

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of)
REPUBLIC WIND, LLC for a Certificate of)
Environmental Compatibility and Public Need) Case No. 17-2295-EL-BGN
for a Wind-Powered Electric Generating)
Facility in Republic and Sandusky Counties,)
Ohio.)

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

**Gary Baldosser
Baldosser Farms, Inc.**

on the behalf of

Republic Wind, LLC

October 21, 2019

Q-1. Please state your name, current title, and business address.

A-1. My name is Gary Baldosser. I am the President of Baldosser Farm, Inc., located at 5393 N. Township Road 78, Green Springs, Ohio 44836.

Q-2. How long have you lived in the community?

A-2. I have lived in Adams Township, Seneca County across from my family's farm my entire life. My family settled in the Seneca/Crawford/Wyandot County area in the late 1800's. My mother still lives on the homestead on the family farm. I attended Bellevue Senior High School, graduated from The Ohio State University. My two sons attended Seneca East High School in Seneca County, and also attended Ohio State.

Q-3. What is your occupation?

A-3. I am a fourth-generation farmer. Baldosser Farms, Inc. is a family-owned and operated business located in Adams Township, Seneca County, Ohio. My parents founded Baldosser Farms by working with my grandparents to establish their own operation. I have been the owner, operator, and President of Baldosser Farms for almost 30 years. We produce corn, soybeans, and wheat. Additionally, we raise cattle, which are either fed to market weight and sold as freezer beef or sold to families for 4H and FFA projects.

Q-4. What are your current job duties?

A-4. As President and owner of the farm, I am responsible for the overall management of the farm. Baldosser Farms is a family-owned business, and I oversee capital management, cash flow, and plan for the continued viability of the business. I am also involved in the day-to-day operations of the farm, including labor. In my role, I am also committed to studying and learning how to continually improve our business practices to protect and conserve the natural resources in my surrounding community.

Q-5. What has been your involvement in the community?

A-5. Throughout the years, I have served and volunteered on many boards and organizations that support agriculture and my community. I was elected President of the Seneca County Farm Bureau. After serving my term, I served as the Chairman of both the Ohio Young Farmer and Rancher Committee and the American Farm Bureau Federation ("AFBF")

1 Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. I was also a trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau
2 Federation, and a Director for AFBF. Currently, I serve as the Vice Chairman for my
3 local Federal Farm Credit institution. I volunteered as a 4H Advisor for 10 years, and
4 helped coach little league baseball to the youth of our community for 15 years.
5 Furthermore, I was a volunteer firefighter for 27 years, serving as Chief and Assistant
6 Chief has been one of my proudest accomplishments. I have always wanted to give back
7 by helping to protect and care for those who are in my community.

8 **Q-6. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

9 **A-6.** I am testifying in support of the application of the Republic Wind Farm because I believe
10 that there are several benefits to a wind farm development in Seneca County.

11 **Q-7. In your opinion, what are those benefits?**

12 **A-7.** There are numerous benefits for landowners, farmers, and the community overall. To
13 provide a little background, the Village of Republic has no manufacturing, no retail outlet
14 stores, and little, if any, industry and commerce. Our community is largely dependent on
15 agriculture. Consequently, a benefit to having a wind farm is to diversify the streams of
16 income for farmers and landowners, and provide a safety net when the agricultural
17 industry is experiencing unpredictable challenges. It is part of good business to have
18 different sources of income and not rely solely on the production of agriculture, which
19 leaves the community without revenue in the event of unfavorable weather. Second, the
20 wind development industry will improve tax revenue for our local schools, libraries, and
21 township and Seneca County at-large. Additionally, a new industry will create jobs for
22 the community and future generations. This project is important to me because it allows
23 me to exercise my property rights as a landowner and use my property as an earning asset
24 to provide for my family's financial security. More importantly, it will contribute to the
25 economic viability of my community and improve the lives of generations to come.

26 **Q-8. In your opinion, are there other benefits to having a wind farm in the area?**

27 **A-8.** The agricultural community in Seneca County has suffered significant losses. In a June
28 19, 2019 letter, Ohio's Congressional delegation requested that the US Department of
29 Agriculture ("USDA") provide disaster relief to Ohio's farmers unable to plant because

1 of flooding. Attachment 1. Because of the heavy rainfall, which has prevented farmers
2 from tilling and planting on their land, the Secretary of the USDA declared Seneca
3 County a “primary county disaster designation” in another letter dated July 25, 2019.
4 Attachment 2. Having another industry that supports the economy will likely improve the
5 economic conditions in the community and provide additional income to struggling
6 farmers.

7 **Q-9. Does this conclude your testimony?**

8 **A-9.** This does conclude my testimony. I do however reserve the right to update this
9 testimony to respond to any further testimony in this case.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Testimony was served upon the following parties of record via regular or electronic mail this 21st day of October, 2019.



Devin D. Parram

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ATTACHMENT 1

Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

We the Members of the Ohio Congressional delegation write to bring to your attention the destructive impact recent natural disasters have had on Ohioans and to request that recently approved disaster relief resources be used to assist Ohio farmers. Specifically, we ask that the Department increase the prevent planting payment rate to 90% for Midwestern farmers unable to plant because of flooding.

On June 6, 2019, President Trump signed into law supplemental appropriations for disaster relief, allowing prevent planting payment assistance for farmers who have incurred losses because of natural disasters. As you consider the eligibility criteria for the \$3,005,442,000 appropriated by Congress to assist farmers, we ask that you keep in mind the countless Ohio families and farmers that have been devastated by historic rainfall, flooding, and tornadoes over the last month. On June 18, President Trump issued a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 10 Ohio counties effected by these severe storms, and we hope that USDA will also make disaster assistance funds available to Ohioans as FEMA has already done.

Across the Midwest, heavy rainfall has caused floods that have prevented farmers from tilling and planting on their land. This will lead to considerable losses in production as the planting season closes. Ohio farms account for more than 14 million acres of land and a large portion of the country's source of corn, wheat, and soybeans. These farms face heavy losses and possible bankruptcy if nothing is done to assist them.

Last year, Ohio farmers planted 90% of their planned corn acreage by the end of May. By the same time this year, Ohio farmers have only planted 38% of their anticipated corn acreage. These devastatingly low averages demonstrate the dire impact of current conditions on Midwestern farmers. This is the most delayed planting start in over 40 years. The economic strain on farms across the Midwest will be overwhelming.

In addition to flooding, Ohioans have seen 36 tornadoes that created a path of destruction—leaving tens of thousands without power and destroying hundreds of homes. These natural disasters have left Ohio farmers with few options. With severe weather crippling Ohio farms, families and communities, we strongly encourage you to use disaster aid to assist Ohio farmers.

Sincerely,

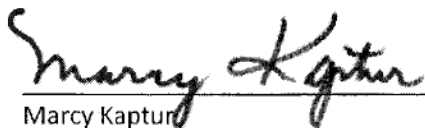


Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



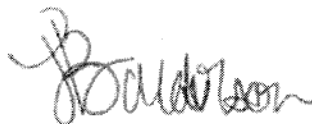
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



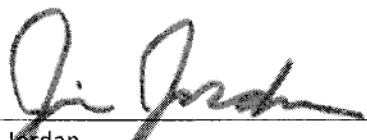
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



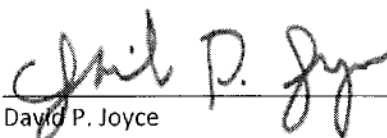
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



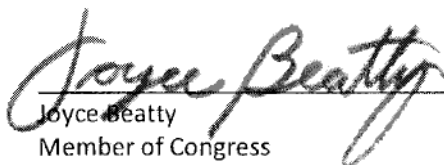
David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



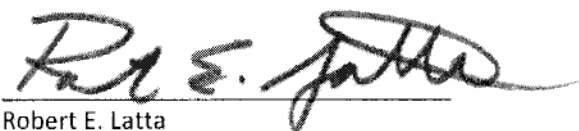
Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Marcia Fudge
Member of Congress



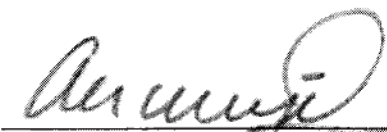
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

ATTACHMENT 2



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

JUL 25 2019

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor
State of Ohio
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On June 28, 2019, and July 3, 2019, the Ohio State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), requested a primary county disaster designation for seven Ohio counties due to losses caused by multiple disasters that occurred during the 2019 crop year.

USDA reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation; therefore, I am designating seven Ohio counties as primary natural disaster areas, in two separate disaster designations. In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your state and an adjacent state are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by these disasters.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to such primary counties eligible to be considered for certain assistance from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. This assistance includes FSA emergency loans. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers each emergency loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sonny Perdue".

Sonny Perdue
Secretary

Enclosure

Disaster Designation Areas for Ohio and a Contiguous State

Designation Number 1: The combined effects of excessive rain, flash flooding, flooding, excessive moisture, and extreme precipitation events that occurred during November 11, 2018, and continuing:

Primary Counties:

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|------|---------|
| Ohio | (5) | | | |
| Auglaize | Paulding | Seneca | Wood | Wyandot |

Contiguous Counties:

| | | | |
|----------|--------|--------|----------|
| Ohio | (16) | | |
| Allen | Hardin | Lucas | Putnam |
| Crawford | Henry | Marion | Sandusky |
| Defiance | Huron | Mercer | Shelby |
| Hancock | Logan | Ottawa | Van Wert |

Contiguous County in an Adjacent State:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Indiana | (1) |
| Allen | |

Designation Number 2: The combined effects of freeze, high winds, extreme cold, and the polar vortex that occurred during January 20 through April 30, 2019:

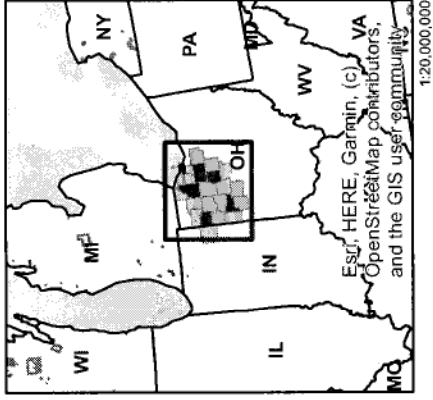
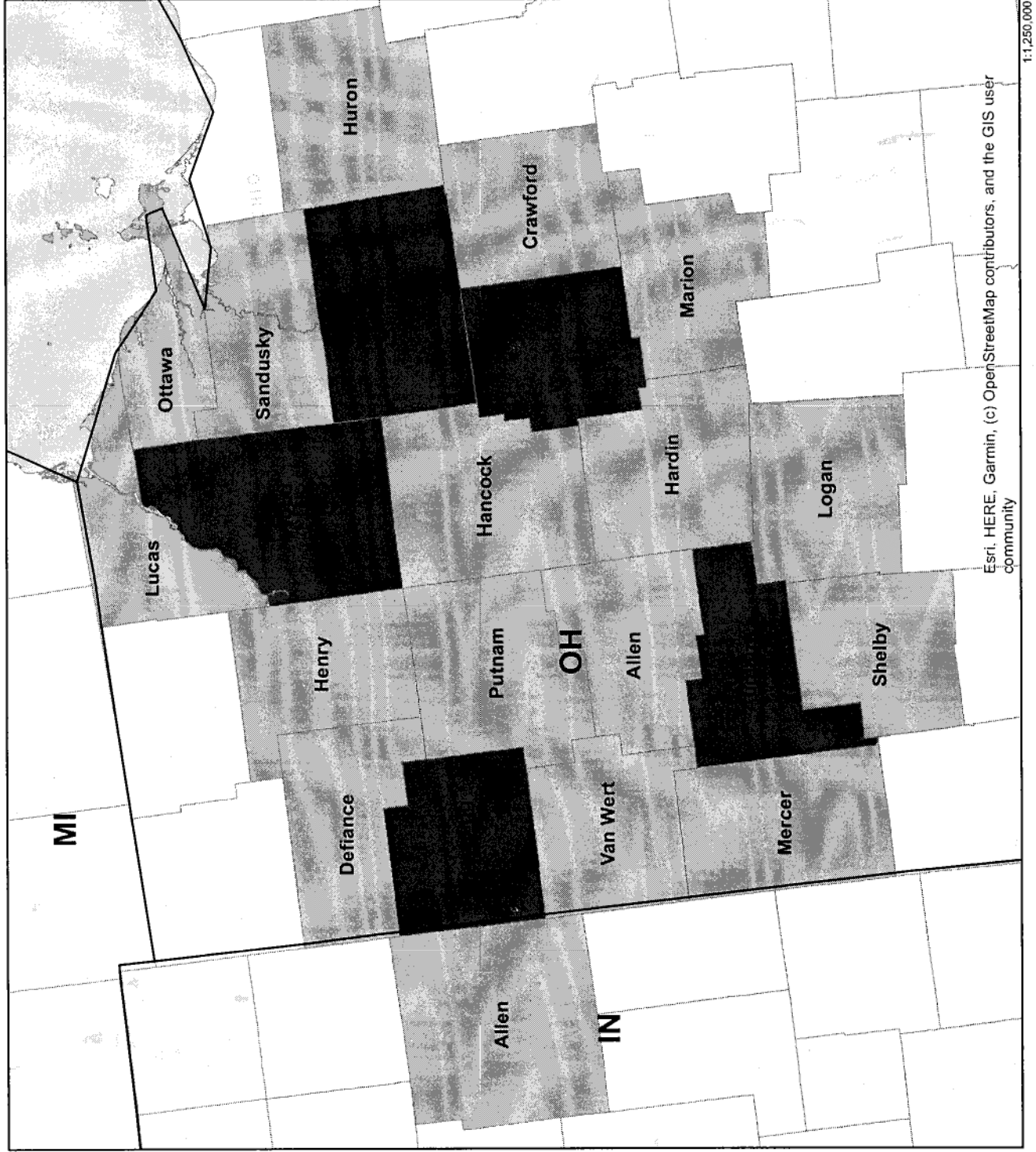
Primary Counties:

| | |
|--------|----------|
| Ohio | (2) |
| Ottawa | Sandusky |

Contiguous Counties:

| | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|--------|------|
| Ohio | (5) | | | |
| Erie | Huron | Lucas | Seneca | Wood |

2019 Secretarial Declaration: OH 2019-07-03-328518 - Disaster #1



Secretarial Designations

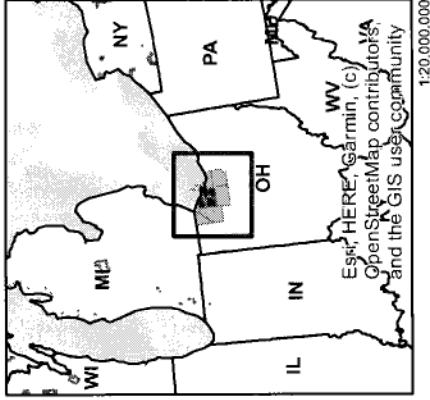
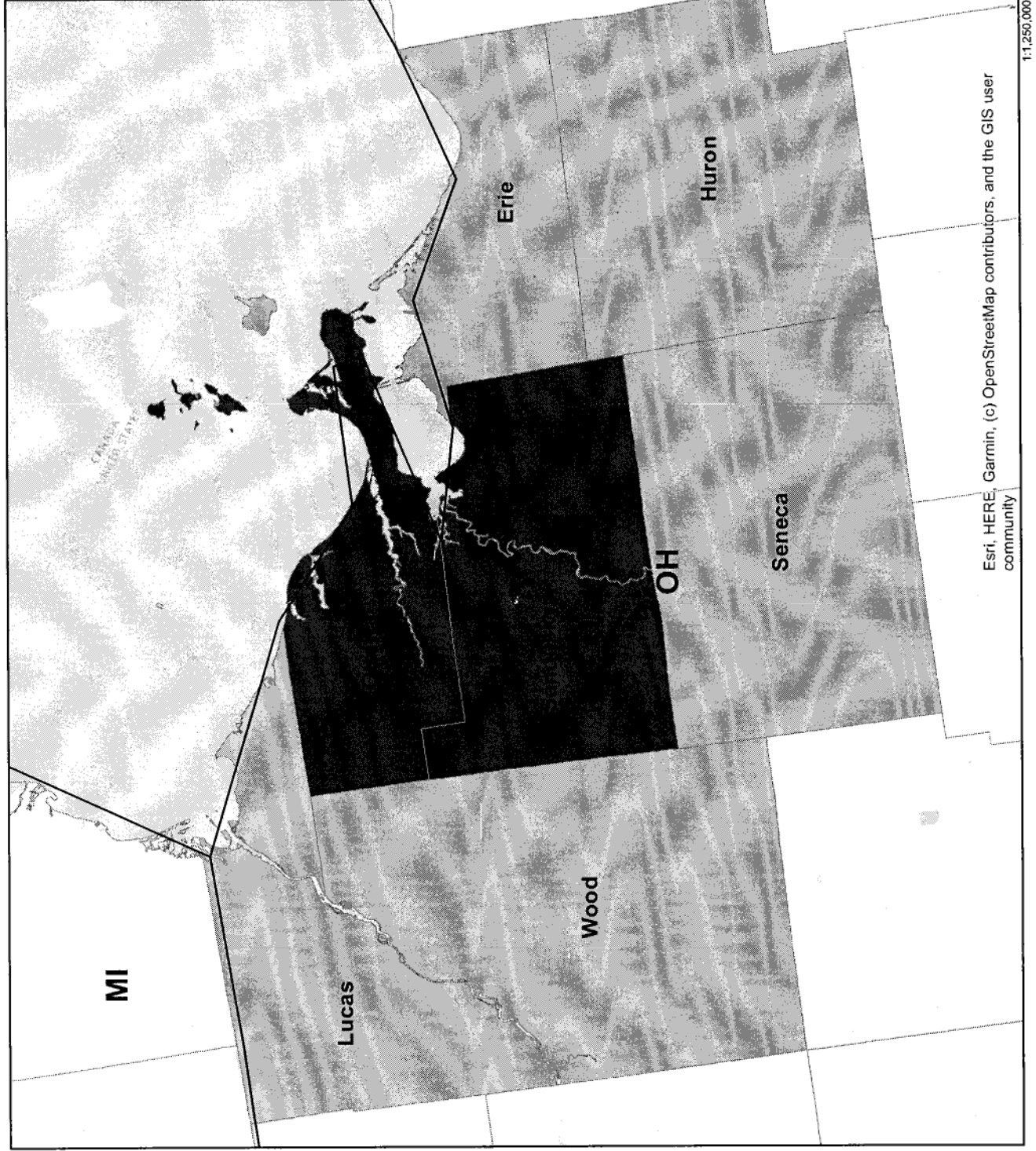
July 3, 2019

- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Tribal Lands
- Primary Counties: 5
- Contiguous Counties: 17



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Program Delivery/Safety Net Division
Washington, D.C.
July 3, 2019

2019 Secretarial Declaration: OH 2019-07-03-328518 - Disaster #2



Secretarial Designations

July 3, 2019

- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Tribal Lands
- Primary Counties: 2
- Contiguous Counties: 5



United States Department of Agriculture
Farm Service Agency
Program Delivery/Safety Net Division
Washington, D.C.
July 3, 2019

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

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

Summary: Testimony of Gary Baldosser on behalf of Republic Wind, LLC electronically filed by Teresa Orahod on behalf of Devin D. Parram