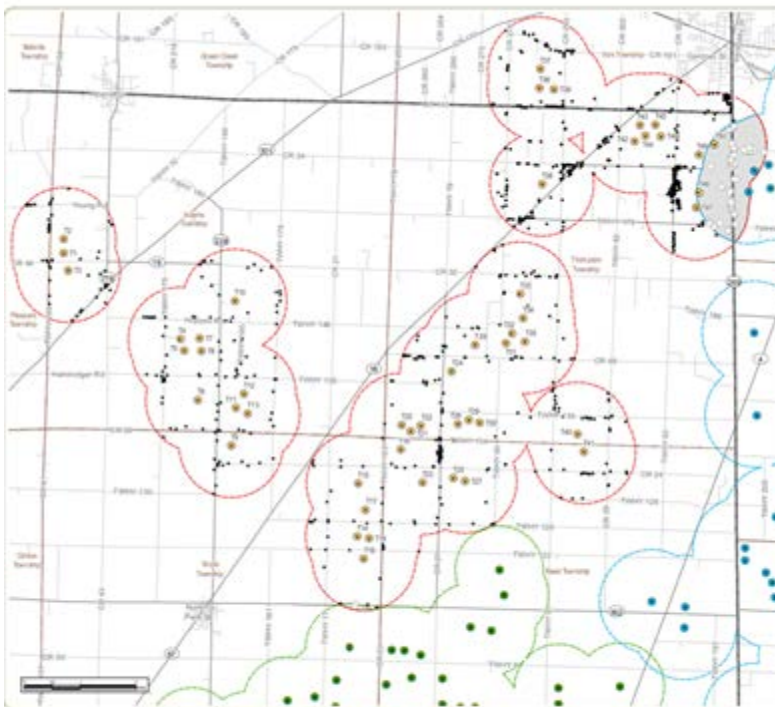
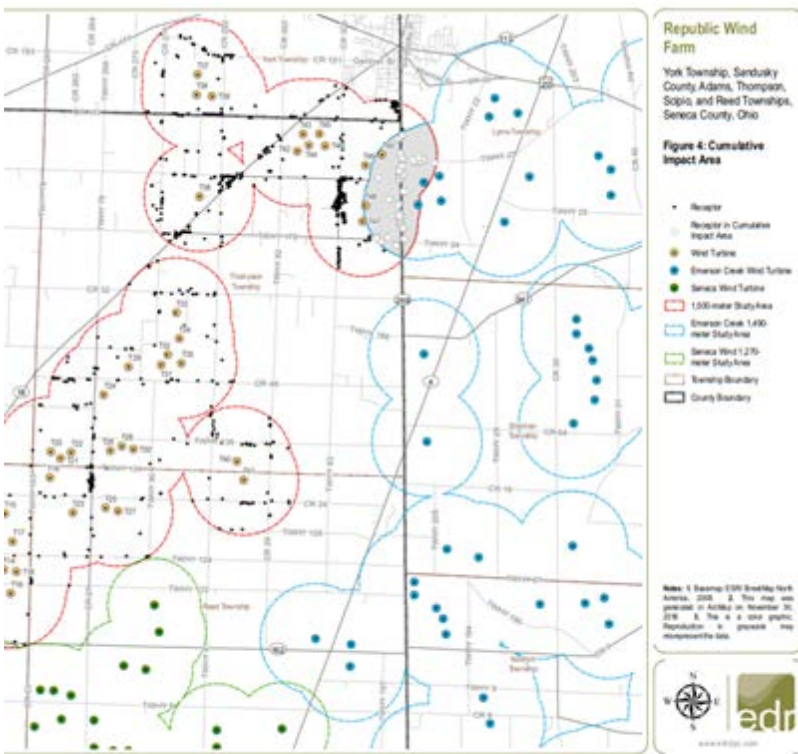
According to the rules of the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) rules, those recognized as legally intervening at the OPSB may not testify at public hearings. There are 69 individuals (39 households) legally intervening in opposition in the Republic Wind Case # [17-2295-EL-BGN](#). We are paying for our own lawyer to represent us and cannot afford to pay him to be present at the public hearing. The wind developer had legal counsel at the public hearings. They always seem to have a never-ending amount of money to influence the process at the OPSB. It was quite noticeable during the hearings that the Administrative Law Judge Arganoff took careful notes when proponents spoke but when the opposition was speaking, he riffled through his papers and seemed otherwise inattentive. I wonder if his summation of the testimony will reflect the depth and thorough reporting of the opposition?

It seemed an injustice that leaseholders who are legally involved in the Republic Wind LLC could speak at the public hearing. Yet those of us who had to dig into life savings to scrape up enough money for legal counsel could not speak because we were considered legally involved. When you look at the misshapen cookie cutter shape of the Republic Wind LLC (image below from page 14 OPSB staff report) it is easy to understand how many in the area could be considered “outside” the arbitrary boundary lines conveniently determined by the wind developer.



It would seem more equitable to consider testimony from all those in the cumulative impact areas, after all the OPSB is charged with consideration of the cumulative impacts of multiple industrial wind projects. Why is it the wind developer decides the project boundary lines? Shouldn't the OPSB determine the boundary lines of the cumulative impact areas. The following maps are of cumulative impact areas.





Although we had swallowed our pride and allowed our neighbors in the surrounding area to speak for us, at approximately 3 hours into the public

proceedings the lawyers for the wind developer argued that their clients were leaving and needed to be prioritized. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Arganoff made a new rule that would allow them to go first but then Chairman Randazzo commented that priority should be given to anyone in the project area. At that point only those in the project area could speak before others outside the project boundary in the cumulative areas impacted. Many of our neighbors outside the boundary waited as a parade of leaseholders now made their way to the podium, testifying as proponents to the project. At this point the bias of ALJ Arganoff is palpable in the room. He listens attentively to the leaseholders and takes careful notes. Opponents in line to speak express their consternation of losing their turn in line to speak. Many of the bureaucrats who sit on the board didn't even bother to attend the public hearing. They will likely rely on a synopsis of the hearing prepared by the ALJ. I wonder what he will write.

One of the leaseholders, Michael Shumway, had no problem jumping ahead of everyone else. Our family knows Michael, you see our kids carpool to school together and as of yesterday his kids were still living at 304 High Street in Bellevue, as I'm sure he was as well. Yet, Michael Shumway testified that he lives in the project area on County Rd. 34 in Thompson Township. Well, to be fair, he is working on a home there for his family. But they don't live there. It is also an inconvenient truth that when Apex amended the project in 2018 the turbine sited close to his families "would be" new home was moved further away. "It's good to be the "king", I mean the "leaseholder". After the amendment other non-participating homes in Thompson Township would have turbines closer to their homes such as the Jenk's, the Jordan's and the Clapp's. All of which were denied intervenor status by ALJ Arganoff in April 2018 by the OPSB, on the grounds that our township supposedly represented us. <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/DocumentRecord.aspx?DocID=d1fe27da-56bf-4084-b6d6-ee2aec374e9e>

Well another inconvenient truth is that our Thompson Township trustees (Troy Warner and David Ziegler) by a vote of 2/3 refused to intervene in opposition to their own financial interests as leaseholders in the Republic Wind LLC. To make matters worse an immediate family member of our trustee, Troy Warner, sold Wind Lease Agreements throughout the township. When the Wind Developer for Republic Wind LLC came to the area years ago and began collecting leases for this project, 90% or more of the area residents were not included in the planning and knew nothing about this project. Even those who signed Wind Support leases (Good Neighbor Agreements) envisioned windmills similar in size to what is at the Bellevue High School. These wind developers work in a cloak of darkness until they publicly announce the project and the details slowly emerge. Many don't believe the news at first. How could they possibly build 602 Ft turbines with a blade diameter of 492 ft in my community, that can't be true! Then as residents begin to understand the danger and destructive nature of these massive turbines, many rise up in opposition. It isn't surprising then to see that 70% of those testifying at the public hearing this past Thursday were strongly opposed to the project. It is also telling that of the 30% who spoke in support of the project, the majority were leaseholders who stand to benefit now or in the future, as projects expand in the area. If they weren't going to benefit financially would they have spoken? Ohio is the only state in the region that has taken

away local zoning rights and given it to an unelected board of bureaucrats appointed by the Governor. That is why you will see setbacks of industrial turbines from property lines in surrounding states have increased in response to the increasing size and power of these industrial wind turbines. Representative Bill Reineke, we hear you are preparing to introduce the Reineke Referendum which would allow communities a voice in the siting of industrial wind turbines. If wind developers are serious about working with communities to develop these projects, then they should welcome this referendum. Unfortunately, wind lobbyists, with their coffers "full from our tax subsidies", are working against any referendum in Ohio. That would give local communities some control. Apparently, they would rather continue to keep their safety manuals proprietary and work in a cloak of darkness.

Some things have changed in our community for a long time to come, one of which is our school carpooling plans. Please make every effort to bring equity back to our local communities and consider everyone's property rights. Not just a select few.

Sincerely, Deb and Duane Hay  
Seneca County, Thompson Township.

CC: Seneca County Commissioner Mike Kerschner  
Seneca County Commissioner Anthony Paradiso  
Northern Ohio Liaison to the Governor, Michelle Gillcrist  
PUCO Chairman Samuel Randazzo  
Representative Dick Stein  
Representative Nino Vitale  
Representative Bill Seitz  
Senator Steve Wilson  
Senator Sandra Williams  
PUCO Public Affairs, Matt Butler

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 17-2295  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2019 9:43:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [Republic PUCO 2.docx](#)  
[fullaccidents.pdf](#)

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**From:** Ed Clark <ethog3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2019 4:11 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Cc:** Randazzo, Samuel <Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov>; William J. Seitz <rep30@ohiohouse.gov>; Representative Bill Reineke <rep88@ohiohouse.gov>; Dick Stein <rep57@ohiohouse.gov>; rep85 <rep85@ohiohouse.gov>; Representative Craig S. Riedel <Rep28@ohiohouse.gov>; Rob McColley <mccolley@ohiosenate.gov>  
**Subject:** Meeting

Matt,

It was good to put a face to the name last night. As now the many conversations by email and phone. As I had said before, we here in Seneca County do have great number in protecting or community from these projects, and we are hopefully the the Reineke referendum is right around the corner to be reintroduced. I have CC some of the other representatives and senators that I normally email along on this email too.

Attached is what my public commits were for the Republic Wind meeting. I did submit a book to Mr. Randazzo last night that covered many other subjects too. I didn't know if this would make it to the public comments for Seneca, Republic and Emerson projects.

I also have attached the accident report that starts in 1980 and runs to June of this year. It is truly amazing the amount of fires and deaths that is on this report. As you read this report, there is numerous reports of bird kills, structure failures and fatalities from the turbines protective equipment fails. Granted some are human failures of not using the PPE. It also go on about infrasound as well. As more and more people are doing the job of the wind industry and reporting problems, should we not stop and really look at the setbacks for humane safety? The information is presenting itself world wide. I would hope that Ohio would take note of other failures.

*Thank You*

*Ed Clark*

*419-618-0031*

**From:** [Puco ContactOPSB](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 17-2295  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2019 10:38:29 AM

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**From:** Jim Feasel <jfeasel@woh.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 15, 2019 10:32 PM  
**To:** zak@senecacounty.org  
**Cc:** Mike Kerschner <mkerschner@senecacountyohio.gov>; aparadiso@senecacountyohio.gov; Shayne Thomas <sthomas@senecacountyohio.gov>; Reineke, William <BILL.REINEKE@OHIOHOUSE.GOV>; Burke@ohiosenate.gov; Rep30@ohiohouse.gov; Butler, Matthew <matthew.butler@puco.ohio.gov>; Randazzo, Samuel <Samuel.Randazzo@puco.ohio.gov>  
**Subject:** Recent Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership document submittal to OPSB - Republic Wind docket

David Zak  
Tiffin-Seneca Economic Partnership  
Tiffin Ohio - Seneca County

Mr. Zak,

On Sept 11, 2019 you submitted a letter and document to the Ohio Power Siting Board as a public comment on the Republic Wind case docket. (Docketed 9/12/19) This document lays out a history of the discussions on wind projects in Seneca County over the past few years. Several weeks before you submitted this document Seneca County Commissioners officially reversed the County's support of wind projects and resolved to oppose them "to the maximum extent allowed by law". Yet you make no mention of this reversal in your cover letter while instead submitting a document that was constructed months before this dramatic reversal took place. The citizens of Seneca County deserve and are awaiting an explanation of your action in this matter. It appears extremely misleading from many perspectives during this critical time when the Ohio Power Siting Board is considering all input and moving towards its final decision.

Jim Feasel  
1121 E County Rd 16  
Tiffin, OH 44883  
Eden Twp  
Seneca County OH

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**9/16/2019 4:00:41 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 17-2295-EL-BGN**

Summary: Public Comment electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing