

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the
Application of Hardin :
Wind Energy, LLC for a :
Certificate to Site a : Case No. 09-479-EL-BGN
Wind Powered Electric :
Generation Facility in :
Hardin County, Ohio. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. Gregory Price and Ms. Rebecca Hussey,
Administrative Law Judges, at the Hardin County
Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Square, Kenton, Ohio, called
at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Bricker & Eckler, LLP
3 By Ms. Sally W. Bloomfield
4 Mr. Matthew W. Warnock
100 South Third Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4291

5 On behalf of Hardin Wind Energy, LLC.

6 ALSO PRESENT:

7 Mr. Dale Arnold.

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1 Tuesday Evening Session,
2 January 5, 2010.

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4 Let's go on the record. Good evening.
5 The Ohio Power Siting Board has assigned for public
6 hearing at this time and place case number
7 09-479-EL-BGN captioned In the Matter of the
8 Application of the Hardin Wind Energy, LLC for a
9 Certificate to Site a Wind Powered Electric
10 Generation Facility in Hardin County, Ohio.

11 My name is Rebecca Hussey. With me is
12 Gregory Price. We are the administrative law judges
13 that are assigned to preside over tonight's hearing.
14 We'll begin by taking appearances by the parties
15 starting with the company.

16 MS. BLOOMFIELD: Good evening. My name
17 is Sally W. Bloomfield, I'm with the law firm of
18 Bricker & Eckler, and with me is my colleague, Matt
19 Warnock, Bricker & Eckler is located at 100 South
20 Third Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, on behalf of the
21 applicant.

22 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

23 Dale.

24 MR. ARNOLD: Good afternoon. My name is
25 Dale Arnold. I'm Director of Energy Services for the

1 Ohio Farm Bureau, we're also a party of record. Your
2 Honors, I'm here just to observe this evening. Thank
3 you very much.

4 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

5 On June 5th, 2009, Hardin Wind Energy,
6 LLC filed an application for a certificate of
7 environmental compatibility and public need to site a
8 wind powered electric generation facility in Hardin
9 County, Ohio. Hardin Wind Energy filed an amended
10 application September 19th, 2009.

11 As part of this proceeding the staff of
12 the Ohio Power Siting Board completed a Staff Report
13 of Investigation on December 21st, 2009. Copies of
14 the Staff Report are available at the entrance where
15 the sign-in sheets were located. I don't know if
16 they have any additional Staff Reports at this time.
17 The Staff Report may address any questions you'll
18 have regarding the application and how the process
19 will proceed in this case.

20 Tonight's public hearing is only part of
21 the overall proceeding. The adjudicatory hearing
22 will commence on January 12th at 10 o'clock a.m. at
23 the offices of the Public Utilities Commission of
24 Ohio. At that hearing Hardin Wind Energy and the
25 Ohio Power Siting Board staff will have an

1 opportunity to present evidence regarding whether
2 Hardin Wind Energy's application should actually be
3 approved.

4 Tonight's public hearing provides an
5 opportunity for members of the public to present
6 their views on Hardin Wind Energy's proposed project.
7 We will not be hearing from Hardin Wind Energy or the
8 Ohio Power Siting Board staff tonight. Tonight is
9 the public's opportunity to let the Board know what
10 you think of the proposed project.

11 You will not have the opportunity to ask
12 the company or staff questions during your testimony,
13 but you may be able to ask them questions at the
14 conclusion of the hearing, as they indicated earlier.

15 As you may have noticed, there's a court
16 reporter present and she'll be transcribing the
17 hearing. What that means is she'll be recording in
18 typewritten fashion the statements that are made here
19 today. All of tonight's testimony will be a part of
20 the record in this case and will be a part of the
21 Board's consideration of Hardin Wind Energy's
22 application.

23 When you arrived, there was a sign-up
24 sheet for anyone who wished to testify this evening.
25 We'll take witnesses in the order they signed up

1 first, but if you did not have a chance to sign up,
2 you'll be given a chance to testify after we've made
3 our way through the list.

4 Should you decide you do not want to
5 testify when I call your name, you can merely pass to
6 the next witness. Once you have finished testifying
7 or if you're just in attendance to observe the
8 hearing, you may leave at any time you wish.

9 When your name is called, please come up
10 to the podium located right here. All testimony
11 tonight will be sworn testimony and will be subject
12 to cross-examination by the parties' attorneys in
13 attendance tonight. At the beginning of your
14 statement please make sure that you state your name
15 and address for the record, and please speak clearly
16 so that the court reporter can record your statement.

17 At this time I'll begin calling witnesses
18 forward. Our first witness is Michael Smith.

19 - - -

20 MICHAEL SMITH

21 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
22 testified as follows:

23 DIRECT TESTIMONY

24 MR. SMITH: My name is Michael Smith. I
25 work out of the Hardin County Engineer's office

1 located at 1040 West Franklin Street, Kenton, Ohio.

2 Good evening. As I stated, my name's
3 Michael Smith. I am the Hardin County Engineer, and
4 I'm here representing the Hardin County Engineer's
5 office. I'm here tonight to voice my opinion neither
6 in favor nor against the proposed wind farm but to
7 make the Board aware of the road issues that would
8 need to be addressed prior to the certification of
9 Hardin Wind Energy, LLC.

10 I'd like to start out by saying that the
11 Hardin Wind Energy, LLC has been very cooperative and
12 forthcoming. We have met with representatives of
13 their company on many occasions, the first being
14 almost a year ago. Having said this, I feel like we
15 have made some positive progress with them and they
16 have verbally agreed to comply with our regulations.

17 We are requiring Hardin Wind Energy, LLC
18 and any other developer to determine the load
19 capacity that will be required to accommodate any
20 increased traffic by the proposed improvement on any
21 county or township road that will be affected. They
22 will then be required to core the existing pavement
23 at intervals determined by the county engineer's
24 office to determine the existing load capacity.

25 If the existing load capacity is less

1 than the required load capacity, the company must
2 determine the appropriate mitigation to be carried
3 out by them and approved by this office. This is all
4 to be done prior to construction. Failure to do so
5 will result with no overload permits issued.

6 This issue was addressed by Hardin Wind
7 Energy, LLC in their original application to the
8 Board and they stated "The Applicant will work with
9 the county to determine the existing capacity of the
10 pavement to support loads. If the capacity does not
11 equal the anticipated actual loads, the Applicant
12 will work with the county to determine the
13 appropriate mitigation."

14 Mention was also made in the Minimum
15 Advisory Environmental Impact [sic] consideration of
16 the Staff Report of Investigation that was released
17 on December 21st, 2009. It was stated that "The
18 Applicant, working with the Hardin County Engineer,
19 will prepare analyses that show where the existing
20 pavement on county roads have the capacity to support
21 any permit loads, or loads heavier than the state
22 legal loads. The County will require the developer
23 to obtain roadway pavement cores and perform an
24 engineering analysis to determine allowable load
25 capacity of the road, and to determine the required

1 road capacity based on the permit loads. This
2 analysis will have to be approved by the County."

3 No action plan was discussed, though, as
4 to what would be done if the existing road capacity
5 is less than the proposed capacity. The Ohio Power
6 Siting Board Staff Report went on to state in their
7 recommended conditions of the certificate that the
8 applicant was to post a surety bond to cover damages
9 and repair impacted roads following construction.

10 The Staff Report recommended conditions
11 of the certificate failed to mention any required
12 actions if the roads did not meet the required legal
13 capacity. We would like for the staff to amend their
14 conditions of certificate, specifically item No. 25,
15 to reflect the applicant's intentions and our
16 recommendations.

17 We'd also recommend that the Ohio Power
18 Siting Board staff amend their conditions of the
19 certificate to include similar language for
20 decommissioning. If this issue is not resolved prior
21 to construction, no oversize load permits will be
22 issued for county roads.

23 The county appreciates that the Ohio
24 Power Siting Board staff has recommended a surety
25 bond for the applicant; however, in the Staff Report

1 there is no recommendation on how to establish the
2 surety bond values. The county feels it's necessary
3 to not only require a surety bond, but to determine
4 an accurate surety bond value prior to certification.

5 We are also requiring the applicant to
6 submit engineering plans for any modifications that
7 will be made on ditches under county maintenance.
8 The county maintains all county ditch records and the
9 applicant can request information pertaining to any
10 affected ditches.

11 The county looks forward to continuing
12 our relationship with Hardin Wind Energy, LLC into
13 the future and thank you for your time, and I will
14 continue to make the county available to Ohio Power
15 Siting Board and also Hardin Wind Energy. Thank you.

16 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you very much.

17 Mr. Ludwig.

18 - - -

19 RUSSELL LUDWIG

20 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
21 testified as follows:

22 DIRECT TESTIMONY

23 MR. LUDWIG: Good evening, your Honors.
24 My name is Russell Ludwig, and I am a property owner,
25 a farmer, a lifelong resident, and a Hardin County

1 Farm Bureau board member, and a former Hardin County
2 commissioner. I'm here today to express my support
3 of Hardin County Wind Energy, LLC and the development
4 of the Hardin County wind farm.

5 Although I do not own property within the
6 wind farm area, I support this project for many
7 reasons. I can speak for an extended period of time
8 on the merits of each, however, I also understand
9 that today our time is limited and, therefore, will
10 only briefly touch upon what I see as three of the
11 more important issues before us.

12 First, the need for the facility. Carbon
13 fuel supplies are not limitless, nor are they
14 renewable in our lifetimes. If we as a nation take
15 no action and continue to consume carbon fuels at our
16 current rate without utilizing alternative energy
17 sources, we are in essence sealing our future fate.
18 We must as a nation, world, and county move toward
19 alternative energy and renewable sources.

20 Renewable sources, as you know, consist
21 of more than wind, and I support them all, however,
22 wind is the purpose of this meeting today.

23 Here in Hardin County we are fortunate
24 that we have an adequate and steady supply of wind
25 and we must take advantage of it to promote cleaner

1 air and healthier living. Just as our forefathers
2 from the mountains of West Virginia and Kentucky
3 applied the technology of the day to dig coal as a
4 natural resource to convert into energy, today we
5 must take advantage of our technology and our natural
6 resources and harvest the wind.

7 Harvesting the wind in the county will
8 supply needed alternative fuel electric, not just
9 locally, but throughout the country. Today this wind
10 farm will have the ability to producing up to 300
11 megawatts of electricity. As technology continues to
12 advance, who knows how many homes this wind farm will
13 power in the future.

14 A wind farm in Hardin County is clean,
15 abundant, renewable, and free. We simply cannot turn
16 our back on this opportunity and ignore it.

17 Second, the impact on agriculture. As we
18 all know, Hardin County is rural and agricultural in
19 nature. Many call it a slower and more laid-back
20 lifestyle. I'd like to consider it peaceful. Those
21 of us who live in the county enjoy this peaceful
22 lifestyle, unfortunately for us these same elements
23 are essential in developing wind farms. This wind
24 farm will have a minimal impact on the agricultural
25 community as the footprint of the wind turbine is in

1 essence less than 1 acre per turbine.

2 Farmers will have the ability to farm up
3 to, around, and within feet of these turbines and the
4 access roads, just as many do now with the old
5 homestead or oak tree that sits randomly out in the
6 fields.

7 And while I enjoy this peaceful
8 lifestyle, I also know that we must stay current with
9 the rest of the world and be innovative when
10 opportunities exist. This is why I favor the wind
11 farm and other renewable energies. I can think of no
12 more compatible use of agricultural land than the
13 site of a slow turning wind turbine spread across the
14 countryside.

15 My third and last point is the public
16 interest. For the betterment of the county, the
17 public, the landowners, the merchants, and the
18 schools, we simply cannot afford -- ignore the
19 opportunity to have this. The construction of the
20 wind farm can generate tens of millions of dollars
21 being spent within our county on fuel, food, lodging,
22 and incidental materials and supplies that otherwise
23 our merchants would not have seen.

24 It is generally accepted that each dollar
25 spent turns over four times. It does not take a

1 mathematician to quickly see the impact in the form
2 of millions of dollars that this construction project
3 will have on our area. And I haven't even touched on
4 the impact of increased tax revenue.

5 Once the wind farm is constructed and
6 operating, there comes a continuing revenue stream
7 into the county in the form of property taxes paid to
8 the schools and the governing bodies, in the form of
9 continuing lease payments for participating
10 landowners who may or may not have a turbine located
11 on their property, in the form of substantial lease
12 and compensation for those landowners who do have
13 turbines on their property and, finally, in the form
14 of employment for continued operations and
15 maintenance of the facility.

16 According to a recent Farm Bureau Energy
17 Program report that I read recently, wind turbine
18 technology can generate power that can be used by
19 Ohio investor-owned utilities to address the state's
20 advanced energy initiative. As detailed in Senate
21 Bill 221, the law was passed in 2008 and calls for
22 25 percent of the electric power needed by Ohio
23 consumers come from advanced and renewable energy
24 sources by 2025. Half of this 25 percent goal must
25 come from Ohio-based facilities such as this project

1 being considered in this application. The bottom
2 line, this wind farm is an economic boon for Hardin
3 County we cannot afford to lose.

4 In conclusion, I thank you very much for
5 providing this forum that has allowed me to express
6 my opinion on the wind farm project, and I urge you
7 to see fit in approving the Hardin County Energy, LLC
8 application. This project is far-reaching and is
9 good for farmers, landowners, and the county, the
10 nation, and the world. Thank you for your time.

11 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you very much.

12 John Hohn.

13 - - -

14 JOHN HOHN

15 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
16 testified as follows:

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MR. HOHN: My name is John Hohn, and I'm
19 the Vice President of Economic Development for Hardin
20 County. Last name is spelled H-o-h-n.

21 This is to express my support for the
22 proposed Hardin Wind Farm project in Hardin County.
23 As a former educator for over 30 years and presently
24 Vice President of Economic Development for the
25 county, I strongly believe the Hardin Wind Farm

1 project will provide many positive benefits to our
2 entire community and give complete support for this
3 project. It will generate clean, renewable electric
4 energy for thousands of homes and businesses and pay
5 millions in tax revenues to our schools and local
6 government.

7 The project will contribute to Ohio and
8 U.S. energy independence and assist Ohio in achieving
9 its advanced energy portfolio standard. Most
10 importantly, the Hardin Wind Farm project will create
11 hundreds of needed construction and manufacturing
12 jobs and establish permanent operational and
13 maintenance jobs.

14 The development of the Hardin Wind Farm
15 has been the catalyst for other economic development
16 opportunities in Hardin County including a proposed
17 rail logistics center which is about to break ground
18 sometime in March.

19 As the Gene Autry cap pistol was to our
20 residents in the 1930s, the wind turbines will be for
21 the 21st century. Records indicate that over 6
22 million Gene Autry guns were manufactured. In his
23 autobiography, Back in the Saddle Again, Autry
24 suggests that it was the toy that reversed an
25 economic decline and "Saved Kenton."

1 I believe that wind energy and wind farms
2 and renewable energy can save Hardin County, save
3 Ohio, and the rest of the country. Thank you.

4 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

5 My apologies in advance if I mispronounce
6 any of your names. Tom Kritzler.

7 - - -

8 TOM KRITZLER

9 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
10 testified as follows:

11 DIRECT TESTIMONY

12 MR. KRITZLER: Well, you got a dirt
13 farmer standing in front of you now, not a speech
14 giver. Back when I was born in 1939, we had no rural
15 electricity; that came that year with the help of
16 some very prominent people in our country. I can
17 also remember 10-cent orange pop, nickel candy bars,
18 25-cent gasoline, steam locomotives went up the Erie
19 Railroad, ice plant here on Lake Street. Progress
20 from 1940 -- or 1940s to 2010. Convenience has taken
21 over our lives.

22 Electricity is no longer a convenience or
23 a luxury; it's now necessary. We are dependent on
24 oil and coal and their by-products which are not
25 renewable, as the boys ahead of me said.

1 Wind power was a luxury in the '30s and
2 '40s, they pumped water with it, they turned the
3 Del-Co systems. We all remember the wind pumps.

4 We are mandated now to be 25 percent
5 renewable by 2025, as Gerald said. This project is
6 on track to help our future generations to be
7 progressive.

8 In closing, and I am for this project by
9 the way if it hasn't been evident, the wind project
10 is not life insurance. As far as I'm concerned, it's
11 living assurance. I appreciate your time. Thank
12 you, sir.

13 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

14 Gene Gratz.

15 - - -

16 GENE GRATZ

17 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
18 testified as follows:

19 DIRECT TESTIMONY

20 MR. GRATZ: My name is Gene Gratz,
21 G-r-a-t-z. I'm a landowner in the area and I really
22 don't have a whole lot more to add to what Mr. Ludwig
23 said other than I'm in favor of the project, and I
24 guess I would qualify that regardless or not whether
25 a wind turbine would be placed on mine, I just think

1 the whole project is the way we need to be moving in
2 the future, and I don't really see any negative
3 aspects of it. So I'm totally in favor of it, and
4 that's really all I have to say.

5 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you very much.

6 Jim Bowser.

7 - - -

8 JIM BOWSER

9 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
10 testified as follows:

11 DIRECT TESTIMONY

12 MR. BOWSER: I am Jim Bowser, 203 Main
13 Street, McGuffey, Ohio, and I appreciate this
14 opportunity and thank your Honors and the Public
15 Utilities Commission for the opportunity to testify
16 in favor of the Hardin Wind Energy project in Hardin
17 County.

18 As an employee of the Upper Scioto Valley
19 School District and the Upper Scioto Wind/Energy
20 Academy, I bring not only my support and that of our
21 respective boards to this project, but I believe the
22 strong support of the majority of the voters as well
23 as the staff and the students in the districts.

24 Over a year and a half ago Upper Scioto
25 Valley Schools with the support and guidance of its

1 board of education established a goal to take a
2 leadership role in encouraging economic development
3 for our district, county, and region. Following
4 discussions with local and state educational and
5 economic leaders, as well as John I might add, it was
6 established that the heart of this development effort
7 would be the development and implementation of wind
8 and alternative and renewable energy programs.

9 The goal was divided into two modes, one
10 designed to create energy savings for the school and
11 educational programming for district residents and
12 their families, the second was to define and use
13 district resources to create value-added services
14 which could produce not only additional revenues and
15 jobs for and in the district, but also develop a
16 collaboration of industry, higher education, the Ohio
17 Department of Education Career-Tech in community
18 schools, and our public school districts.

19 Included in this collaboration was the
20 renovation of Alger -- of the district's Alger school
21 building to be offered as a K-12 training center for
22 the partners and area residents; one of those
23 partners is Hardin Wind.

24 The building is part of a "green lab"
25 built in 2009 on the USV campus and the 640-acre land

1 lab near Alger define the land and structures of the
2 current Upper Scioto Valley Wind Energy Academy.

3 The educational and economic development
4 benefits to our district and county of the awarding
5 of this project to our parter Hardin Wind Energy goes
6 far beyond the obvious financial gain and stability
7 provided to the district and its residents.

8 The academy and its final -- is in its
9 final negotiations with Ohio Northern University and
10 Rhodes State College and the Ohio Department of
11 Education to finalize the first career-tech programs
12 in Ohio that incorporates actual operating and
13 functioning wind turbines with the expertise of
14 operators of small turbines. We have two 100 kW
15 commissioned turbines on our property, and the
16 support and leadership from Hardin Wind to tie our
17 training to a 300 megawatt operating wind farm.

18 A huge majority of the turbines defined
19 in the Hardin County project are scheduled to be
20 commissioned in the USV district.

21 Having operated the two 100 kW turbines
22 since September, the USV district has firsthand
23 experience on the positive aspects of deploying wind
24 energy. Our two Next Gen leased turbines stand to
25 save USV some \$1.7 million over the life of the

1 15-year lease. In addition, these turbines reduce
2 CO2 emissions by the equivalent of operating a motor
3 vehicle for over 430,000 miles a year and produce
4 enough electricity to operate 21 family residences
5 for an entire year.

6 We've also shown the relative
7 effectiveness and desirability of having wind
8 facilities. We have had numerous visitors come to
9 our campus and view our turbines in operation. Basic
10 myths that accompany any new venture are quickly
11 turned aside when individuals actually walk under it
12 and look upon a real operating turbine, one their own
13 son or daughter may have watched being assembled from
14 their classroom with appropriate related wind energy
15 instruction.

16 The technology accompanying the turbines
17 provides direct data reporting for our students and
18 anyone visiting the USV website concerning power
19 generation, wind speed, and other related data. This
20 is using two 100 kilowatt turbines.

21 We are scheduled in the initial placement
22 plan to have 15 megawatts on our 640 acres as well as
23 a 10-megawatt solar facility by one of Invenergy's
24 related companies in the Hardin Wind grid facilities.

25 Multiply the above emissions information,

1 as was mentioned by the people before, by the
2 difference between 200 kilowatts and 25 megawatts and
3 one can easily see the benefits to our environment
4 using alternative energy systems related directly to
5 USV.

6 Add to the above 20 to 30 full-time jobs
7 the total grid project will bring to the area, tied
8 with the ability to serve as a training facility for
9 the companies involved and USV and the Academy takes
10 pride in indicating that our initial goal will be
11 achieved with Hardin Wind's deployment.

12 The long constructive dialogue, which
13 took more than eight months, with more than one wind
14 energy company regarding the lease of our 640 acres
15 has convinced my superintendent, my board, our
16 community and me that wind energy companies share a
17 desire to be responsible in resource use, effective
18 in energy production, and involved in community and
19 educational activities.

20 In particular Invenergy, a/k/a Hardin
21 Wind Energy, has proven to district personnel and the
22 county that although they are in business to make a
23 profit, they are open, fair, dedicated to the need
24 and value of alternative energy, responsible
25 protectors of the environment and the agricultural

1 land our district and county hold so dear, and
2 flexible in their planning and development.

3 Naz, as we affectionately dubbed him,
4 from Hardin Wind has become an honorary member of the
5 USV and Academy staff and friend to our programs. He
6 was not hesitant to make a trip from the DC area to
7 McGuffey to make a three-hour presentation to a
8 curriculum test group at our academy in November.
9 This test group is a class of unemployed adults
10 referred to the academy by Mr. Norman and his staff
11 at Hardin County Department of Job and Family
12 Services to give them advanced realtime training
13 which will hopefully provide them a tie to potential
14 jobs in the alternative and renewable energy arena.

15 The academy is committed to helping our
16 residents reach employment and educational goals. As
17 one of our collaborative partners Hardin Wind has
18 committed their knowledge and resources to this
19 pursuit as well. Due to short- and long-term
20 financial, social, economic, and educational
21 advantages provided by the deployment of the
22 300-megawatt Hardin Energy project I, on behalf of
23 the board, the superintendent, and staff and students
24 of Upper Scioto Schools and the Upper Scioto Valley
25 Wind/Energy Academy wholeheartedly support this

1 application and request that your Honors provide this
2 strong support back to the board. Thank you very
3 much.

4 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

5 Mr. Potter.

6 - - -

7 GERALD POTTER

8 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
9 testified as follows:

10 DIRECT TESTIMONY

11 MR. POTTER: My name is Gerald Potter. I
12 live at 7881 County Road 95, Ada, Ohio 45810. I'm a
13 resident of Cessna Township, Hardin County, Ohio. My
14 family settled in Cessna Township in 1847 and we have
15 lived and farmed there continuously since that time.

16 By erecting wind turbines in Hardin
17 County we will become part of Governor Strickland's
18 initiative as addressed in Senate Bill 221 requiring
19 a renewable energy initiative by 2025 and requiring
20 that 12-1/2 percent of that energy be produced
21 locally in Ohio-based facilities. This is something
22 that will have a long-term effect on our own county
23 and also the entire state of Ohio.

24 The installation of wind turbines in the
25 Hardin County area is a step forward in the economics

1 of the county. We have the products needed to make
2 this an effective addition to our county. The
3 requirements set forth in House Bill 562 will protect
4 both the landowners and the developers along with the
5 residents of the affected development areas.

6 The continuous wind is a big factor and
7 access to the electrical grid, also the willingness
8 of the residents in the county to participate in the
9 program is a great message to send to the companies
10 seeking to move into Hardin County.

11 As a former commissioner, I was in office
12 when the wind turbine program first was introduced to
13 the county. The acceptance on the part of the
14 residents was overwhelming, in fact, most of the
15 people affected seemed to be very willing to see the
16 wind farms develop in Hardin County. The economic
17 factor will be a benefit to the county. Payments to
18 the landowners for options and leases will have
19 trickle-down effect throughout the entire area.

20 Because our county is an agricultural
21 area the impact on farmland will not be a huge factor
22 once the turbines are in place because farming can
23 continue with very little disruption where the wind
24 turbines will be erected. The erection of the wind
25 turbines could certainly allow many landowners to

1 continue their farming operations because they will
2 be receiving lease income in addition to their farm
3 income; this is especially important in years that
4 prices are low or the weather has adversely impacted
5 crop yields.

6 I feel that the Hardin Wind Energy will
7 be providing a valuable contribution to the economic
8 and ecological well-being of Hardin County and the
9 entire state. Yes, I am in favor of this project.
10 Thank you very much.

11 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

12 Carter Cavalier.

13 - - -

14 CARTER CAVALIER

15 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
16 testified as follows:

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 MR. CAVALIER: My name is Carter
19 Cavalier. I live at 12287 Pamela Drive, Kenton,
20 Ohio.

21 All of the benefits of this has been
22 covered. There's no question about the economy, the
23 benefits there. We've got attorneys and engineers
24 and lawyers to make this thing right, so I have no
25 question about doing right.

1 I'm a private citizen. I'm a retired
2 business owner. I've been in Hardin County for 40
3 years this year. I've been in business in Hardin
4 County for 38 of those 40 years.

5 The only thing that I could add to this
6 hearing is I've been to one of these things and I
7 know a lot of you haven't. Donna and I travel up by
8 I-35 occasionally and from just west of DesMoines,
9 Iowa, up toward Minneapolis there is a development
10 that runs for probably a hundred miles.

11 This year we decided to get close to them
12 so we went off the interstate down a road, a county
13 road and so forth, and drove out in a cornfield
14 underneath one, and I stood there and looked up at
15 it, you know. And it makes a noise, but it makes
16 less noise than the ocean, and we all go to the
17 beach, you know. We drove about 200 yards from it
18 and I shut the engine off and got out again and I
19 couldn't hear it. So that kind of addresses that
20 issue.

21 I've also read in the paper -- all I know
22 is what I get out of the paper. I'm not involved
23 with this thing. I'm just a private citizen. They
24 said birds run into them. Well, I can tell you there
25 weren't any dead birds under this thing.

1 The road going back to the windmills I
2 would guess was about six rows of corn wide, and if I
3 remember right, six rows of corn wide and a half a
4 mile is a half acre, and in this particular case
5 there were two windmills on this road.

6 The stone pad where the windmill sits was
7 probably 80-foot square, maybe. It was larger than
8 50 but less than a hundred. Well-kept. And as we
9 drove back, two people couldn't -- you couldn't meet
10 anybody and pass on this road going back. If two
11 cars met, one of them had to back up. I mean, that's
12 how much land they're taking. It isn't much. I
13 would say as we drove down the middle of the stone
14 road there was probably four feet on each side of my
15 car, something like that.

16 We believe in this project, my wife and
17 I, Donna. We think it's a small step towards saving
18 our planet. We think that we -- as I read in the
19 paper, this whole thing in the county, which is
20 another farm I understand, will provide electricity
21 for about 75,000 homes without burning a pound of
22 coal or a gallon of oil. That's something. We're
23 for it.

24 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

25 John Stambaugh.

1 JOHN STAMBAUGH

2 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
3 testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 MR. STAMBAUGH: I'm John Stambaugh, and
6 my wife and I have traveled here from our home
7 tonight in Bend, Oregon, and I want to speak in favor
8 of this project.

9 I speak tonight both as a partner in a
10 family partnership and as a trustee in the Jennings
11 Stambaugh Trust. Together we own over 1,100 acres
12 out on the Scioto Marsh, and last year, after
13 weighing proposals from four different developers, we
14 signed lease agreements with Hardin Wind Energy.

15 Since then I've maintained a close
16 relationship with Hardin Wind and have closely
17 followed the certification process by going out onto
18 internet and seeing all the different things that are
19 out there; that's very good, I like that.

20 Our family has been farming in this area
21 for quite a while. My great-grandfather was John B.
22 Stambaugh, and he came here in 1888 and was an onion
23 grower when McGuffey was the Onion Capital of the
24 world. He was also the committee chairman who
25 oversaw the building of this courthouse and, by the

1 way, brought that in under budget.

2 My grandfather Jennings was also an onion
3 grower, and you can go out on the internet these days
4 and Google in his name there and you can see some of
5 his experiences when he was a farmer during the great
6 depression. My dad John, he grew potatoes out on
7 fields for over 40 years.

8 Tonight I want to make three points:
9 One, this is the right project; two; this is the
10 right developer; and three, I've got a few little
11 questions and concerns though about the process that
12 we're all following here. Maybe I don't quite
13 understand it in some respects.

14 First, this 300-megawatt project
15 involving 200 turbines spread across 20,000 acres is
16 the right project for both the state of Ohio and
17 Hardin County.

18 In 2008 the Ohio Senate unanimously
19 adopted the renewable portfolio standard with a
20 requirement to generate 12-1/2 percent of the state's
21 electricity from renewable sources by 2025. The
22 project proposed by Hardin Wind Energy is an ideal
23 solution to this requirement.

24 If you look at the wind map for the
25 state, you'll see that McGuffey is centrally located

1 in a small area where wind speeds reach their maximum
2 throughout the entire state. It's also fortuitous
3 that high power transmission lines that are needed to
4 deliver this energy run right through the project
5 area.

6 Being an agricultural area it is sparsely
7 populated which will allow the windmills or the
8 turbines to be well offset from residences. And a
9 wind project, as opposed to solar, can have a very
10 light footprint on the land.

11 The magnitude of the project will broaden
12 the economic base of the county and result in
13 significant new tax revenues. It will provide much
14 needed long-term employment opportunities in an
15 expanding technology sector.

16 And for landowners, leases will result in
17 additional income to supplement that from farming.
18 This will provide a strong incentive, and I can say
19 this for my family, to preserve some of the best
20 farmland in the country for agriculture.

21 In short, this project, I believe, has so
22 many positive attributes that it represents an ideal
23 starting point for Ohio to meet its RPS goals. In
24 fact, in my opinion, if they can't do this project,
25 I'm not sure they're ever going to be able to meet

1 the goals.

2 Second, Hardin Wind Energy is the right
3 company to complete this project. I believe that
4 because I evaluated proposals from at least four
5 different developers before I made a decision on who
6 to go with. In the end it came down to two, and I
7 performed a trade-off based on various criteria
8 including the terms of the lease and the records of
9 past accomplishments. At the end of the day Hardin
10 Wind Energy and its parent organization, Invenergy,
11 were the winners in my competition hands down.

12 At that time Invenergy had already
13 brought 18 wind projects totaling 1,700 megawatts of
14 power on line. I was particularly concerned about
15 their experience in siting facilities in areas where
16 farms have smaller acreages, such as here.

17 Invenergy provided me with a layout for
18 their Grand Ridge facility in Illinois. The pattern
19 of the fields there look very similar to what you're
20 going to see in McGuffey. It was evident to me that
21 Invenergy had worked closely with landowners to site
22 turbines and access roads in a manner to minimize the
23 impact on farm operations; that was very important to
24 us in making our decision.

25 Now I'll get to my concerns here. Hardin

1 Wind has provided a siting plan as part of its
2 application for certification. I downloaded part of
3 the plan that pertained to our acreage from the
4 internet and I spent some time reviewing it. I
5 consider that a reasonable preliminary plan.

6 However, I believe some of that plan
7 needs a little fine-tuning during the final design to
8 make sure it minimizes the impact on our farm
9 operation. Let me give an example. The preliminary
10 plan shows two turbines in a 300-acre field where
11 carrots and corn are grown, however, we also have an
12 irrigation pivot in that field, which those turbines
13 would interfere with their operation. So we need to
14 work with Hardin Wind to resite those two turbines.

15 I've talked to Hardin Wind about this;
16 they're totally willing to do that. As a matter of
17 fact, I've already had a web conference with their
18 project engineer, Jim, who was introduced to us
19 previously. He's worked with me and we've revised
20 the plan already to incorporate my suggestions.

21 As a matter of fact, we even worked a
22 little bit more and we managed to eliminate 700 feet
23 of access roads across one of our fields in McDonald
24 Township, but this needs to get into the final
25 design.

1 Hardin Wind has documented their
2 contractual obligation to meet -- to obtain mutual
3 agreement with landowners on the siting of these
4 things in the interrogatories that were submitted to
5 the Board. It is my strong desire that the state's
6 processes will allow us to do this.

7 However, after I made inquiries with the
8 Board, I still had some trouble verifying that their
9 processes would allow us to do these resitings during
10 the final design. It was uncertain exactly how that
11 process was going to work.

12 And I'm also concerned because the Staff
13 Report doesn't really address this issue when you
14 read that, that landowners should have, you know,
15 come to a mutual agreement with the developer on the
16 siting of some of these things, turbines, access
17 roads, substations, cabling, as part of the final
18 design.

19 And I think maybe this is, to my mind I
20 thought, well, maybe that happens because a wind
21 facility is a little different than things that have
22 been sited by the power board in the past. This is
23 geographically distributed whereas maybe a coal plant
24 or something like that is, you know, is very site
25 specific. So processes that worked well in the past,

1 you know, that have been exercised in the past may
2 not work exactly the same with the wind facility.

3 I continue to look forward to seeing some
4 written confirmation from the Board that their
5 processes will support cooperation between the
6 developer and landowners during the final design
7 phase to implement these changes that will allow --
8 minimize the impact of the facility on the farming
9 operation.

10 Finally, I hope that Hardin Wind Energy,
11 the community, the Board, and the state of Ohio are
12 going to all work together to see this project
13 through to operational status next year. I think
14 this is a test for all of us on whether we're really
15 serious about meeting our own renewable energy
16 requirements. Thank you.

17 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you very much.

18 Mr. Lowery.

19 - - -

20 MARK LOWERY

21 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
22 testified as follows:

23 DIRECT TESTIMONY

24 MR. LOWERY: Your Honor, my name is Mark
25 Lowery. I reside at 0481 Township Road 110, Alger,

1 Ohio. I'm the oldest son of Steve and Madelyn
2 Lowery. On their behalf I'm representing my parents
3 today due to they are on vacation in Florida; it's a
4 little warmer there.

5 Our family and I have been a lifelong
6 Hardin County resident. The 79-acre family farm,
7 located in Cessna Township that my parents own and
8 where I was born and raised has been in the family
9 since the early 1900s, spanning five generations.
10 Farms in Hardin County area are owned and operated by
11 families that were established several generations
12 ago.

13 Invenergy has a long-term perspective on
14 projects and has a proactive approach to building
15 strong relationships with local area landowners.
16 Hardin Wind, LLC understands that the projects are
17 based on a partnership with landowners and their
18 land. Just like farmers across Hardin County, they
19 pride themselves in being responsible stewards of the
20 land.

21 During my work experience working on
22 these family farms and working for the Hardin Soil
23 and Water Conservation District as a district
24 technician for the last 15 years, I have witnessed
25 and know that these family farms in Hardin County are

1 the economic engine and tax structure of our local
2 community. During the past 10 to 15 years it has
3 been very important to diversify our family farm
4 income to survive by either having a person within
5 the family obtain an outside job or new means of
6 income for the farm.

7 This project can do that by providing a
8 significant impact to the community through
9 approximately 20,000 acres of leased private land
10 payments which will provide an additional revenue
11 source for the participating landowners. This extra
12 income source has the potential to assist the local
13 community through increased spending from the
14 landowners.

15 Also, there is a possibility that local
16 manufacturing in the county are looking into
17 providing parts and services for renewable energy and
18 technology. This supply and service could lead to
19 more local jobs and other economic endeavors for
20 people living in our county.

21 The facilities' impact on the viability
22 of agricultural land and the construction related
23 activities around that wind turbine can lead to
24 temporary reductions in farm productivity caused by
25 soil compaction, broken drainage tiles, and direct

1 crop damage. However, Hardin Wind, LLC intends to
2 take these steps in order to address such impacts to
3 farmland including repairing or replacing damaged
4 drainage tiles to landowners' satisfaction and the
5 decompaction and rock picking prior to resspreading of
6 the topsoil.

7 Hardin Wind, LLC would reimburse any
8 additional crop damaged by construction activities to
9 the landowner, and also Hardin Wind, LLC shall employ
10 the best management practices to maintain erosion,
11 dust, and settlement control measures within several
12 state agencies including Ohio EPA, Department of
13 Agricultural, and the Natural Resources. This is
14 another fine example on how they pride themselves of
15 being responsible stewards of the land.

16 My family and myself are in favor of this
17 project, and I thank you for listening to my
18 testimony.

19 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

20 Mr. Rohrs.

21 - - -

22 JOHN ROHRS

23 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
24 testified as follows:

25 DIRECT TESTIMONY

1 MR. ROHRS: My name is John Rohrs. I'm
2 an area farmer at McGuffey area. I live at 820
3 Courtright Street, McGuffey, Ohio.

4 I guess I want to give our aspects of it.
5 I met with Naz way back when, probably a year and a
6 half ago. We've had ten different companies --
7 proposed wind companies come into our office to
8 propose to build a wind farm. Through many
9 negotiations, like Steve said earlier there,
10 Invenergy at the time, bar none, was the best company
11 to go with, provided -- they answered all the
12 questions we had, we ran into a few roadblocks here
13 and there, and at the day's end we feel we all
14 arrived at a good, comparable contract.

15 The things to show how we are supportive
16 of the wind farm, if this wind project, which
17 hopefully does go through, in the year 2011 I will
18 farm around 35 wind turbines from Hardin Wind
19 company. That doesn't count the ones that we would
20 probably farm around in northern Hardin County if
21 that wind farm goes through.

22 First and foremost, I'm a farmer. That's
23 all I really want to do in life is farm. And the
24 money that we would generate from the wind turbines
25 is a good thing, but the fact that the renewable

1 sources of energy, clean energy, everything that was
2 discussed earlier are the benefits that outweigh me
3 having to plant around wind turbines.

4 Steve took a little bit and answered most
5 of the, or presented most of the questions I had also
6 about the siting and how you guys have that. In our
7 contract we have with Wind Energy we feel very
8 confident in that, on the siting of each individual
9 turbine, the siting of the roads, the cabling and
10 everything. If the contract is abided by the way
11 it's written, there is no issue; it works out fine.

12 The question arises, as Steve presented,
13 is how do you guys as a Siting Board present that.
14 Is that what was put out on the internet which was
15 the preliminary in here? If that's set in stone, you
16 know, then it doesn't fly. Then it creates a few
17 issues.

18 If the micrositing comes in like we have
19 in the contract where we have mutual agreements that
20 you guys approve the project, we tweak each turbine,
21 put them exactly where they need to be, I think this
22 could be probably one of the best in the area. I
23 mean, I'm talking Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

24 I've been to farms in Indiana, Illinois,
25 and Wisconsin, and the farmers in that area do not

1 even remotely have the information that we have now,
2 the quality of company that we've had to deal with
3 where there hasn't been any backdoor deals, where
4 there hasn't been anything shady nor anything,
5 everybody's been forthright all the way along. So,
6 you know, our family's in favor of it. I guess
7 that's it.

8 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

9 Chris Richards.

10 - - -

11 CHRIS RICHARDS

12 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
13 testified as follows:

14 DIRECT TESTIMONY

15 MR. RICHARDS: My name is Chris Richards.
16 I'm the general manager of Golden Giant, Inc. located
17 at 13300 South Vision Drive, Kenton, Ohio.

18 Golden, you know, is in the business of
19 designing, fabricating, and erecting steel buildings.
20 We employ, during our peak operation cycle, 35 to 40
21 employees here in the county. We've been in business
22 since 1971. We/I are in support of the wind energy
23 project because I believe it will have a positive
24 impact on the local landowners, it will have a net
25 positive impact on the environment, considering how

1 we produce electricity today here in the United
2 States, but more importantly here in the midwest.

3 Hardin County, as many of you know, has
4 not kept up with other counties from an economic
5 development perspective. In fact, we've probably
6 been low to no growth over the years that I've been
7 working in the county. I think this project gives us
8 a chance to be associated with a project that has a
9 positive impact on the community versus other type of
10 economic development projects that you see in other
11 low to no growth counties around the state. So I
12 think this is a positive impact on the county as far
13 as the positive attributes it brings.

14 Hardin Wind Energy will create a few
15 related jobs for the long-term and will hopefully
16 create various opportunities for local qualified
17 subcontractors. There are many qualified
18 subcontractors in the Hardin County area that some of
19 you have already talked about that can provide
20 services to this project.

21 I think the project will potentially --
22 there's been four or five of you say that you've
23 traveled out to see other projects. Well, I haven't
24 done it by car. I had the opportunity to buzz a wind
25 farm down in south Texas about two months ago in an

1 airplane, and it's quite impressive.

2 And if you think about it, if you're
3 going to drive to Illinois and you're going to drive
4 to Wisconsin and Indiana to look at a windmill, I
5 think there will be some people out of Columbus and
6 out of Cleveland come to Kenton, Ohio, and look at
7 the windmill projects. I think that's positive.
8 Let's hope some of them stay and bring their money
9 with them.

10 It's kind of hard to sum up, but we
11 talked about the toy gun here in Kenton, Ohio,
12 earlier this evening. From my perspective, Hardin
13 County being associated with a high-tech, leading
14 technology, high-growth portion of the economy has to
15 be a net positive for everyone in Hardin County.

16 There's a lot of leading-edge technology
17 from the companies like General Electric you read out
18 there, most of you have seen on the internet, and I
19 can't help but think that is going to be a positive
20 and there will be some trickle-down effects. One of
21 the trickle-down effects I'd really like to see is
22 the farmers make more money and hopefully they buy
23 more steel buildings from Golden Giant.

24 So you can't underestimate the impact
25 that agriculture has had on Hardin County over the

1 years and still does and, again, I think this will be
2 a nice complement with, you know, one of the oldest
3 industries in America matching up with one of the
4 newest high-tech industries in America. Thank you.

5 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

6 Tim Scarbrough.

7 - - -

8 TIM SCARBROUGH

9 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
10 testified as follows:

11 DIRECT TESTIMONY

12 MR. SCARBROUGH: My name is Tim
13 Scarborough. I live at 2790 Alliston Court in
14 Columbus, Ohio. My wife and I are local landowners
15 and we're speaking in support of the Hardin Wind
16 Energy project.

17 Many people have mentioned the economic
18 benefits to the state and local community. Ohio Wind
19 Working Group, which is a consortium of both public
20 and private individuals, reported that in 2006
21 \$250 million of revenue was brought into the state
22 and 1,700 direct and indirect jobs were created by
23 wind, and if projects such as this one go forward,
24 they estimate by 2030 that could rise to \$7.6 billion
25 with a commensurate increase in jobs which in a state

1 such as Ohio is critically important given our recent
2 economic problems.

3 A project such as this would also give
4 immediate economic help to this area. They mentioned
5 the construction and building, all that money would
6 go into the local economy. It would also increase
7 the tax base, that's been touched upon.

8 One county in Colorado saw a 29 percent
9 increase in their tax base when 180 wind turbines
10 were constructed in that county, given it might have
11 been a little more rural than this county, but it was
12 still very significant, and that would be a
13 tremendous benefit to the schools which were also
14 touched upon.

15 For all of these and many other things I
16 think we feel it would be a very good project, but in
17 addition everybody has a responsibility to find a
18 practical solution for clean renewable energy and
19 help provide a secure future for our country, our
20 state, and ultimately for our children. I think this
21 is one step toward that. It's one part of the
22 equation, and we're very excited about it, and we
23 hope the project goes. Thank you.

24 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you very much.

25 Ed Rogers.

1 ED ROGERS

2 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
3 testified as follows:

4 DIRECT TESTIMONY

5 MR. ROGERS: What a big group of people.
6 I tell you, he had to swear me in, but there's three
7 of my school teachers right here in this crowd, so if
8 I lie, buddy, they're going to stand up and walk me
9 hard.

10 Hardin County, a great place to call
11 home. I've lived here for 39 years. We have the
12 best group of farmers in this county in the state of
13 Ohio, maybe even the world, and there's nothing that
14 I would enjoy more than to support those farmers, and
15 I do. It's wind that affects me.

16 I don't know whether any of you know this
17 or not, and I would like to make sure that these guys
18 up here investigate it because, now, this will hurt
19 some of your feelings, but the greatest farmer in
20 Hardin County is my uncle, Don Wilcox.

21 FROM THE FLOOR: I just saw him today.

22 MR. ROGERS: He is a good man. And let
23 me tell you, he's getting one of these and his family
24 are getting these on his farm. And what you do with
25 your land, you do with what you want to, but when it

1 affects me on my land -- and I've been reading some
2 of the things, and I hope they're not true, at a
3 thousand feet it's 40 decibels at 10 miles an hour
4 wind. So you'll hear this whoop, whoop.

5 Now, you might have seen it on the
6 internet, I don't know, You Tube it, I'm not sure how
7 far away I am, but I would just like these guys to
8 make sure, because if I read the report right -- and
9 you can get this so nicely on the internet from PUCO,
10 it's 1 through 70, it's called Responses to Data
11 Requests and Interrogatories, big name, read it and
12 maybe if you live by one, it's got the printout of
13 the decibel levels.

14 Now, I'm just a dumb school teacher. No
15 offense to my three very intelligent school teachers.
16 Forty decibels, I didn't know what that meant at a
17 thousand feet, so I looked it up. What's 40
18 decibels? It said that leaves blowing is
19 10 decibels. A noisy classroom or a noisy office is
20 almost 50. So my questions, and why we need to go
21 cautiously into this, because I plan on living here
22 the rest of my life -- and I think that they're
23 beautiful. I think anything that distant is
24 beautiful.

25 I think the GE website said that there is

1 no sound at 1.6 miles. I'm not sure. It might not
2 have been the GE website. I've looked at so much
3 stuff on the internet because I think everybody in
4 America should be informed until they make a
5 decision, and it's one of those decisions that your
6 rights end at my nose; that's what you learn in
7 school, right?

8 So if it doesn't affect me on my farm or
9 my little seven acres, I think they're wonderful. I
10 support them wholeheartedly. When it affects my tax
11 base negatively or if these guys come in and in eight
12 years they're gone, much like the cap gun building,
13 what do we do with them? Shouldn't we set aside
14 money like Wyandot County did for their 88-acre solar
15 farm so if the solar farm goes belly-up, there's that
16 money to tear these things down?

17 And maybe at that point in ten years
18 they'll get that semiconductor thing underneath
19 Switzerland going and people will look back on the
20 wind farm like that movie from Disney, Wall-E, right?
21 You ever see that movie? You see the wind farms
22 still turning, hasn't been humans on earth for like
23 600 years. So caution when we go in. Caution.

24 What about the airport? Will we be able
25 to extend the runway of the airport to take on more

1 industry? I heard that they even want to do away
2 with one approach to the airport. And I don't mean
3 to be the naysayer, television reception, in here
4 said it won't be -- you will not lose all of your
5 television reception. What do you mean you won't
6 lose it all? How much am I going to lose? I can't
7 afford cable. And if it wasn't a problem, they have
8 a mitigation plan about when you do lose television.

9 There's microwave interference. Now, for
10 those of you that may not be as astute on microwaves,
11 you're like, Well, I can still pop my popcorn.
12 You're right. But what about that cell phone that
13 everybody uses? How will it affect Life Flight
14 flying through our county? If it's foggy out and my
15 kid has a wreck, will Life Flight still get through,
16 because those same microwaves affect the radar,
17 right? I mean, you might be able to say, well, they
18 might be able to fly.

19 And I might have lost most of you on that
20 because I think I'm about the only one that maybe is
21 pointing out some negative aspects of it, which I
22 think we're here for, right?

23 Where's Kritzler? Great farmer, but let
24 me bring up something Mr. Kritzler said. He said
25 we've used wind forever. We've pumped water. Think

1 of this, and I can remember those things, it seemed
2 like when you had to go water the cattle and it was
3 your turn, no wind.

4 How did you do it, Mr. Kritzler?

5 MR. KRITZLER: By hand.

6 MR. ROGERS: By hand. I mean, wind is
7 not always the answer. Solar is not always the
8 answer. And if we trade the positiveness of our
9 future carelessly in Hardin County, will we attract
10 more people to live here or will we get more crud and
11 crap thrown from Marion County and Wyandot County to
12 live here? I mean, this is our homes.

13 These guys, I think he'll go back to
14 Washington, DC. These other fellows and ladies, I'm
15 not sure where they'll go back. But I support
16 farmers wholeheartedly, but when it affects me on my
17 property, I mean that's America, right? You have
18 private property rights and so do I.

19 And Mr. Commissioner back there who said,
20 well, it's like having an oak tree in the middle of
21 your field. The oak tree never went whoop, whoop,
22 whoop at midnight depending on how close you live to
23 one of their windmills, right?

24 And I think it's wonderful. I think
25 Invenergy, we've heard all the positive aspects of

1 it, but research it. I mean, if you're having one by
2 your property -- and I love my uncle and I love his
3 family, I love that they're getting one, I just
4 thought that maybe we should consider the negative
5 aspects of the microwave, TV, AM and FM they said
6 will be affected, and I'm not sure how they'll be
7 affected. I've never lived beside one; I'm not sure
8 whether any of these fellows or ladies have.

9 But it's a permanent thing and we should
10 press our commissioners into allowing these nice
11 folks to set aside the money to tear them down if
12 they go belly-up or we'll have another cap gun
13 warehouse like on the south side of town. Eyesore,
14 right?

15 That's all I got, folks. Usually I talk
16 till a bell rings or the kids say Ah, we're done, and
17 start closing their books, but maybe the best place
18 to put one of the wind farms, I know this guy left,
19 is down at the capitol building in Columbus because
20 there's a lot of hot air that blows through there.
21 But thank you.

22 ALJ HUSSEY: Thank you.

23 That concludes our list of individuals
24 who signed up to testify. Is there anyone else that
25 would care to testify this evening?

1 Okay. I would encourage any company
2 employees to stick around for a bit after the hearing
3 in case there are any questions on the amended
4 application.

5 With that, this evening's hearing will be
6 adjourned. We'll take up the adjudicatory hearing in
7 this matter on Tuesday, January 12th, 2010, at the
8 offices of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.
9 Thank you very much.

10 (The hearing concluded at 7:14 p.m.)

11 - - -

CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Maria DiPaolo Jones, Registered
Diplomate Reporter and CRR and
Notary Public in and for the
State of Ohio.

My commission expires June 19, 2011.

(MDJ-3487)

- - -

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Case No(s). 09-0479-EL-BGN

Summary: Transcript Transcript for Hardin Wind Energy hearing held on 01/05/10.
electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Jones,
Maria DiPaolo Mrs.