Public support from distant citizens must not influence OPSB decisions.

As of 3/18/2020 there were 36 public comment letters filed on the Republic Wind docket during the month of March 2020.

Of these 36 only 1 has come from a resident who resides inside the footprint of the project and it is in opposition.

The remaining 35 comments (all in support) come from people residing outside the project. In fact they live FAR outside the project. The driving distance from their residences to the project range from 18 miles to 138 miles with an average distance of 76 miles.

Name	Location	Distance From Project
Griffin	Youngstown	138
Cooper	Stone Creek	127
Janoske	Chardon	111
Smith P	Mentor	108
Atkinson	Kent	105
Sheil	University Heights	91.9
Fisher	Akron	91.7
Holman	Akron	91.7
Fuest	Beachwood	89.5
Bifro	Warrenville Heights	88.6
Capperis	Warrenville Heights	88.3
Hull	Akron	86.2
Wollf	Akron	86
Muffett	Barberton	85.1
Fedor	Cleveland	79.3
Neal	Cleveland	79.3
Acevedo	Wadsworth	77.9
Zimmerman	Lakewood	75.9
Rennilo	Lakewood	74.1
Toth	Cleveland	73.9
Jackson	Rocky River	71.8
Garza	Napoleon	70
Comstock	Berea	69.3
Whiting	Fairview Park	69.2
Fiesler	Olmstead Falls	68.2
Kenney	Brunswick	66.1
Sincich	Lodi	63
Kane	Toledo	54.1
Chatel	Mt. Cory	53.8
Champion	Toledo	49
Villarreal	Toledo	49
Louy	Waterville	43.6
Marsh	Luckey	34.9
Smith K	Fostoria	24.5
Ensign	Clyde	18
Morsher	Bellevue	in the project

Further let it be noted and recorded here that ALL of the 35 comments in support were FORM letters which were not written by the signatories. And there are many other similar form letters from distant residents on the public comment docket for this project.

While it is perfectly acceptable for residents from other areas of Ohio to express support for the Republic Wind project their support should have no bearing on any decision made by the OPSB regarding the project. Those who live in the immediate area of the project will suffer any affects associated with transforming their neighborhood into an industrial wind factory. Residents from many miles away will not. Current law specifies that the safety and well being of local residents must be protected by OPSB oversight of such projects. A favorable opinion expressed by those living many miles away must not be allowed to influence decisions in such a way that safety for local residents is overlooked.

During the adjudicatory hearing portions of the safety manual for the turbines which will be used in the Republic Wind project were made public. In the manual the manufacturer specifies a safety distance of one kilometer (3,280 feet) from a turbine when thunderstorms are in the area. Given the propensity for thunderstorms in northern Ohio it is imperative that no wind turbine be allowed within one kilometer of neighboring property. The OPSB must always keep safety as the number one priority when considering approval of project plans. Let it be noted that as of this time the OPSB staff has failed to address the issue of sufficiently safe setbacks in its recommendations. Unless that changes it will be up to the voting members of the Board to withhold approval since it has no authority to impose known unsafe conditions onto Ohio citizens.

Obviously, safety is not a consideration for people residing 18-138 miles from the project. But for those of us who will live with the turbines for the next 30 years it is very important. The State of Ohio has taken away our ability to protect our own safety with local regulation. The OPSB must NOT attempt to abuse its power by placing Ohio citizens in danger regardless of who might consider it acceptable.

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In the footprint of the Republic Wind Project and less than a safe distance from 4 turbine locations.

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Summary: Public Comment of Gary and Dawn Hoep, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing