

Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senator Steve Wilson – Chairman

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gerald Wilbert. I am a landowner, farmer, and life-long citizen of Seneca County, Ohio. I write to ask for your help in dealing with the aggressive wind developers in my community.

I was approached by the wind land agents several years ago when they indicated they needed a few acres of mine to build an electrical substation for one of their projects. I cooperated with them by signing one agreement stating they could buy the land when the time came that they needed it and a second agreement granting them a defined easement across my farm to build a transmission line. As the years progressed, and the details of the local wind project were made public, I started to hear from neighbors that this particular wind company was not to be trusted and had repeatedly misrepresented the fine print in the contracts they were having other local landowners sign.

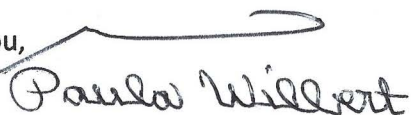
I dismissed these comments at the time based on my own experience with the company. However, as my land purchase agreement recently came to its expiration date, the wind agents were back at my door. As I listened to their stories a little closer, I started to realize that my neighbors were correct in their warning. The details of the project plans were different than what I was initially led to believe. Then came the day when my 97-year-old mother, who lives alone on her adjacent farm, told me the wind agents had stopped by and had her sign some papers. However, she indicated she was not entirely clear what the wind agents had said or what she signed. The wind agents did this without ever informing me and without even leaving a copy with my mother of what she had signed. That was the last straw! I will not renew my expired agreement nor will I cooperate any longer with this project.

I have learned from my own experiences that wind developers will say and do anything to get their papers signed and to get on to your property. They will take advantage of the elderly and the trusting. They will hide every negative detail about the project they intend to build. Meanwhile, we the local citizens are powerless to do anything once we learn the truth, since the state of Ohio has taken away all local control. While many representatives and senators are working to return this local control, others are still standing hand in hand with the wind companies and participating in the abuse of Ohio citizens.

If Senate Bill 234 gives the area residents the chance to vote on whether the project can be built, then at least we will know that our voice has some meaning. Maybe then my community will be able to decide it's own future instead of having it dictated to us by the state and outside corporations who show no mercy and have no shame when they run roughshod over our neighborhoods. Until local control is returned to the citizens, I will never have a good word to say about wind projects and will join my neighbors in spreading the word across Ohio that the entire wind energy game is nothing more than a state backed bunch of cronies intent on plundering local communities for a fast buck and not caring who gets hurt as a result.

If the wind companies knew they were answerable to a vote of the local people, I have no doubt they would treat us with more respect. Senators, if you have any respect and appreciation for the rural Ohio citizens who fill your dinner plate then you will return local control to us by passing Senate Bill 234.

Thank you,



Gerald and Paula Wilbert (Abused citizens of Ohio)

6156 N.C.R.15
Green Springs, OH 44836

Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
Senate Bill 234
Proponent Testimony

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Williams and Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee, we write to ask that you please support Senate Bill 234.

We are lifelong residents of Pleasant Township, Seneca County and a farming family that grow crops and breed hogs. We love our community, our neighbors, and the joys of country living. We also recognize and appreciate the struggles associated with today's farming.

Unfortunately, we have also become all too familiar with the dishonest nature and fraudulent behavior displayed by the energy industry. Several years ago our property was used to gain access for the installation of new transmission lines and since that time we have had numerous issues that remain unresolved to this day. Our experience during that encounter led us to not wanting any further involvement with the energy industry and wanting absolutely no involvement with the wind projects.

Our attempts to avoid further engagement with the energy industry were unsuccessful as we found ourselves impacted by the Apex Republic Wind project. A neighbor decided to participate in the Apex Republic Wind project and the proposed plan would result in additional high power transmission lines along with a five acre switchyard being placed 82 feet from our home (Attachment A). The wind company has even gone on to falsely indicate to Ohio regulators that our private drive is a "dead end road".

Having concerns regarding the proposed project, we noticed a post for Apex Republic Wind on Facebook similar to Attachment B. The post provided a link indicating that individuals could file comments to the Ohio Power Siting Board. I took the opportunity to express our opposition to the Apex Republic Wind project and further expressed our concerns over the lack of sufficient studies relating to the health and safety concerning humans and livestock. We discovered on December 18, 2019 a public comment was filed to the docket for Apex Republic Wind (case number: 17-2295-EL-BGN) where my name was attached to a letter indicating my support for Apex Republic Wind and requesting to the OPSB that a permit to build be issued! (Attachment C) My entire original submitted letter, including all of my questions and concerns regarding the project, were stunningly replaced with statements that I did not write and absolutely refute. It became abundantly clear I was the victim of falsification of documentation by Apex Republic Wind. Upon this discovery, I immediately obtained an alternative address to contact the Ohio Power Siting Board and filed another comment on December 20, 2019 where I expressed my objection to the original document submitted under my name by Apex Republic Wind and also expressed my complete objection to the project. (Attachment D)

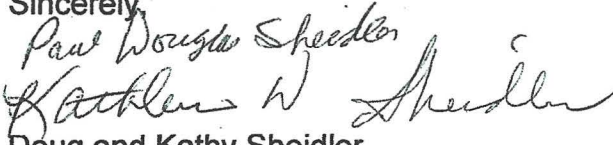
My husband and I had yet another encounter with Apex Republic Wind when on January 14, 2019 we discovered vehicles attempting to access our property through our private drive. My husband and I confronted these individuals and discovered them to be Apex Republic Wind employees attempting to access our private property for surveying purposes. The individuals were notified they were trespassing on private property and were asked to leave but initially refused. I ultimately contacted the Seneca County Sheriff's office and notified the employees as to my actions after which the employees left our property prior to the arrival of the deputy (Attachment E - Seneca County Sheriff report).

My husband and I are fed up with Apex Republic Wind and their behavior. We realize the issues surrounding the wind projects have plagued our community for several years. Unlike the other sights, sounds, and smells that are expected with country living, wind turbine projects are dramatically different and change the characteristics of an entire area. The current siting process does not allow for a local public voice in the process and instead the process is clearly left to the wind companies who submit false statements under your name and trespass on private property.

In the end, wind projects affect more than just those with contracts or leases. Considering the impacts of these projects and the complete lack of a local voice in the process, action must be taken. The opportunity to express one's opinion on a wind project through a local vote will ensure an equal voice by actual members in that community.

Please support Senate Bill 234.

Sincerely,



Doug and Kathy Sheidler
Sugar Creek Farms
5992 County Road 15
Green Springs, Ohio 44836

CC: Representative Bill Reineke
Senator Dave Burke
Senator Rob McColley
Governor Mike Dewine
PUCO Chairman Sam Randazzo



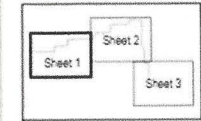
★ = Our Home
 ■ = Switchyard

Republic Wind Transmission Facility

Adams and Pleasant Townships, Seneca County, Ohio

Figure 05-2: Facility Layout

- Structure
- Preferred Route
- Alternate Route A1
- - - Alternate Route B
- POI Switchyard
- Public Road
- ▨ Preferred Route Construction Workspace
- ▨ Preferred Route A1 Construction Workspace
- ▨ Alternate Route B Construction Workspace
- ▭ Township Boundary



Page 1 of 3

Notes: 1. Base map ESRI ArcGIS Online "World Imagery" map service. 2. This map was generated in ArcMap on August 13, 2019. 3. This is a color graphic. Reproduction in grayscale may misrepresent the data. 4. Facility components and construction workspaces provided by Apex; public road data obtained from GRP. 5. Map Scale 1:12,500.



Attachment B

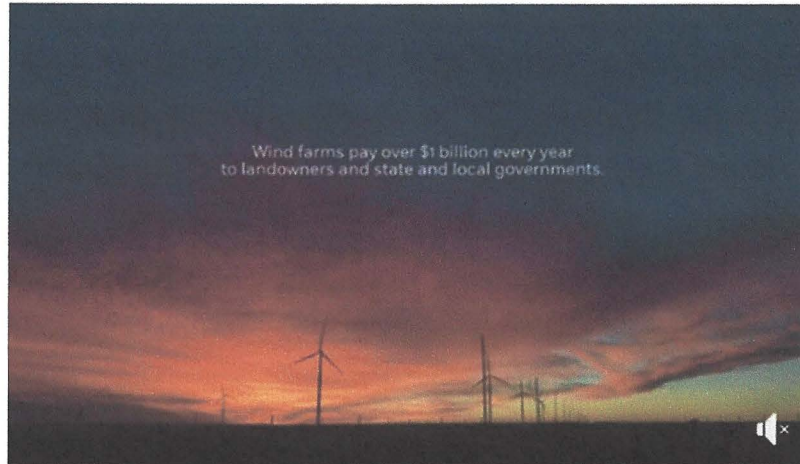


Apex Ohio

November 25, 2019 · 🌐



Communities have to make a big decision when they bring wind energy to their township or county. We're proud that when they choose to do so, they look back on that decision as a good one.



WWW.REPUBLICWINDENERGY.COM

Republic Wind

[Learn More](#)



7 Comments 2 Shares

Attachment C

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment - 17-2295-EL-BGN - Kathleen Sheidler
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 12:08:23 PM

From: Kathleen Sheidler <Kathleen.Sheidler.264815554@p2a.co>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 12:00 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: I support Republic Wind!

Dear Docket Submission Ohio Public Siting Board,

As a resident of the area surrounding the Republic Wind project (Docket No. 17-2295-EL-BGN, Republic Wind), I want to encourage you to award a permit to this project.


Over the last several years, I've participated in public discussions regarding the project and directly interacted with the developer, Apex Clean Energy.

Apex has been accessible and responsive to questions and feedback. They have been very engaged with members of the community and are committed to protecting our legacy. As I've talked to my fellow residents, I see broad support for Republic Wind. I recognize there are some in the county who do not want wind projects. Fortunately, no one is telling them they must put a turbine on their property.

The economic, community, infrastructure, and health benefits that would result from this project are hardly debatable. For these reasons I urge you to support Republic Wind.

Regards,

Kathleen Sheidler



Green Springs, OH 44836

Attachment D

From: [Puco ContactOPSB](#)
To: [Puco Docketing](#)
Subject: public comment - 17-2295-EL-BGN - Sheidler
Date: Friday, December 20, 2019 12:30:28 PM

Please file the following in the public comments for 17-295-EL-BGN.

From: sheidler <sheidler@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 9:02 PM
To: Puco ContactOPSB <contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov>
Subject: RE: I support Republic Wind!

I did not write this....I do not support this project..I asked..when will u do the studies on humans and animals..since this may affect our swine breeding..it was to be done..I want the report

Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone

On Dec 18, 2019 12:08 PM, contactopsb@puco.ohio.gov wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). We will file your correspondence in the public comments for OPSB case number 17-2295-EL-BGN.

The links below provide additional information about the OPSB and its process.

- [About the OPSB](#)
- [Power siting rules and statutes](#)
- [OPSB process flowchart](#)
- [Guide to public participation](#)

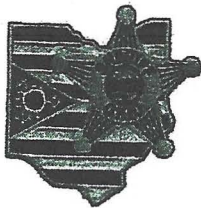
Sincerely,

Ohio Power Siting Board

1-866-270-OPSB (6772)

www.opsb.ohio.gov

This message and any response to it may constitute a public record and thus may be publicly available to anyone who requests it.

**Seneca County Sheriff's Office****Incident Report**

Incident:

Public Assistance/Non-Criminal

Incident Report Number:

20-000253

Between: Date - Time

And/At: Date-Time

1/14/20**15:50**

Incident Location:

5992 N Cr 15, Green Springs, OH, 44836

CFS Code-1:

8009

CFS Code-2:

CFS Code-3:

Offense Code-4:

CFS Code-5:

CFS Code-6:

CFS Code-7:

CFS Code-8:

COM

Name (Last, First, Middle)

Sheidler, Kathleen D

DOB:

02/18/1952

Race/Sex

W/F

Address: (Address, City, State, Zip)

5992 N Cr 15, Green Springs, OH, 44836

Phone 1

(419) 463-2317

Employer

Phone 2

(419) 992-4524

Employer Address

Work Phone #

Name (Last, First, Middle)

DOB:

Race/Sex

Address: (Address, City, State, Zip)

Phone 1

Employer

Phone 2

Employer Address

Work Phone #

SUMMARY

Dispatched to above residence in reference to the wind turbine company trespassing on their land.

Vehicle Information: (Year, Make, Model, Style, Color)

License Number:

State:

Expiration Year:

Vin:

Insurance Company:

Other Vehicle Information:

NCIC#

Reporting Officer(s):

McCoy, Jeffrey A.

Payroll Number :

975

Report Date:

01/15/2020

Time Received:

15:50:20

Time Cleared:

16:22:10

Unit(s) Assigned:

7422

Pages:

1 of 2

Reviewed by:

Mackling, Larry A.

Payroll Number :

148

Copy To

Date:

01/15/2020CFS Code-1: **8009**

Incident Report Number:

20-000253

Seneca County Sheriff's Office**Continuation**

Incident Report Number

20-000253

Incident Location:

5992 N Cr 15, Green Springs, OH, 44836

Incident Date:

01/14/2020

NARRATIVE

On the above date I was dispatched to this address for a complaint involving the wind turbine company trespassing on the land of the Sheidlers.

I arrived to the residence and spoke with Kathleen Sheidler. Kathleen explained to me that this has been an ongoing issue with her and all the neighbors around her. Kathleen stated that the wind turbine company will trespass on their land dig holes and have no respect about leaving the property. Kathleen explained its as if they think they own all the land in Seneca county. Kathleen explained that the road they were trespassing on used to be owned by one of her neighbors who sold his land. This neighbor gave the wind turbine company permission to be on the land when he owned it. Kathleen spoke with an attorney and the attorney explained that since it is no longer the neighbors land they are not aloud to go onto it. Kathleen spoke with the company and they still trespass even after they were told not to. Kathleen explained its becoming a nuisance and its causing damage to her farm land. I explained to Kathy there is not much we can do at this moment because we have not seen them on her land but to report it as soon as she sees them return. Kathy agreed to the terms and went on her way.

Nothing further to report.

Reporting Officer(s):

McCoy, Jeffrey A.

Payroll Number :

975

Pages:

2 Of 2

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

1/29/2020 4:35:59 PM

in

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

Summary: Public Comment of Gerald and Paul Wilbert, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing