

TO: OPSB

My name is Linda Morsher, my husband and I are intervenors in the Republic project. We attended the public meeting on September 12th in Tiffin. Also, I attended the public hearing on Oct 4th and 13th in Columbus, plus I have watched some of the sworn testimony. Having read the staff report and IF this project should it receive its application from your board, it will forever impact our lives, property values, safety and health. Since this is an important issue, I have some questions that I hope OPSB will consider.

#1. On page 22 of Staff Report under Demographics it states: "Staff's analysis indicates that the population of both Seneca and Sandusky counties are projected to continue to decrease over the next 10 years. This project would not be expected to significantly alter existing population trends in either county." How can the staff report state this? Do they take into consideration the adverse effect of living near a 602 ft wind turbine? Many people who will have to live by a wind turbine may suffer health, safety and see reduced property values due to these 602 ft. wind turbines. Many may be forced to leave their homes and property due to health, safety or because they can't sell their properties, due to no one wanting to purchase a property near a 602 ft monstrosity, would you want to live near one? With the decrease in property values, where will the county derive their lost tax revenues from? Also, I've never heard this question asked, but if the wind turbine doesn't function (aka broken) or don't move because there is no wind, do the schools still receive that money that was promised by the applicant?

#2. On page 24 of Staff Report concerning Economics it states: "Republic Wind retained the services of EDR Environmental Services (EDR) to report on the economic impact of the Republic Wind Farm project. EDR used the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Jobs and Economic Development Impact (JEDI) model, as well as data from the Ohio Department of Taxation to estimate the economic impact of the construction and operation of the wind farm." My question is why wasn't any negative factors concerned using the JEDI model? No data was used concerning how the loss of home values (anywhere from 10-40%) could impact the economic conditions of our county revenues should this project be granted.

#3. On page 25 of the Staff Report concerning Ecological Impacts it states: "Wind turbines generate electricity without burning fuel or releasing pollutants to the atmosphere. The required setback distance between residences and construction activities at the project sites would protect the private water wells from any significant negative impacts. The Applicant does not anticipate any adverse impacts to public or private water supplies during the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm." My question is what does the applicant consider as "significant" negative impacts? Not able to have water from your only source, your well, I would consider "significant". What if the applicant is wrong and it does contaminate our wells? What happens then? Who's held accountable? The applicant or OPSB which granted the application?

#4. On page 26 of the Staff Report concerning Geology it states: "Karst limestone occurs principally in the eastern portion of Sandusky and Seneca counties. The Applicant has noted that 27 of the proposed 64 wind turbines are situated in areas exhibiting karst features. Where the Applicant conducts future geotechnical studies that identify Karst features, those areas would be avoided for siting wind turbines." By the applicant's report own admission that 27 of the 64 proposed wind turbines are located over KARST. That's over 40% of the turbines that will be located over KARST. KARST which are basically sinkholes. This area of OHIO is one of the most prevalent areas for sinkholes. During testimony the applicant's own witness admitted that there are now only 21 of the 49 turbines that are over KARST. Wow, where is the common sense in building ONE, let alone 21 - 602 ft. turbine over a KARST? According to that same

witness, the solution for KARST is to pour a substance like “grout” into the ground to fill up the KARST. Here is my question: What will happen to the wells that are near that turbine if a substance like “grout” is poured into the ground? Does this sound like common sense to the OPSB?

#5. On page 31 of the Staff Report concerning Eagles it states: “Raptor nest surveys completed in 2018 documented a bald eagle nest 1.9 miles from the nearest turbine. Although no eagle nests have been documented within the project area, the Applicant has not completed a bald eagle survey since 2012.” No survey has been done since 2012, really? Does that survey which was done 7 years ago seem to be an actual presentative of the current bald eagle nest, does it? Also, during witness testimony it was brought out by the intervenor’s lawyer that the applicant knew of a bald eagle nest within the project area and didn’t report it.

#6. On page 42 of the Staff Report concerning Decommissioning of turbines: “The Applicant has committed to providing a decommissioning plan to Staff and the Sandusky and Seneca County engineers that includes the removal of the facility components and provides financial assurance to ensure that funds would be available to decommission the project.” Has the decommissioning plan been submitted and assurance of funds been made available to the Staff and Sandusky and Seneca County engineers? If not so, now, then when is that required of the applicant?

On the PUCO own website it states: The PUCO was created to assure Ohioans adequate, safe and reliable public utility services at a fair price. I ask the OPSB to determine what is “safe” and “reliable”? Are wind turbines that are at maximum efficiency of only 30% reliable? Would you trust your vehicle that worked only 30% of the time reliable? There are many questions that need to be answered concerning bringing in forty-nine turbines that will be 602 feet tall into an area that has KARST surrounding the area where twenty-one turbines will be built. As a point of reference; the ARCH in St. Louis stands 630 feet tall. Can you envision something that stands over 602 feet tall outside of your home?

As intervenors, we did not go looking for this fight. We are just residents of Sandusky and Seneca counties just trying to work, take care of our families and live out our lives surrounded by the beautiful agricultural landscape.

The applicant makes this project seems like it is the “golden goose”, the answers to all our problems: supposed clean energy, and boat loads of money, but what about the health, safety, and property values of those that will be affected by this project? Please remember: “Everything that glitters is NOT gold” I pray and implore that the OPSB will do it’s due diligence and do what’s RIGHT, not what’s easy.

Respectfully,

Linda Morsher

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