

BEFORE THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Heartland :
Wind, LLC for a :
Certificate to Site a :
Wind-Powered Electric : Case No. 09-1066-EL-BGN
Generation Facility in :
the Counties of Van Wert :
and Paulding, Ohio. :

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PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. Jay Agranoff and Mr. L. Douglas Jennings,
Administrative Law Judges, at Lincolnview Local
Schools, 15945 Middle Point Road, Van Wert, Ohio at
5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 8, 2010.

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PUBLIC HEARING

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On behalf of Heartland Wind, LLC.

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Thursday Evening Session,
July 8, 2010.

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ALJ AGRANOFF: The Ohio Power Siting Board has assigned for public hearing at this time and place case number 09-1066-EL-BGN, In the Matter of the Application of Heartland Wind, LLC for a Certificate to Site Wind Powered Electric Generating Facilities in Van Wert and Paulding Counties, Ohio.

My name is Jay Agranoff, with me is Douglas Jennings, and we are the administrative law judges with the Board and we will be conducting this hearing. At this point in time we will take the appearances on behalf of the parties. On behalf of the applicant.

MS. BLOOMFIELD: On behalf of the applicant, the law firm of Bricker & Eckler, 100 South Third Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 by Sally W. Bloomfield and Matthew W. Warnock.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Now I know that in this case we do have one intervenor, it's the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, and are they in attendance?

MR. ARNOLD: Thank you, your Honor. My name is Dale Arnold, I'm Director of Energy Services

1 for the Ohio Farm Bureau in Columbus, Ohio. We're
2 here to observe this evening. Thank you.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And I just
4 want the record to clarify that, Mr. Arnold, you are
5 not an attorney.

6 MR. ARNOLD: That is correct, I am not an
7 attorney.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. The local hearing
9 that we're holding tonight is only one aspect of the
10 application process. We will also be holding an
11 evidentiary hearing which is scheduled for next
12 Thursday, July 15th, 2010, at the offices of the
13 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. We are located
14 in downtown Columbus, 180 East Broad Street. If
15 anyone has questions about the evidentiary hearing, I
16 would be more than happy to answer those questions at
17 the end of tonight's proceedings.

18 When you arrived, as I mentioned before,
19 you were given the opportunity to sign a piece of
20 paper stating that you would like to testify this
21 evening. If you signed up to testify, when I call
22 your name, if you decide that you would not like to
23 testify, you can simply indicate as such and we will
24 just move on to the next witness.

25 If you did not get a chance to testify or

1 if you did not get to sign up but you would like to
2 provide some input as to the proposed application,
3 you can certainly let me know and I will give you the
4 opportunity to speak after everybody else that's
5 signed up has had the chance to speak.

6 At this point in time we're going to call
7 the first witness who, as I mentioned before, was
8 Mr. McMillen, and if he could please come forward.

9 There you are. Please raise your right
10 hand, sir.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
13 please state your full name.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, G. Kent McMillen. I'm
15 a local citizen with no vested interest in any wind
16 farming company, but I am interested in wind energy.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please give your address,
18 sir.

19 THE WITNESS: 838 Prospect Avenue,
20 Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

21 I apologize for not having a microphone
22 here, I don't have a real strong voice, but if
23 anybody can't hear, please just let me know and I'll
24 try to do better.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: If I can just ask one

1 other clarifying question. Do you reside within the
2 proposed construction site?

3 THE WITNESS: No, not within the proposed
4 site. I reside in the city of Van Wert.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

6 ALJ JENNINGS: Mr. McMillen, can you
7 project a little more. They can't hear you in the
8 back.

9 THE WITNESS: Okay.

10 - - -

11 G. KENT McMILLEN

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

14 DIRECT TESTIMONY

15 THE WITNESS: I just want to say that
16 this is between a 1 and 2 billion dollar economic
17 development for our area which I don't think that we
18 can afford to pass up. I realize there's people with
19 different points of view, and I respect them, and I
20 would hope that they would respect mine also.

21 I have operated a wind system on my own
22 for a period of 12 years, commercially-made system,
23 I'm somewhat familiar with how wind works and I
24 believe it's the next big thing. 42 percent of all
25 new power coming on line in the U.S. in 2008 was

1 wind, so that tells you something.

2 Wind farming is a national security
3 issue, as many countries who we buy oil from promote
4 terrorism. Most 9/11 terrorists were from Saudi
5 Arabia.

6 A wind farm is as stirring as seeing a
7 squadron of fighter jets or watching tank maneuvers
8 in action. Many TV commercials mention wind farms as
9 backdrops to what they advertise, and for those of us
10 who are not familiar with what that is, you watch TV
11 for a few minutes and you'll probably see one.

12 While some may not be happy with wind
13 farms, it's like building a school or highway,
14 overall it is a net benefit to society. Wind farms
15 smell better than factory farms, and there seems to
16 be more local say concerning wind farms than in
17 factory farms; the experience we've had here in
18 Van Wert County.

19 And in my understanding, no property will
20 be taken by eminent domain. I've spoken with both of
21 the providers here and they've indicated that they
22 will not under any circumstances take any property by
23 eminent domain.

24 Anybody who is interested in checking out
25 a wind farm, there are several within easy driving

1 distance. One is on U.S. 6 just west of I-75 by
2 Bowling Green, and there are several machines just
3 west of Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, as
4 well as two at the McGuffey school about 20 minutes
5 southeast of that location. I was over there a week
6 or so ago and I walked right up to one of the towers,
7 and I could feel no vibration of any sort nor did I
8 hear any sound coming from them.

9 Now, the ones at McGuffey at the school,
10 there was a slight amount of sound, but it was not
11 any more annoying than a car going by.

12 The thing that makes me believe in wind,
13 it's free and forever, and no other source of energy
14 can say that. Everything else, you know, sooner or
15 later it's all used up. And building costs for wind
16 are increasing at a slower rate than costs for
17 building fossil-fuel facilities. Wind emits no acid
18 rain and generates no waste which has to be stored
19 safely for 10,000 years.

20 And we vacation in upstate New York every
21 year, and I've been up on top of Whiteface Mountain
22 and I've observed the sides of that mountain where
23 the spruce is almost gone from acid rain that was
24 generated in the Ohio Valley. We have 700-foot tall
25 stacks here that put out stuff that doesn't bother us

1 because it's up and away, but it comes to roost.

2 There's 3,000 plus sterile lakes and
3 ponds in the Adirondack Park in New York from acid
4 rain generated in the Ohio Valley.

5 Getting to direct subsidies, from 2000 to
6 2008 fossil fuels received \$72 billion in U.S. direct
7 subsidies while only 12.2 billion direct subsidies
8 for wind in the U.S. Nuclear could not operate
9 without the Price Anderson Act, which limits their
10 liability to \$10 billion per accident. Taxpayers are
11 liable for all costs above \$10 billion. And do you
12 think that we can fix what's going on in the Gulf of
13 Mexico right now for 10 billion?

14 Wind farms negotiating for local leases
15 have agreed to repair any drain tile disturbed and
16 rebuild any roads and bridges damaged during the
17 construction. Contracts also specify a bond to pay
18 for decommission at the end of useful life. Many
19 nuclear plants are not fully decommissioned though
20 shut down many years ago.

21 Wind can't supply all our electricity but
22 it can enable us to move toward ending our dependence
23 on foreign oil. Negotiations on Senate Bill 232
24 resulted in many concessions to local interests,
25 further resistance could result in loss of this large

1 economic development to other areas, states or
2 localities.

3 Vantage is teaching a wind technology
4 course, and we will soon have a supersite which, if
5 we can all dream that big, could be a place where
6 these generators that are planned to be built here
7 would be manufactured and assembled.

8 This is an opportunity for Van Wert
9 County to become a leader in alternative energy and
10 possibly create jobs in this rapidly emerging
11 industry. And as they say: Lead, follow, or get out
12 of the way. Thank you.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

14 Mr. Warren. Next would be Mr. Schaffner.
15 Please raise your right hand, sir.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please give your full name
18 for the record.

19 THE WITNESS: Good afternoon. I'm Wayne
20 L. Warren. My wife Lyn and I live at 7426 Feasby
21 Wisener Road in Union Township north of Convoy, Ohio
22 45832.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Do you reside,
24 sir, within the proposed construction zone?

25 THE WITNESS: I do.

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WAYNE L. WARREN

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

DIRECT TESTIMONY

THE WITNESS: We moved to that location
for -- about six years, having moved to this rural,
spacious, agricultural area on purpose. We traveled
around the eastern part of the United States over my
40-year career as a civil servant.

Our last post was in Washington, DC,
where I worked for 30 years and we raised our family
in the suburb, a little town called Dumfries south of
DC. It's located on the Potomac River south of DC,
and it's named after Dumfries, Scotland, the home of
one of the founding residents of that small town.

Now, the reason I tell you that, in an
early time Dumfries had a harbor that was second only
to that of New York City. The tonnage of tobacco was
both its life's blood and its future failure. After
only a short time the poor farming practices silted
in the harbor and its future was gone. I relate this
story as a lesson of short-term greed versus
long-term sustainability and quality of life; that
may come to apply to Van Wert and Paulding Counties.

As a personal disclaimer, I bring the

1 following concerns not only as a resident and
2 potential loser in this initial proposal to establish
3 a 570 turbine industrial site in this rural
4 community, but also as an environmentalist, a
5 taxpayer, and a citizen who is active in the public
6 affairs.

7 To further cite my concerns I must reveal
8 that I am now retired. My wife and I, as I said,
9 moved here on purpose from our home of 30 years in
10 Virginia to this place of security and calm with a
11 lifestyle and values that are most closely aligned
12 with those that we hold and, most important to us:
13 Unobstructed views; open scenes to the north, east,
14 south, and west; to see the sun rise and set, storm
15 clouds gather and go either north or south of the
16 ridge from U.S. 30; to experience the seasons; to be
17 closer to the rhythms of the earth, the planting,
18 growing, harvesting, and resting cycles of this
19 agricultural community.

20 I also bring a portion of professional
21 experience to this testimony. During my career I was
22 honored to serve as the director of Environmental
23 Programs for the Veterans Health Administration. I
24 did so with pride of accomplishment and have
25 environmental awards to certify that I did a good

1 job.

2 One of the biggest challenges I had to
3 face were those politically affiliated industries who
4 lobbied the Department of Veterans Affairs and my
5 office unceasingly to adopt the latest technology
6 schemes in the name of good environmentalism.

7 When we were presented with concepts that
8 were based on sound science, logic, and process, we
9 not only embraced them, but we introduced them to
10 policy and enactment. If it was not a good concept,
11 we told them why and sent them packing, not wasting
12 government resources on half-truths or bowing to
13 political influence.

14 One doesn't do this for an entire career
15 and not be able to sort out ultimate truths of a
16 proposal; therefore, after much personal
17 investigation I am of the opinion that this wind
18 generation proposal contains a lot more cons than
19 pros and a lack of science, logic, and process.

20 I realize the Ohio Power Siting Board and
21 administrative law judges' review requires more than
22 just my personal opinion, therefore, I state that the
23 proposed industry has not fully met the listed
24 criteria for the project evaluation.

25 The following points I want to make deal

specifically with the criteria and the shortcomings of the proposal. Available time prevents me from detailing all the elements of the fantasy of wind power, but I will focus on the cited purpose of this project which is to provide, and I quote, "reliably-priced, low-cost electricity" and within that, criteria 6, that the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

However, I and other local residents filed a petition of complaint to the docket of this case on June 22nd, 2010, which disputed that stated purpose and criteria has been met.

To this first point, wind-generated power is not reliably priced. The fact: Wind power is not reliably generated. Its optimum output generally does not match peak grid generation needs. As an aside, when the wind isn't blowing, those 80,000 homes don't get any electricity from that source. Therefore, its contribution to the power grid is not only unnecessary, but it actually creates inefficiencies in the baseload generators which serve to increase their emissions, increases their operating costs for those essential providers.

Secondly, wind-generated power is not low-cost electricity. The fact: When all costs are

1 considered, it is the most expensive power generated.
2 Laws requiring its mandatory purchase by each of us
3 will only serve to raise the prices for all of us,
4 the consumers.

5 Third, wind-generated power will not
6 serve the public interest. The challenges of
7 integrating such a random, intermittent, volatile,
8 and unreliable power source into an electric grid has
9 been acknowledged by the chairman of the Federal
10 Energy Regulatory Commission on January the 21st of
11 2010. His statement announced a notice of inquiry.
12 In other words, the Federal Energy Regulatory
13 Commission body is aware of the shortage of science,
14 logic, and process surrounding wind generation
15 claims.

16 This proceeding will lead to greater
17 official and media candor about the challenges of
18 integrating the output of wind farms into electric
19 grids. I include the URL for that quote in the
20 testimony, in the hard copy.

21 Therefore, what will serve the best
22 interest of the public would be for the Siting Board
23 to delay approval of this facility project until
24 those issues have been resolved at the federal level.
25 To this end I must remind the Board that their

1 purpose is to approve the siting of the facility, not
2 the economic advantages provided the company through
3 taxpayer subsidies.

4 Fourth, wind power does not serve the
5 public's convenience. Fact: To believe that
6 proximity, within the line of sight, of a wind
7 turbine does not directly and negatively correlate to
8 the loss of value, the selling price not the taxable
9 rate, of a residence would be laughable if it wasn't
10 so devastating to the property owners.

11 The truth is that anyone living within
12 line of sight of any one of these potential 570
13 generators will be negatively affected, and not just
14 from a monetary standpoint. We have some references
15 to support those observations, they're in the hard
16 copy.

17 Environmental concerns and health
18 concerns are fully discussed in the aforementioned
19 petition that we submitted to the Ohio Power Siting
20 Board and, if I can, I'd like to reiterate just a
21 couple of those life stories for you which are
22 attached as Attachment 1.

23 This is from Jon Boone, Maryland
24 environmentalist, scientist, and a writer. I quote
25 him, "For those eager to believe that massively tall

1 and lighted wind turbines won't kill migrating birds
2 of prey, songbirds, and bats, contradictory
3 information exists in Bridget Stutchbury's newly
4 published book "Silence of the Songbirds" in which
5 she details her concerns about this issue, citing,
6 among other instances, the infamous wind facility in
7 California at Altamont Pass that kills thousands of
8 birds annually.

9 In recent testimony before Congress
10 Dr. Michael Fry of the American Bird Conservancy
11 concluded that by the year 2030 as many as 1.8
12 million birds annually -- annually -- could be killed
13 by wind turbines.

14 Chandler Robbins, the dean of American
15 Ornithologists and a former colleague of Roger Tory
16 Peterson, joined Mr. Boone as an intervenor in a
17 Maryland Public Service Commission wind hearing
18 because he was concerned that building a network of
19 large turbines in western Maryland, where millions of
20 birds migrate twice annually, would result in the
21 slaughter of thousands of birds, some species of
22 which have dangerously low population levels. Those
23 sources are indicated in the hard copy.

24 As an aside, I've got a comment at this
25 point about the national reaction of late to the

1 current environmental damage of the Gulf region and
2 the concern about the loss of wildlife, specifically
3 birds. Hundreds of birds have been affected with a
4 great outpouring of offers to help with labor and
5 money to assist in their cleaning and release of this
6 wildlife; it rarely succeeds. It often fails.

7 However, there appears to be great
8 indifference at the loss of thousands and thousands
9 of the same species by the blade of a wind turbine.
10 Shortsighted? Misguided? A lack of public
11 disclosure? I think all of the above.

12 On the subject of health, Eric Rosenbloom
13 who is a Vermont writer and editor of a science
14 magazine quotes "The noise of the turbines on West
15 Virginia's Backbone Mountain have been described by a
16 resident as 'incredible.' It surprised him. It
17 sounded like airplanes or helicopters. And it
18 traveled. Sometimes you couldn't hear the sound
19 standing right under one, but you heard it 3,000
20 yards down the hill.

21 "The huge magnetized generators cannot
22 avoid producing a low-frequency hum, and the problem
23 of 100-foot rotor blades chopping through the air
24 over a hundred mile an hour is also insurmountable.

25 "A 35-meter, 115-foot blade turning at 15

1 rpm is traveling 123 miles per hour at the tip. At
 2 20 rpm, 164 miles per hour. Every time the rotor
 3 passes the tower, the compression of air produces a
 4 deep resonating thump. In addition, the difference
 5 in wind speed between the top and the bottom of the
 6 rotor creates a rhythm in the 'swishing' of the
 7 blades through the air. The sound is projected
 8 outward so it is actually fairly quiet right directly
 9 under the turbine, but further away the resulting
 10 sound, especially of several towers together, has
 11 been described to be as loud as a motorcycle; like
 12 aircraft continually passing overhead; or a brick
 13 wrapped in a towel turning in a tumbler dryer; as if
 14 someone was mixing cement in the sky; like a train
 15 that never arrives; it is a relentless rumble like
 16 unceasing thunder from an approaching storm."

17 Wind Power Company enXco's John
 18 Zimmerman, a representative of that company, admitted
 19 at a meeting in Lowell, Vermont, that, quote, "Wind
 20 turbines don't make good neighbors."

21 The penetrating low frequently aspect of
 22 the noise, the thudding vibration much like the
 23 throbbing bass of a neighboring disco, travels much
 24 further than usually measured audible noise. It may
 25 be why horses, which are completely calm around

1 traffic and heavy construction, are known to become
2 very upset when they approach wind turbines.

3 Medical cases are being examined as
4 evidence mounts that proximity, which is much further
5 away than current setbacks, causes anxiety, nausea,
6 sleep deprivation, and other systemic reactions.

7 Many other noises have been ascribed to wind
8 turbines, including an eerie screeching noise as the
9 blade and nacelle assembly turn to catch the wind.
10 That reference is included in the handout.

11 The above narrative from actual witnesses
12 is based on a much smaller generator version than
13 proposed in this subject project. The hub height
14 here is 328 feet, the rotor tip, 476 feet. The rotor
15 tip speed at rated capacity output is in excess of
16 200 mile an hour. This terrain is flat, and it is a
17 populated area.

18 Although it's primarily agricultural, it
19 is not currently an industrial area. If this project
20 is approved, it will become an industrial site, not
21 the original concept or perception of its thousands
22 of affected residents who deem that project is not a
23 public convenience.

24 It should be noted for the record that
25 even the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

acknowledges, and I quote here, "Furthermore, 'wind farms' are not welcome near residential areas, even if wind conditions may be adequate, because of the large size of the wind turbines (400-plus feet or more than 40 stories tall) because of their noise and other nuisance aspects." I include that in the URL of the quote in the written record.

As I stated before, the Board's withholding approval of this facility project until these issues have been resolved will serve to preserve the concept that the OPSB defends and supports the concept of public convenience when there is demonstrated need.

The final criteria is necessity. Fact: Wind-generated power is not a necessity, and I quote from the June 23rd Staff Report, which is available in the rear of the room, which ". . . recommends that the Board find that 4906.10(A)(1) is not applicable to this electric generating facility project." I believe that means that demonstrating the need is not applicable to the stated purpose. If that's the case, why is "necessity" specifically included in the criteria?

This unilateral recommendation raises the question as to the completeness and accuracy of the

1 scope of the stated criteria produced by the Ohio
2 Power Siting Board. Necessity, or need, is at the
3 crux of this project.

4 Fact: There exists in the Ohio electric
5 market a surplus of generated electric power. Usage
6 is down 6 percent over the last two years. Most of
7 Ohio's power comes from coal. No, and I repeat, no
8 coal plants will be eliminated by these wind
9 turbines, no gas-fired peak-load generators such as
10 the Convoy unit will be replaced by these wind
11 turbines. The only requirement is that renewable
12 energy will be utilized. The wind is not specified
13 as the sole source of renewable energy.

14 In conclusion -- and I know you're
15 happy -- I reiterate my request that this project be
16 delayed until the Federal Energy Regulatory
17 Commission renders its findings concerning the stated
18 notice of inquiry. That proceeding will lead to
19 national official and media candor about the
20 challenges of integrating output of wind farms into
21 electric grids and the facts about its true
22 cost/benefit.

23 I thank you for this opportunity to
24 reinforce the submitted petition of June the 22nd
25 and to make my findings a matter of record and

1 information to the public.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Warren. Do
3 you have an extra copy of your comments?

4 THE WITNESS: I do not. I can e-mail it
5 to you. I gave it to her.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Mr. Schaffner. And next
7 would be Elaine, I don't know whether it's pronounced
8 Siler or Siler.

9 MS. SILER: Siler.

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Siler.

11 Please raise your right hand, sir.

12 (Witness sworn.)

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please state your full
14 name.

15 THE WITNESS: My name's Milo Schaffner.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: And your address, sir.

17 THE WITNESS: 16525 Wetzel Road.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you reside within
19 the proposed construction site?

20 THE WITNESS: No.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

22 - - -

23 MILO SCHAFFNER

24 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,

25 testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

THE WITNESS: My name is Milo Schaffner, and I should say I've got a green shirt on, but I'm not with them guys, okay. We'll get that straight right from the beginning.

My wife of 45 years and I were born and raised in Hoaglin Township, Van Wert County, Ohio. I served on the Lincolnview school board for eight years, five years as president. Presently I'm serving my ninth year as Hoaglin Township trustee and third term as vice president of the Van Wert County Township Association.

Professor Michael A. Persinger, Behavioral Neuroscience Program, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, has stated comments by a wind industry-paid panel that the sound of wind turbines are an "annoyance that may be a frustrating experience for people, but it is not an adverse health effect or disease" is a classic example of the commercial tradition of paying academics from prestigious institutions to be Yes men.

As the only Canadian scientist on the Overhead Power Lines Panel for the state of New York during the 1980s, I saw the same strategy employed when concerns about 765-kilovolt Ontario-Quebec-New

1 York power lines were masked by the dismissive
2 rhetoric of profit-driven companies. However,
3 objective and balanced studies by researchers not
4 funded or connected to power companies showed the
5 complex and sometimes adverse effects of power
6 frequencies.

7 Do I need to mention the tobacco industry
8 and their denials?

9 Dr. McMurtry warned legislators in
10 Ontario of emerging health problems as early as April
11 22nd, 2009. He is one of the most prominent
12 physicians in the province. Former dean of medicine
13 at the University of Western Ontario, he became the
14 first Cameron Visiting Chair of Health Canada, a post
15 carrying the responsibility for providing policy
16 advice to the deputy minister and minister of Health
17 of Canada.

18 Dr. McMurtry states "When uncertainty
19 exists and the health and well-being of people are
20 potentially at risk, assuredly it is appropriate to
21 invoke the precautionary principle."

22 The wind industry often states that there
23 is no peer-reviewed scientific evidence indicating
24 wind turbines have an adverse effect on human health.
25 This statement is taken directly from actual

1 applications for approval to build industrial
2 turbines.

3 Health Canada disagrees. In a letter
4 dated August 6th, 2009, from Health Canada Safe
5 Environmentalist Program Allison Denning, Regional
6 Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Health Canada,
7 Atlantic Region, pointed out: Health Canada advises
8 that this statement be revised to indicate that there
9 are peer-reviewed scientific articles indicating that
10 wind turbines may have an adverse impact on human
11 health.

12 Didn't the tobacco industry say there was
13 no health problems?

14 The National Institute of Health, part of
15 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
16 warned: Wind energy will undoubtedly create noise,
17 which increases stress, which in turn increases the
18 risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer. This is
19 in "Environmental Health Perspectives," volume 116,
20 page A237-238 in 2008.

21 In 2006 the French National Academy of
22 Medicine issued a report that concludes: The harmful
23 effects of sounds related to wind turbines are
24 insufficiently assessed. The sounds emitted by the
25 blades being of low frequency, which therefore travel

1 easily and vary according to the wind, constitute a
2 permanent risk for the people exposed to them. The
3 Academy recommends halting wind turbine construction
4 closer than 1.5 kilometers from residences.

5 The June 2009 report on sleep disturbance
6 and wind turbine noise by the British physician
7 Christopher Hanning, BSc, MB, BS, MRCS, LRCP, FRCA --
8 don't ask me what all those say but he wound up with
9 an MD at the end -- provides a useful survey of
10 up-to-date evidence-based literature by a physician
11 who is more qualified than most to carry out this
12 peer review. The report can be seen in .pdf form, if
13 you want to know, I'll give you the address.

14 Dr. Hanning's credentials and experience
15 are beyond dispute. He is one of the world's
16 foremost specialists on noise, sleep disturbance, and
17 its consequent effect on health. Dr. Hanning founded
18 and ran the Leicester Sleep Disorder Service, one of
19 the longest standing and largest services in the
20 United Kingdom. The University Hospital of Leicester
21 NHS Trust named a sleep laboratory after him as a
22 mark of esteem.

23 His report concludes: In weighing the
24 evidence, I found that, on one hand, there's a large
25 number of reported cases of sleep disturbances and,

1 in some cases, ill health as a result of exposure to
2 noise from wind turbines, supported by a number of
3 research reports that tend to confirm the validity of
4 the anecdotal reports and provide a regional basis
5 for the complaints. On the other, we have badly
6 designed industry and government reports which seek
7 to show that there is no problem. I find the latter
8 unconvincing. In my expert opinion, from my
9 knowledge of sleep physiology and a review of the
10 available research, I have no doubt that wind turbine
11 noise emissions cause sleep disturbance and ill
12 health.

13 Dr. Hanning has also stated: There can
14 be no doubt that groups of industrial wind turbines,
15 which are wind farms, generate sufficient noise to
16 disturb the sleep and impair the health of those
17 living nearby.

18 Hanning emphasizes that inadequate sleep
19 has been associated not just with fatigue,
20 sleeplessness, and cognitive impairment, but also
21 with an increased risk of obesity, impaired glucose
22 tolerance, high blood pressure, heart disease,
23 cancer, and depression. Sleepy people have an
24 increased risk of road traffic accidents.

25 In Japan in February 2009 70 cases of

1 adverse health effects from wind turbines were
2 reported. The Japanese call this Wind Turbine
3 Disease. Their minister of Environment fears a
4 public health issue is investigating low-frequency
5 sound as being a concern.

6 First to report on wind turbine
7 difficulties was Dr. Amanda Harry in England. Those
8 who would dismiss the work of Dr. Harry as anecdotal
9 and of no significance do not understand the role
10 played by clinicians in our understanding of
11 pathology.

12 Dr. Pierpont's study observed the effects
13 on children, including toddlers and school -- this
14 gets to me, people -- and college-age students.
15 Changes in sleep pattern, behavior, and academic
16 performance were noted. Seven of the ten children
17 had a decline in their school performance while
18 exposed to wind turbine noise which recovered after
19 exposure ceased. In total, 20 of 34 subjects
20 reported problems with concentration or memory.

21 In March 2009 Dr. Nissenbaum of the
22 Northern Maine Medical Center presented his findings
23 to the Maine Medical Association. His study, which
24 he characterized as alarming, suggested that his
25 patients are experiencing serious health problems

1 related to shadow flicker and noise emissions from
2 the turbines near their homes. The onset of symptoms
3 all appear to coincide with the time the turbines
4 were turned on.

5 Dr. Nissenbaum has written: There are
6 many issues that need to be worked out. A moratorium
7 is logical, unless we quickly move to adopt more
8 stringent European and Australian standards.
9 Otherwise, the state's failure to act responsibly on
10 this issue is the equivalent of abandoning its
11 responsibility to protect public health which would
12 leave the people with few options other than seeking
13 remedy and redress through the courts.

14 In July of 2008 U.S. acousticians
15 Kamperman and James introduced a set of proposed
16 sound limits to prevent health risks from wind
17 turbines. I ask, have any of these recommendations
18 been considered?

19 Let me close with a conclusion from a
20 paper by Geoff Leventhall, "Infrasound from Wind
21 Turbines - Fact, Fiction, or Deception." This paper
22 was given to me by Mr. Litchfield of Iberdrola when
23 asked about wind turbine syndrome.

24 It is the swish noise on which attention
25 should be focused. In order to reduce it to obtain a

proper estimate of its affects, it will then be the responsibility of legislators to fix the criterion levels.

I in good conscience cannot stand by and let the health of our community be put in the hands of our legislators. I ask that you deny Heartland Wind's permit. Thank you.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Schaffner, does the court reporter have a copy of your testimony?

THE WITNESS: Yeah, I gave her one.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

Next is Ms. Siler. Please raise your right hand.

(Witness sworn.)

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could please state your full name.

THE WITNESS: My full name is Helen E. Siler.

ALJ AGRANOFF: And your address, please?

THE WITNESS: 716 East Ervin Road, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. And is your address located within the proposed construction site?

1 THE WITNESS: No, sir, it is not.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

3 - - -

4 HELEN E. SILER

5 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
6 testified as follows:

7 DIRECT TESTIMONY

8 THE WITNESS: I am Elaine Siler. My
9 husband George and I live in Van Wert. I'm a native
10 of Van Wert County and proud to be a native of
11 Van Wert County.

12 My grandparents purchased the farms in
13 Union Township prior to 1905; they were hardworking
14 people; they were dedicated Christian people. My
15 grandfather, in addition to being a farmer, was also
16 a school teacher. They were both very progressive in
17 their thinking and in their actions and plans for the
18 farms. They were very active members in Farm Bureau
19 and in the Grange. They learned a lot from these
20 groups and it was also a major part of their social
21 life.

22 They believed in tile drainage and that
23 was begun decades ago for their farms. They had crop
24 rotation. They believed in giving back to the land.
25 At one time they even had a Del-Co type electric

1 system in every room of their home which was
2 available to them before rural electric was
3 available. In my heart I know that my grandparents
4 believed just as strongly as I do regarding using
5 renewable energy and in particular, in this instance,
6 wind energy.

7 We have a very definite obligation to
8 ourselves, to this county and state, and to future
9 generations to provide a lean and green environment.
10 Any of you who questions the need for a green
11 environment only needs to ask a young person of 12 or
12 older if they think or feel it is important to use
13 renewable energy. No fair saying "You'll be written
14 out of the will" or "You'll be removed from the
15 family trust if you don't give the answer" -- they
16 give you the answer you want to hear.

17 Please listen to what they say. They do
18 have good answers, they do have good feelings about
19 the environment. We absolutely do not ever need
20 another oil disaster such as our southern coastal
21 states are experiencing. We don't need any more loss
22 of lives in mine disasters. We don't need to be
23 dependent upon billionaire oil barons in the Middle
24 East. We need to be totally independent of any other
25 country for our energy. We have the opportunity for

1 wind energy, it's here, it's available, and we need
2 to use it.

3 Many people resist change. Many people
4 have said that they do not wish to see the landscape
5 change due to the addition of wind turbines.
6 However, there have been changes through the decades.

7 Dirt and gravel roads became paved roads.
8 Timber was removed from woods to build the homes and
9 the barns. Woods were cleared for providing more
10 tillable acreage. Power poles were put in place when
11 rural electric became available. Telephone poles
12 were erected for communication. Land on these farms
13 has been leased to telecommunication companies for
14 their towers. And many, many parcels have been sold
15 to individual people for building homes. These
16 things are all change, they all have changed the
17 landscape, and it's called progress.

18 This is a county that has lost industries
19 and, therefore, we have many citizens who have lost
20 jobs. We need to once again become a county that is
21 progressive and economically stable. We definitely
22 need more revenue. Our townships and counties need
23 to work together to create a strong economic base and
24 a clean environment.

25 My husband George and I recently went to

1 western Indiana to see the wind farms. It really is
2 an awesome site. Hundreds of turbines. We talked to
3 many farmers and residents in those wind farm areas;
4 their responses were all positive. I didn't hear any
5 negative response. I even spoke with people who did
6 not have any turbines and they were still positive.

7 They all immediately told me -- the first
8 thing that they all told me was all their lands had
9 been restored after construction. We witnessed
10 beautiful crops growing with no irregularities in the
11 turbine areas. They were also very proud of the
12 roads and the wonderful rebuilt conditions of the
13 roads after the construction. They also told me that
14 there was always a tile drainage contractor available
15 if repairs were necessary.

16 We saw wind farms in the process of
17 construction. The roads had not been destroyed. We
18 drove on the roads. And right-of-ways to the
19 croplands were well laid out and in excellent
20 condition.

21 One man that I spoke with was actually
22 inspecting a field. He is an inspector for a seed
23 distributor. He told me that he inspects the crops,
24 he walks acres and acres and acres of land all the
25 time, and he walks around and under the turbines all

1 the time. He said there's no noise. Actually, crops
2 swinging in the breeze make more noise than a turbine
3 does.

4 We were probably the distance of a
5 football field from a turbine. He carried on a
6 normal conversation in a normal tone of voice, not
7 the way I'm having to talk right now, and there was
8 no noise.

9 He said in all the time that he walks, he
10 has never seen not one dead bird or bat or poor
11 crops. He was very alert, he was a very intelligent
12 man, and I have no reason to believe that he had any
13 bodily injury or brain damage from being near the
14 turbines.

15 Perhaps you who have doubts regarding the
16 wind farm project need to drive to these wind farm
17 areas, talk to the people, and see the turbines and
18 begin to understand this is a good thing.

19 It is my understanding that some of the
20 school systems require their power usage be a credit
21 from the wind energy and because of that they
22 received federal funds, not state or local funds, but
23 federal funds because of this. It's a point that
24 would be worth checking.

25 Our county and townships need to pull

1 together. This should not be about politics,
2 reelection, giving up a few hours, not days, but
3 hours of summer vacation time to make a few phone
4 calls to be better informed. And actually appoint
5 someone to work out numbers and facts relating to
6 these funds. It must be about the present, our
7 environment, and a future for our grandchildren and
8 our descendents.

9 I hope that some day my grandchildren can
10 say "I remember when Gram showed the lease for the
11 wind turbines to us." We looked at the maps, we
12 discussed the lease, and we discussed the need for
13 renewable energy. It's been a great thing.

14 Good bless you, God bless this beautiful
15 county, our state, and our country. Thank you.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Ms. Siler,
17 does the court reporter have a copy?

18 THE WITNESS: This is what I've got, but
19 you can have it.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

21 Next, Mr. George Siler, and after
22 Mr. Siler would be Steve, I believe it's Rusk.

23 MR. SILER: I thought that was an
24 attendance sheet.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: That's okay. Are you

1 George or are you Steve?

2 MR. SILER: She said it all.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

4 Is Mr. Steve Rusk here? Please come
5 forward, sir, if you are interested in still
6 testifying.

7 And next would be Mr. Brett Heffner.

8 Please raise your right hand, sir.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
11 please state your full name, please.

12 THE WITNESS: Charles Stephen Rusk.

13 ALJ AGRANOFF: And your address?

14 THE WITNESS: 10038 Elm Sugar Road,
15 Scott, Ohio 45886.

16 ALJ AGRANOFF: And is that situated
17 within the proposed construction site?

18 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'm going to have one
19 of these things 1,500 feet from my house, so I think
20 that puts me there.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

22 - - -

23 CHARLES STEPHEN RUSK

24 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,

25 testified as follows:

DIRECT TESTIMONY

THE WITNESS: Now, I'd like to point out that there's very little democracy that's going on here. The public should have been involved in this project long before this kind of money had been spent on it.

Now, these folks are public relations specialists. It's their job to see that this goes through smoothly, so they come in here and they're telling us, well, it's for local jobs, it's for green energy, it's for all that stuff, and you brace yourself and prepare to take it on the chin for all these good things for everybody, and then they tear up the other end of you, at least that's the way it would be for some of us. And they're slick enough that most of the rest of the people around here aren't even going to notice.

We're seeing the industrialization of our community. People live out there. Now, this is the same arrangement as the energy projects in India and China, where they take the fertile properties and give them ten acres of desert instead. The only difference is we get to sit here while they degrade the properties around us.

Bottom line is this project doesn't

1 generate the millions for Iberdrola unless they can
2 evade compensating local property owners who will be
3 hurt by the project. So that's about all I have to
4 say.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. Do you
6 have an extra copy of your comments?

7 THE WITNESS: This isn't really a copy,
8 it's just some notes.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

10 Next would be Mr. Brett Heffner, and
11 after Mr. Heffner would be Mr. Phil McClure.

12 MR. HEFFNER: I am Brett Heffner and I'm
13 from Shelby, Ohio.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: I need to swear you in,
15 first.

16 MR. HEFFNER: You have to swear me in for
17 that? Okay. That's good.

18 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please raise your right
19 hand.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: If you could please state
22 your full name and address, sir.

23 - - -

24 BRETT A. HEFFNER
25 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,

1 testified as follows:

2 DIRECT TESTIMONY

3 THE WITNESS: My name is Brett A.
4 Heffner, 3429 Stein Road in Shelby, Ohio 44875,
5 e-i-e-i-o. And I am not in this project, but I'm
6 within a mile of the next project coming like Fort
7 Wayne, which is for sale, by the way, if any of you
8 would like to buy it . . . We suspect it's
9 potentially this company that may buy it, but we
10 don't know. Who are we to ask? Who are we to find
11 out?

12 Since I'm not from around here I'm going
13 to save some time. I submitted a copy of all this to
14 these folks over here. I'm in opposition, very
15 solidly in opposition, and I have a very compelling
16 argument here, but we're going to let you guys hash
17 this out; this is where you live. I have copies of
18 this and I'll be glad to give it to you. I'm going
19 to skip through the five pages and I'm going to
20 narrow it down to a paragraph.

21 When an out-of-state or out-of-country
22 company uses federal funds and state incentives to
23 buy Chinese turbines which are erected by nonlocal
24 contractors on a neighbor's land to generate
25 electricity for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, is it

1 really too much for me to ask "What's in it for us?"

2 The majority of the money that the
3 out-of-state speculators, out-of-country
4 manufacturers, and local wind farm lease signers will
5 receive has been unwillingly donated by American
6 taxpayers and electricity consumers. If the money
7 went instead to inner-city mothers, Appalachian
8 Americans, or work-visa-holding immigrants, some of
9 you folks would be the first to complain, but because
10 the money goes to people in blue suits or people with
11 nice trucks and ball caps, it's just fine.

12 I have a suggestion for the recipients of
13 this money: Get a job. This is a reverse Robin Hood
14 scheme. Robin Hood robbed from a rich government to
15 give to an oppressed peasantry. These folks rob from
16 the middle class and poor and give to the already
17 rich who, in turn, contribute to their buddies in
18 government.

19 There's much more. I appreciate your
20 time. And I have another dozen copies, I'd be glad
21 to give them out, and I'm sure it will be posted on
22 the website also. Thank you very much.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

24 Mr. McClure. And next would be
25 Mr. Langham.

1 Please raise your right hand.

2 (Witness sworn.)

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
4 please state your full name and address.

5 THE WITNESS: Full name is Phil McClure.
6 Address is 12106 Greenville Road in Van Wert, Ohio.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Are you situated within
8 the proposed construction site?

9 THE WITNESS: We own property within the
10 construction site. We live -- I currently live
11 outside of the construction site.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

13 - - -

14 PHIL McCLURE

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

17 DIRECT TESTIMONY

18 THE WITNESS: I'm not going to recite a
19 whole lot of things, I didn't prepare a lot of
20 detailed speeches here, but I just want to get up and
21 just I guess make my thoughts known. I mean, we have
22 an opportunity here for the county, an opportunity to
23 bring progress, some new industry in, some jobs, make
24 some things happen, put a couple million dollars into
25 the county coffers, which we sorely need.

1 And it's kind of like Honda, you know.
2 We built this huge megasite out here west of town
3 hoping Honda would come along or some big industry is
4 going to come in. The way the economy is and the way
5 the situation is, things like that are few and far
6 between, if ever. This is an opportunity for the
7 county, one of the few opportunities that we've seen
8 for a long time.

9 To the individual landowner, we have
10 80 acres situated just outside the city of Scott that
11 we're involved in the project. On that 1 acre of
12 ground Iberdrola is willing to pay us enough money on
13 1 acre that will approximately equal what we'll make
14 off the other 79 acres by crop sharing.

15 You know, it's a matter of greed. We can
16 sit here and say the company should pay a lot more in
17 taxes, but the problem is we stifle American
18 industry, especially small business and large
19 business. This country has regulations. We are so
20 overregulated in this country and overtaxed it's
21 unbelievable.

22 There is no way that companies can come
23 in and be competitive and provide jobs and provide
24 revenue to landowners. It's just an opportunity for
25 us. I hate to see us pass it up. And I think it's a

1 great opportunity for all the individual landowners.

2 I've lived here all my life. I've been
3 involved in farming most of my life. I think it's
4 just a real opportunity for us. And I certainly
5 agree with all of the concepts that Kent made on --
6 I've been an engineer all my life, I'm into science
7 and innovations, and I'd just like to take advantage
8 of those things.

9 And "progress" is the proper word here.
10 I mean, if we're going to make progress in this
11 county, this is a time to do it. We can argue and
12 throw mud at each other, we can do a lot of negative
13 comments, but the bottom line is the county needs to
14 pass a resolution declaring ourselves an alternative
15 energy zone and get this thing arolling.

16 And I do agree with the other comments.
17 The townships, if the money comes into the county,
18 they really need to work with the townships on how we
19 distribute this back to the schools and so on. But
20 it's an opportunity, and with enough negative
21 comments we can kill a project real easy, or we can
22 stand back and we can say let's get something done
23 and do it progressively for the whole county and move
24 forward.

25 So there's my comments. I don't have

1 anything really written down other than just a couple
2 comments I had that I wanted to make tonight.

3 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

4 Next is Mr. Langham, and after
5 Mr. Langham would be Mr. James -- is it Wiechart?
6 Wiecart? Is Mr. Wiechart here? Not here?

7 FROM THE FLOOR: He's here. He must have
8 signed the wrong paper also.

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Then after
10 Mr. Langham will be Mr. Jeff Thomas.

11 Good evening. Please raise your right
12 hand.

13 (Witness sworn.)

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
15 please state your full name and address, sir.

16 THE WITNESS: My name is Tony Langham,
17 and I represent Paulding County Economic Development.
18 My office address is 101 East Perry Street, Paulding,
19 45879. My home address is 8201 Road 192, Cecil, Ohio
20 45821.

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: And are either your home
22 or work addresses within the proposed construction
23 site?

24 THE WITNESS: No.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

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TONY LANGHAM

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

DIRECT TESTIMONY

THE WITNESS: My name is Tony Langham,
and I represent Paulding County Economic Development.
I'm here to support the creation of the Blue Creek
Wind Farm in Paulding County for the following
reasons: The project will bring additional income to
the landowners of the area; payments in lieu of taxes
will be made to Paulding County and to the local
governments' organizations, including Wayne Trace
school; there will be significant money spent during
construction and a certain number of permanent jobs
thereafter; and finally, the wind turbines will
produce renewable clean energy.

My comments are for Paulding County. I
don't intend to speak for Van Wert County, but the
meeting was held here so, of course, here I am.

That's all I have. Thank you.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Thomas. And after Mr. Thomas would
be Miss Bowen.

(Witness sworn.)

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please state

your full name and address.

THE WITNESS: My name is Jeff Thomas. I live in Tully Township at 6588 Pollock Road.

ALJ AGRANOFF: And is your residence within the proposed construction site?

THE WITNESS: Yes, it is.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

- - -

JEFF THOMAS

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

DIRECT TESTIMONY

THE WITNESS: Again, my name is Jeff Thomas. We do live in Tully Township near Convoy, all my life, along with my wife Cathy and our two sons. We are fourth-generation operators of the Lincoln Ridge Farm founded in 1919. We will soon be a century farm, and we're very proud of our heritage.

We have a 25-acre produce operation at the moment, and we also host a regional fall mum and pumpkin festival each year, I believe it's our 23rd coming up, we're also founders of the Lincoln Candle Company. All of our children are involved in our business and desire to carry the heritage of Lincoln Ridge Farms along with our three

1 grandchildren, the sixth generation.

2 I'm here to speak today in favor of the
3 Iberdrola wind energy project in both Van Wert and
4 Paulding County. My wife's mother and father, Mary
5 and Gene Rhoad, leased their farmland in neighboring
6 Paulding County to Iberdrola after much deliberation
7 with their neighbors. Gene was a very hardworking,
8 successful farmer all of his life. Unfortunately,
9 Gene passed away just this past Labor Day weekend.

10 Additionally, my father, Marlon Thomas,
11 was a retired farmer. Dad also leased his farm land
12 to Iberdrola and passed away just five weeks after
13 Gene last fall. I know both lived long, good lives
14 and gained much wisdom. They were stewards of the
15 land and passed that obligation on to our family. I
16 know both would want me to speak out in favor of this
17 project.

18 You know, as you get older I think your
19 values change. As a youngster it's about school and
20 all the activities. Then you focus your attention on
21 college and a potential career. Then it's about a
22 job and family. And then, finally, it's about making
23 things better for your family and community. It's my
24 opinion that the wind energy project offers more good
25 for the community than any potential bad. Having

1 personally observed a wind turbine farm along
2 Interstate 80 in Iowa just this past fall, I do not
3 find them objectionable.

4 Additionally, they will convey a positive
5 image along Route 30 as folks travel into Van Wert
6 County. Their existence speaks progress so
7 desperately needed in our community.

8 Noise levels, I've learned, are managed
9 by avoiding high turbine speed and careful placement
10 of all turbines ensuring adequate setbacks from
11 neighboring homes, and there's no smell or dust
12 associated with wind energy.

13 In our family's case we have leased our
14 wind rights to Iberdrola. Our family has had much
15 experience with change and large projects in the past
16 including the loss of 12 acres from the farm when
17 U.S. Route 30 bypass was constructed in 1961, an
18 overpass was constructed on the farm, a quarter mile
19 long temporary highway, a temporary concrete plant,
20 today we've got two electric transmission lines, and
21 we've also sold our oil rights.

22 Iberdrola has followed up and done what
23 they said they were going to do. It's been a very
24 good relationship. You can tell that they want this
25 to be a win-win situation for all involved.

Folks, you all know that we need a new source of revenue in the county. As I grew up in Van Wert County our county population, I'm told, was about 28- to 30,000. Well, guess what. Today it's about 28- to 30,000. We are experiencing high unemployment in our area; higher than the national average. We've got lots of folks underemployed trying to make ends meet. We've got lots of young people still living at home with their parents to save money.

Without people in jobs the local economy will continue to suffer. Businesses will struggle, tax revenues will remain flat, uncertainty will prevail. We all live in an outstanding community. We have done many of the right things to attract business, and a lot of very good community leaders and businessmen, many of who are here tonight, have tried very hard to attract new business in the county with limited success through the years, but at the same time, many of our existing industries have struggled with the new economy.

Back in 2001 I was in New York and a seminar was being held there while I was there for CEOs of manufacturers in the United States. This is back in 2001. A bold quote appeared on the front

1 page of the Wall Street Journal the following day.
 2 The speaker stated: Gentlemen, if you manufacture in
 3 the United States, you've got two choices. Number
 4 one, outsource; number two, sell your company."

5 I believe that agriculture has played an
 6 important role in giving Van Wert and Paulding County
 7 financial stability, however, for their
 8 infrastructure and schools; more than we probably
 9 realize, especially in this area.

10 Overall it's been good for most producers
 11 in my lifetime, but there are words of caution.
 12 Dr. Darrell Good, many of us know him, he's a
 13 respected agricultural economist at the University of
 14 Illinois, stated in January at an outlook seminar
 15 that with the enormous amount of prime, virgin land
 16 in the world, the enormous sums of money sitting on
 17 the sidelines, that it would not take much for grain
 18 prices to fall back to what we experienced in the
 19 '80s.

20 Let's not lose sight of the fact that
 21 things will probably not be the same in the future
 22 because of the shifting world economy, which is
 23 making it or buying it at the lowest cost, that
 24 started some ten years ago. In fact, we too must be
 25 competitive.

1 And also, you know, we've got a tough act
2 to follow, especially with our neighbors to the west,
3 the state of Indiana. Senate Bill 232 accomplished
4 just that, making us more competitive. No, it may
5 not be perfect, but it gets our foot in the state of
6 Ohio in the door.

7 What the Blue Creek wind energy project
8 alone will mean in Van Wert County is an estimated
9 2.2 million of new tax revenues, new tax revenue, of
10 which the bulk will eventually go to the schools.
11 This is based on 121 planned, projected turbines here
12 in Van Wert County, the balk in Paulding County, at
13 2 megawatts per turbine at \$9,000 per megawatt.

14 I asked Nancy Dixon this morning, our
15 Van Wert County auditor, what her opinion was of the
16 wind energy project. Her reply was, and I quote,
17 very simple, "We have to have it happen."

18 When we choose earth-friendly wind
19 energy, we are contributing to a greener world and an
20 energy-independent America. I ask you to join our
21 family, Iberdrola, and the many other families that
22 have committed their farms and their communities to
23 make the earth-friendly choice in the future for our
24 children and grandchildren of our community.

25 I urge the commissioners to pass a

1 resolution joining Paulding County to make Van Wert
2 County an alternative energy zone without further
3 delay. Let's join together for the good of all. And
4 I thank you.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Thomas. Do
6 you have an extra copy of your comments?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please give that to the
9 court reporter.

10 Next is Nancy Bowen, and after Miss Bowen
11 is I believe Teresa Parsons. You'll be next, so if
12 you could possibly start heading down this way.

13 MS. PARSONS: I'm fine.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

15 Please raise your right hand.

16 (Witness sworn.)

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
18 please state your full name and address.

19 THE WITNESS: Nancy Bowen, and my address
20 is 10621 Greenville Road, Van Wert, Ohio. I have an
21 office address too, do you need that?

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: Certainly.

23 THE WITNESS: 515 East Main, Van Wert,
24 Ohio.

25 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Are either

1 your residence or your business address within the
2 proposed construction site?

3 THE WITNESS: No, they're not.

4 - - -

5 NANCY BOWEN

6 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
7 testified as follows:

8 DIRECT TESTIMONY

9 THE WITNESS: I'm in strong support of
10 the Iberdrola project here in Van Wert County, and in
11 Paulding County, Tony. And I definitely back what
12 Mr. Thomas, Mr. McClure, and Mr. McMillen, Miss Siler
13 and the lady before her -- I'm sorry, I didn't get
14 your name -- has said about what this means for our
15 county. This is a great project and, apparently, as
16 Nancy Dixon stated, we need this.

17 We've been through an awful recession.
18 This recession, you've heard by businesses, really
19 equates to what happened in the Great Depression;
20 it's been pretty bad. Even though we're helping
21 existing businesses create jobs and trying to attract
22 new business to the county, this is an opportunity.
23 This is a project that will bring new tax dollars to
24 our community, it will create new jobs for our
25 community, and it's one that would provide clean,

1 renewable energy. It's, to me, it's a no-brainer.

2 And, in addition to that, it's going to
3 be providing at least 1-1/2 million per year lease
4 payments to our farmers. It's a compatible use with
5 agriculture. This is a use that could potentially
6 even help to preserve our agricultural ground for
7 many, many years to come.

8 I'm very much in support of this project
9 primarily because of the job creation and investment.
10 Jobs, we'll have about 250 new construction jobs
11 created for the first 18 months' construction period
12 of the project, and that's going to be very important
13 for our local construction companies and our skilled
14 trades people that can go to work immediately and
15 begin earning a good income.

16 But in addition to that there will be
17 about 20 permanent high-paying maintenance jobs as a
18 result of this. Is that a huge number? No. But,
19 this kind of project truly does spin off other
20 activities. It truly does help to attract other
21 activities that could bring manufacturing work to
22 Van Wert County.

23 It's true that the transportation of
24 blades and nacelles and the components that go into a
25 wind farm, the transportation costs are huge, so for

1 a manufacturer to locate out at the supersite, which
2 we are actively marketing and beginning to really
3 make some progress to get the infrastructure out
4 there, that's a possibility, and it's a possibility
5 because of the confluence, the concentration, of wind
6 farms in our region.

7 So this is a great project for a lot of
8 reasons, and I strongly support and I urge the Ohio
9 Power Siting Board to approve this project.

10 Thank you very much.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

12 Ms. Parsons.

13 MS. PARSONS: I'm fine.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Are you interested in
15 testifying?

16 MS. PARSONS: I'm fine.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Mr. John Bauer.
18 Hello, sir. Please raise your right
19 hand.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
22 please state your full name and address.

23 THE WITNESS: My name is John Bauer,
24 residence at 3401 Churchview Drive, Valparaiso,
25 Indiana 46383, business address at 8633 Convoy Road,

Convoy, Ohio 45832.

ALJ AGRANOFF: And I assume your residence is not within the proposed construction site, but how about your business address?

THE WITNESS: It is.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

- - -

JOHN BAUER

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

DIRECT TESTIMONY

THE WITNESS: Again, my name is John Bauer. I am a landowner in Union Township, Van Wert County. Along with my brother and my nephew sitting in the audience, Tom and Dan, we have leased over 1,500 acres to Iberdrola Renewables for the construction of the Blue Creek Wind Farm.

We support wind energy for the following reasons: One, it's jobs. Our economy is struggling to get traction. Unemployment is a little under 10 percent. The construction of this wind farm will mean immediate jobs; longer term there will be operations and maintenance jobs in addition to the jobs that will be created by the supply chain; if you think about the turbine component manufacturers, the

1 steel mills, the cement miners [sic] and factories,
2 the wire and cable manufacturers, transportation,
3 logistics service, and many, many more.

4 There are now 205 educational programs
5 offered by universities and colleges across the
6 United States; this will ensure a skilled work force
7 for the wind energy industry.

8 Number two, tax payments. Annual tax
9 payments by the wind developers will provide a new
10 source of revenue for the state, the county, and the
11 townships. These new tax dollars will help our local
12 schools and local government, and it comes at a time
13 when tax revenues have been declining. This means as
14 taxpayers, instead of seeing tax increases, hopefully
15 we will see reductions or, at the very least, a delay
16 in taxes.

17 Third, lease payments to farmers. The
18 annual lease payments that are going to be made by
19 the wind farms will help replace some of the
20 subsidies that are being cut or eliminated by the
21 government.

22 Number four is energy. This wind farm
23 will produce energy to provide Ohio homes and
24 businesses with electricity. At the end of 2009 in
25 the United States there was over 35,600 megawatts of

1 energy being generated by wind; that's enough energy
2 to power 9.7 million homes. In addition, it
3 eliminated 62 million tons of carbon monoxide; that's
4 the equivalent of taking 10-1/2 million cars off the
5 road. This has a positive effect on global warming
6 as wind generation does not produce carbon or heat
7 like conventional power plants.

8 Foreign energy. We need to reduce our
9 dependence on foreign energy. With our automobile
10 manufacturers in the infancy of electric cars I
11 believe over the next ten years we will see
12 automobiles being recharged by plugging into a wall
13 electric outlet and, hopefully, this will reduce our
14 dependence on foreign oil.

15 In summary, I'd like to thank the Ohio
16 Siting Board for coming here to hear the pros and the
17 cons and, hopefully, at the end of the day, the
18 pluses will overwhelm the minuses. Thank you.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.
20 Mr. Bauer, do you have a copy of your comments?

21 Next is Mr. Bob, and I'm not sure whether
22 it's Banker or Baker. And after that gentleman would
23 be Miss Jennifer Smith.

24 Please raise your right hand.

25 (Witness sworn.)

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you could
2 please state your full name and address, sir.

3 THE WITNESS: Robert D. Barker, 5308 John
4 Yoh Road, 45891.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: And is your residence
6 within the proposed construction site?

7 THE WITNESS: It is.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

9 - - -

10 ROBERT D. BARKER
11 blowing first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
12 testified as follows:

13 DIRECT TESTIMONY

14 THE WITNESS: When I heard that the
15 turbines were coming to Van Wert County or looking in
16 Van Wert County, all I've heard is negative and my
17 light bill's going to go up, the property value's
18 going to go down. I don't know about the obesity
19 thing; I was fat before they came.

20 (Laughter.)

21 THE WITNESS: When I was a young man, I
22 lived beside Erie Lackawanna. You couldn't have
23 driven two cars between my house and that. And after
24 a while you got used to it. You may go to bed on
25 this side of the room and wake up on this side in the

1 morning, but you got used to it.

2 When I try to sleep in in the morning and
3 Farmer John turns the corner and starts down past my
4 house, he wakes me up. Am I going to go out there
5 with a shotgun and say, "Hey, go down to the next
6 road and go through"? No. I live with it.

7 So me and the wife set out last week,
8 went out into Pennsylvania and come up on a wind farm
9 and I told my wife, I says, "We need to do a little
10 investigating ourself on the wind farm and all this
11 bad news we hear."

12 So we started and drove up toward the
13 mountain, come upon this lady and her husband there
14 cleaning their yard and I says, "Can you give me a
15 few of the pros and the cons on the wind turbines?"
16 And she says, "What cons?" And I said, "Well, I hear
17 your light bills go up, you can't sleep for the
18 noise, all the bad stuff that comes off of them."
19 And she says, "Jeez," says "we don't have any of
20 that."

21 I said, "Well, how about the birds? I
22 hear you haul them out by the truckload." She said,
23 "Yeah, we did have a Canadian goose get killed up
24 there, but," she said, "I don't know if he hit the
25 blade, the tower, or died from a coronary." Birds do

1 have a tendency to have a heart attack like we do and
2 they do die.

3 But as we talked on, 30-mile-an-hour wind
4 blowing, I never heard the turbines.

5 But I do know one thing, my light bill
6 went up to \$317 over the past year and I don't have a
7 wind turbine to jack it up. Now, whether my light
8 bill will go up or not, that's yet to be seen, but
9 hers didn't go up.

10 I got a cousin that lives in Kansas; he
11 would give money for them to put one of those
12 generators on his farm. And I have nothing but good
13 to say about them. We ran so many businesses out of
14 our county and so many of them have packed up and
15 left, we couldn't even hang onto Honda and they got
16 two plants in this state. We couldn't even hang onto
17 it. We let Indiana have it. How foolish.

18 Now we got a chance to get \$2.2 million
19 to put in our county fund and the school and now we
20 want to throw that away. You know, I don't know if
21 we need the turbines or we need the man with the
22 white jacket, but I think we really need to do some
23 serious thinking about it.

24 So that's really all I have to say. I'm
25 not the president of anything, I don't have any

documents from any college, so I'm just a common old Joe. That's all I have to say.

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.
Jennifer Smith.
(Witness sworn.)

ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please state your full name and address.

THE WITNESS: Jennifer Smith. My home address is 409 North Main Street in Antwerp, and my work address is 1800 North Perry Street, Suite 109, in Ottawa.

ALJ AGRANOFF: And are either of those two addresses within the proposed construction site?

THE WITNESS: They are not.

- - -

JENNIFER SMITH

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

DIRECT TESTIMONY

THE WITNESS: I am the organization director with Ohio Farm Bureau. I work with Allen, Paulding, Putnam, and Van Wert Counties. I've been dealing with some of these wind farms both in Paulding and in Van Wert Counties.

The position of the Van Wert County Farm

1 Bureau is that we encourage the continued support of
2 alternative energy use such as wind and biofuels. I
3 do have a copy of the policy that you guys can have.

4 Personally, I believe that the proposed
5 wind farm holds many benefits for Van Wert County,
6 not to mention the fact that it is needed. Research
7 conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy shows that
8 our need for electric power from 1970 to 2030 will
9 actually double, and the windmills are a great way to
10 help meet this need for additional power.

11 I also believe that there will be little
12 negative environmental impact from the proposed
13 facility. Ohio has had the opportunity to gain from
14 the experience of other projects created in other
15 areas of the world, these include using new
16 technology created to address previous issues
17 concerning things brought up tonight such as noise,
18 electromagnetic interference, along with other points
19 of concern.

20 In fact, windmills built today have to
21 meet a variety of international standards that
22 equipment manufactured and installed less than a
23 decade ago does not have to meet.

24 The fuel from the wind turbines is our
25 air currents. Using this fuel is free, it involves

1 no air emissions or the use of water. Not to mention
2 the fact that the impact of the facilities on our
3 agricultural land will be minimal. As seen in other
4 areas of the eastern corn belt where wind farms are
5 now being constructed or fully operational, with the
6 exception of the wind turbine footprint all ground
7 around the turbine is still fully utilized for
8 agricultural activities.

9 And that's what I have. I'm going to
10 keep it short and sweet and to the point.

11 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

12 Mr. Tom Alexander. Tom Alexander.

13 FROM THE FLOOR: Tom just left.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

15 And the last name I have on the list is
16 Mr. Jason Gray.

17 Please raise your right hand, sir.

18 (Witness sworn.)

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

20 THE WITNESS: My name is Jason L. Gray.
21 I live at 8403 Feasby Wisener Road, Convoy, Ohio
22 45832.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Is that address within the
24 proposed construction site?

25 THE WITNESS: Yes.

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay.

2 - - -

3 JASON L. GRAY

4 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,
5 testified as follows:

6 DIRECT TESTIMONY

7 THE WITNESS: I don't have anything
8 really prepared other than things that I've been
9 looking at over the last several months. I've been
10 keeping an eye on the Public Utilities website,
11 taking a look at it, documents that are coming in.
12 I've been doing a little research. I tried to read
13 through their application as best as I could, you
14 know, it's long, it's boring, it's kind of tough to
15 get through.

16 But a couple of the first issues that I
17 came up with is, first of all, TV. A lot of people
18 think, well, that's not a big deal, you know. How
19 many people have cable or satellite that are in here?
20 I mean, seriously, how many have cable and satellite?

21 (Show of hands.)

22 THE WITNESS: Exactly. I do not pay for
23 TV. I never planned on paying for TV. It's a
24 useless thing to pay for when you can get it free
25 over the air, and that's what my wife and I and my

1 four-year-old son do, we watch a lot of PBS 39-2 for
2 my little boy; he loves watching PBS KIDS.

3 The TV reception I guess impact study or
4 study that they have produced on the docket or in the
5 website that they gave to the Siting Board pretty
6 much says that it will be affected. TV reception
7 will be affected. It's pretty much guaranteed, from
8 the way that I understand what they produced.

9 Now, my problem is, is I don't pay for
10 TV. I get it free over the air. If it's going to be
11 affected, you know, what am I supposed to do? That's
12 how we get the emergency weather broadcasts. Because
13 of the work that I do I don't have a normal schedule.
14 I don't have weekends off, you know, I spend a lot of
15 time away from home at different times, but, you
16 know, that's one of those things that's important to
17 our family.

18 The second thing is the cell phone
19 reception. Cell phone -- cellular communication is
20 the predominant form of communication in my
21 household. We did away with the regular landline
22 telephone line several years ago because the cost was
23 becoming outrageous and Verizon was not updating our
24 area. We weren't able to get the high-speed
25 internet, you know, any of the benefits of that

1 through our telephone line, so we said we're going to
2 do away with it. So we did. So we went with a cell
3 phone as our home phone, and it works great.

4 But what's going to happen when the wind
5 turbines come in? They pretty much, again, said
6 there is a very good chance that wind turbines will
7 affect cellular telephone reception. You know, so
8 that's a concern with my family.

9 And I want to go back to the TV reception
10 report that they submitted to the Siting Board. One
11 thing that concerned me, and I don't quite
12 understand, for those of us who have TV antennas, how
13 high do we normally put them in the air? 2 feet?
14 No. That's pretty silly to put a TV antenna 2 feet
15 off the ground to try to get TV reception 30 miles
16 away. Well, what about 15, 20 foot? That's probably
17 about normal, wouldn't you guys say, 15, 20 feet to
18 put an antenna in the air to get TV reception out of
19 Fort Wayne? Anybody agree? Disagree? Nobody?
20 Thanks.

21 Well, for this report they monitored TV
22 reception at 6 feet tall, which is 1 inch taller than
23 I am. 6 feet. 6 feet. How much TV reception are
24 you going to get at 6 feet? Not very much.

25 And that's what the report said. Their

1 report said that not in any location that they had
2 could they get all nine TV stations that are
3 available in this area. Well, guess what, I have a
4 TV antenna inside my attic. I have a one-story
5 house, it's kind of got a tall roof, but it's inside
6 my attic, I don't know, 15, 18 feet up in the air,
7 inside my attic, and I can get all nine TV stations.

8 Now, I'll give you this, the one analog
9 channel available in the area is channel 26 out of
10 Defiance, I think. I think it's channel 26. It's
11 not really a TV station, it's a radio station that
12 transmits its radio programming over TV and it just
13 has advertisements and stuff that flash on the
14 screen. And I'll give you, you know, there's a lot
15 of days that I can't get it, it's pretty snowy, but I
16 can hear it a lot of times, and it's a radio station.
17 That's what's important for radio stations, to my
18 understanding. I don't care if I can see the ads.

19 So to me it seems like, well, if we're
20 going to let them do testing that is 6 feet off the
21 ground which is, to me, not very -- what do I want to
22 say? I don't want to use the word "truthful," but
23 I'd say, oh, methodically -- with a Bachelor of
24 Science degree out of Defiance College I should be
25 able to put this together a little bit.

1 I didn't have any prepared words so I'm
2 kind of going off the cuff here, but it's not very
3 reliable as far as trying to monitor something 6 feet
4 off the ground when you're talking, you know, 30
5 miles away; you're not going to get good reception.
6 And, you know, if they put forth information like
7 this in their report, what kind of information are
8 they putting forth in reference to the noise? The
9 effects on the human body? That might be true, but
10 not exactly 100 percent.

11 The next thing I'd like to talk about is
12 the ice throw, okay. There was -- in the
13 documentation that was given to the Ohio Power Siting
14 Board on the website there were some communication
15 back and forth with Stoneco and there was some
16 concern for the employees of Stoneco because of the
17 placement of one of the turbines near their stone
18 quarry. It's kind of interesting because I live on
19 the opposite side of the same section of the stone
20 quarry.

21 Now, the turbine that they're talking
22 about that they're afraid of affecting Stoneco is
23 nowhere near my house, I mean, it's pretty much a
24 mile away, but they were very concerned about the
25 effect that this turbine would have on Stoneco. In

1 dealing with ice throw, I mean, it's like, okay,
2 well, that's understandable, if a big chunk of ice
3 comes off that, that could really hurt someone.

4 Well, Stoneco is not in operation I
5 think, I don't have the exact dates here, but I
6 believe it was November to March they're not in
7 operation, and I would have to check the information
8 that's on the website, the e-mail that Stoneco sent
9 to either Iberdrola or the Ohio Power Siting Board,
10 but I believe it was March to November Stoneco does
11 not operate [sic].

12 Well, what about me? I have, and I've
13 tried to figure out how close these turbines are
14 going to be to my house, but, I mean, looking at the
15 maps and the locations of the turbines and the little
16 legends, I'm having trouble determining how close the
17 nearest turbine is.

18 But in my guesstimation of looking at
19 where the stake is in the field across from my house
20 that I think one of the speakers might even be
21 involved with here today, Mr. Bauer, I believe that's
22 the landowner across the street from me, I believe
23 it's somewhere around 2,000 feet. 2,000 feet,
24 1,500 feet, something like that.

25 I don't know, is it possible a chunk of

1 ice could come flying off of there and hit my house
2 or my property? I don't know. But I'd like to know
3 how close these turbines are to my house.

4 The maps that I've seen and I've looked
5 at, it appears that I'm going to have seven or eight
6 of them within a mile of my home. The nearest one
7 I've determined somewhere around 1,500 to 2,000 feet.
8 I don't know about you guys, but that, to me, seems
9 like a lot.

10 And do you know the interesting part is
11 if I'm going to have eight of them around my house --
12 you know, in the beginning I had some positive
13 thoughts, and then I did some research and then my
14 thoughts went from positive to negative, and the
15 negative is that do we really know what's going to
16 happen?

17 You know, Mr. Langham, Mr. and
18 Mrs. Siler, Mr. McMillen, Mr. McClure, Ms. Bowen,
19 that's great. I'm glad you guys have a positive
20 attitude. I am trying. But it's kind of tough when
21 nobody can tell me what are the effects going to be.

22 And it's also interesting that several of
23 the people that are for the windmills, right here,
24 right here's where it's at (indicating). I have
25 eight of them around my house, and my wallet is

1 empty. And I could care less if they pay me 50, 60,
2 70, 80, a hundred thousand dollars, a million
3 dollars. What's it going to do to my four-year-old
4 son; that's what I want to ask you. And that's what
5 I want to hear. I want to hear that it is not going
6 to hurt my four-year-old son, or my daughter who is
7 going to be born in September. Can any of you
8 guarantee that? That's what I want to hear.

9 And it's not the noise that you can hear.
10 It's not the noise you can hear. It's, as
11 Mr. Schaffner stated, I believe it's infrasound, that
12 is ultralow frequency. It's like bass when you hear
13 the boomboxes, the boom, boom. You don't hear it,
14 you feel it. That's the problem. It's not what
15 you -- it's not what you can hear, it's what you
16 don't hear.

17 Those are the things I believe that
18 Dr. Nissenbaum from, let's see, where's he from?
19 He's a radiologist at Northern Maine Medical Center
20 that Mr. Schaffner had talked about. He interviewed,
21 let's see, or made contact I think with 20 homes
22 within 3,400 feet of 28 wind turbines and he said
23 100 percent agreed that their quality of life had
24 been affected; 100 percent had considered moving
25 away; 73 percent can't afford it; for 90 percent of

1 the homes, loss of home value by recent appraisal
2 makes it impossible to move away.

3 You know what, I had my house on the
4 market. I have a very nice home, my wife and I moved
5 there December of '04. I built it with my blood and
6 sweat, with a little help of a contractor, but I have
7 a lot of blood and sweat in it. It's on her family's
8 farm. They've been there for, I don't know, at least
9 two generations.

10 Because of other issues in our county my
11 home value has went down. I had, I don't know, three
12 or four people look at my house. Nobody wanted to
13 buy it because of some of the other issues in our
14 county. So I'm kind of stuck. You know, I'm a young
15 man with a very nice home, very nice property, I love
16 where I live at, I love waking up in the morning --
17 well, actually, I don't wake up very much in the
18 morning. When I'm driving home in the morning, I get
19 home, have a cup of coffee, I enjoy looking at the
20 sunrise, the sun setting in the evening before I go
21 to work. But those things are probably going to be
22 gone. But again, who can tell me that this is not
23 going to affect the health of my family and me and my
24 neighbors?

25 Dr. Nissenbaum, and again this --

1 Dr. Nissenbaum, the folks that he interviewed and the
2 information that he has is available at
3 WindAction.org, you can download his whole
4 preliminary report, symptoms, everything that he came
5 up with.

6 Dr. Nina Pierpont, who is an MD and also
7 has a PhD, she's an MD at the Johns Hopkins -- oh,
8 I'm sorry. She obtained her MD at the Johns Hopkins
9 University School of Medicine, she has a PhD in
10 population biology, Princeton University, a BA in
11 biology at Yale University, and she's a fellow of the
12 American Academy of Pediatrics. She also -- she is
13 actually the one that termed "wind turbine syndrome";
14 I believe Mr. Schaffner touched on that.

15 She gave an address to the -- she gave
16 testimony before the New York state legislature
17 Energy Committee, and this is available at
18 www.SaveWesternNY.org/docs/Pierpont_testimony.html.
19 And I would urge anyone that's interested in some of
20 the effects of the wind turbines or the syndrome to
21 take a look at this. She says that some of the folks
22 characterize the sound as jet engines is the most
23 common description she hears in surveying people.

24 Let's see. Well, let's see. I'm sorry,
25 again, I said I didn't have anything really prepared,

1 it's just some notes I had I wanted to go over.

2 Some of the problems that the symptoms
3 can include is sleep problems, headaches, dizziness,
4 unsteadiness, nausea, exhaustion, anxiety, anger,
5 problems with concentration and learning, which
6 again, is something that Mr. Schaffner pointed out in
7 some of the studies that he had as well.

8 Sensitivity to low-frequency vibration is
9 one of the biggest issues. Again, you don't hear it,
10 you feel it.

11 The important part is that the minimum
12 setback needs to be increased. If, you know, wind
13 energy, it is a good thing, but it does not belong in
14 the close vicinity of homes and people. You know,
15 you put it on the side of a mountain, great. Sounds
16 good to me.

17 Let's put it in downtown Van Wert. Let's
18 put it on Greenville Road. Put it in downtown
19 Van Wert. Yeah, don't we do that? Why not? Put it
20 in the middle of a park. It's a beautiful thing,
21 everybody wants to see them, it will be a nice
22 addition to our landscape on U.S. 30. Let's put it
23 downtown right in the middle of the park right
24 downtown. Why not? You know why? Because it's not
25 good for population centers, people, that's why. All

1 the evidence that I can find shows that.

2 I can't find the positive. I can't find
3 positive things. I came from a bachelor of science
4 background which means boom, boom, boom, cause and
5 effect. You find this, this is what you should --
6 this is what the outcome will be. Well, folks, I
7 have not been able to find the positive. I do
8 searches, I try to find it and, you know, this is the
9 type of stuff that I'm coming up with.

10 Public interest. Well, we know from
11 several of the people that we've heard today the
12 public interest is in our wallet; that simple. I
13 mean, and as we've seen in politics and government
14 and things like that, money's going to affect a lot
15 of things and it's affecting this. I'm sure it is.
16 I don't know how much these folks are getting, but I
17 do know that if 1 acre leased to these guys is equal
18 to 79 acres of crop sharing, it's not too bad. It's
19 not too bad.

20 Questions. I have questions that I've
21 been trying to find answers to. I can't find the
22 answers to them. Let's see if I bring it up here if
23 maybe we can get some answers, okay.

24 Well, again, the distance from the
25 nearest turbine to my home, that would be an

1 interesting question to have answered. And what
2 about the mitigation of the low-frequency noise or
3 vibration that is caused by the wind turbines, how
4 are we going to mitigate that as far as my home's
5 concerned if it becomes an issue? I haven't seen
6 anything as far as being able to mitigate that.

7 The TV reception, yeah, they'll pay for
8 my cable and satellite and whatever, but,
9 unfortunately, I checked on cable a while back, they
10 won't even bring cable to my house because I live out
11 in the boonies, so they won't bring it to my house.

12 Let's see. Well, I believe this project
13 is more detrimental than beneficial to the county.
14 Where is this electricity going? I heard one person
15 mention that, well, you know, it's going to increase
16 electricity available in this area. I don't think
17 so. My understanding is it's going east. Again, I
18 haven't seen anything real solid on that.

19 There was some documentation in the
20 application stating it's going to go to a whole bunch
21 of states, but I can't believe that the wind farm
22 here is going to be able to supply like five or six
23 states with energy. I just think that's kind of
24 grouped together to make us feel good as far as, you
25 know, yeah, it will go to a little bit of Ohio and

1 then farther east.

2 Who's going to benefit from this project?
3 Am I? No. I'm pretty sure that my electric bill's
4 not going to go down because the wind energy -- I
5 can't believe that this wind energy is going to be
6 cheaper than the energy that I'm already getting.
7 For one thing, I did some checking on a personal
8 windmill for my family and I thought, well, this will
9 be something good, you know, we can put up a windmill
10 on our property. Well, it would take 30 years for an
11 average wind speed of whatever, it would take 30
12 years for me to have enough savings with a windmill
13 on my property, 30 years to pay for it.

14 I don't know about you guys, but that is
15 not a very good investment. You know, I would say
16 10, 15 years, maybe not too bad. But 30 years, 30
17 years to pay off an investment; I don't think so.

18 Will my electric bill go down? I don't
19 know. I doubt it.

20 And again, why do we need a waiver for
21 the one-year notice, and why the rush? Our lives and
22 our health are being possibly affected. We should be
23 able to know the answers and, again, as to is this
24 going to truly affect us or not, or is it just one of
25 those things, well, we'll pay for blinds in your

1 house if you have flicker or something like that.
2 We'll pay for blinds to put in your house or we'll
3 pay to have the trees put up. What about the
4 low-frequency noise? What about the vibrations?

5 Well, I thank you for your time today. I
6 thank you guys for making the trip because I'm sure
7 you guys don't live around here, you probably live in
8 Columbus, but I thank you everyone for being in
9 attendance. Thanks for the good comments. And I
10 hope you all, whether for it or against it, can
11 understand it's not about money, it's not about what
12 I say, it's not about what Mrs. Siler says or
13 Mr. Schaffner says, it's about what is best.

14 Is it going to affect your health?
15 Probably not because half of you don't live around
16 the project. Is it going to affect my health?
17 That's what I want to know. I want to know is it
18 going to affect my health personally. If someone can
19 say "No, we guarantee it," bring it on. Let these
20 guys fill their pockets with money. But until that
21 can be answered, that is the important question.
22 Take care of me. Thank you.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you, Mr. Gray.

24 THE WITNESS: I don't have any -- I don't
25 have a copy of my stuff, so --

1 ALJ AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

2 Is there anybody else that's in
3 attendance this evening that would like to testify?

4 FROM THE FLOOR: Over here.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Yes, please come forward
6 whoever. I saw a hand right in the middle. Yeah.

7 Hi there. Please raise your right hand.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 ALJ AGRANOFF: If you could please state
10 your full name and address.

11 THE WITNESS: My name is John Grubaugh.
12 I live at 10401 Feasby Wisener Road, Van Wert, and it
13 is in the proposed area.

14 ALJ AGRANOFF: Sir, if you could just
15 spell your last name for us.

16 THE WITNESS: G-r-u-b-a-u-g-h.

17 ALJ AGRANOFF: And do you reside within
18 the proposed --

19 THE WITNESS: Yes.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

21 THE WITNESS: I also farm, have some land
22 in the area.

23 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

24 - - -

25 JOHN GRUBAUGH

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

3 DIRECT TESTIMONY

4 THE WITNESS: I didn't come prepared to
5 speak on anything, I don't have any notes, but after
6 I've gotten here I heard a few comments that I do
7 want to speak on.

8 You know I've heard the comment about --
9 first of all, let me ask you or say this, I hope I
10 don't cause or create any new enemies here tonight,
11 but can I see a show of hands how many people are
12 interested in reducing dependence on foreign energy?

13 (Show of hands.)

14 THE WITNESS: I mean, I'm all for it, I
15 hope people don't take that wrong, I'm all for it.
16 One of the big concerns I have is what does it matter
17 if we're buying foreign oil or foreign electric? Do
18 we all still think we've reduced dependence on
19 foreign energy? We've reduced it on foreign oil, but
20 oil is an energy project. I don't see where that's
21 really that beneficial to us.

22 I guess one of the comments I've heard
23 was Ms. Siler made mention earlier about the crops.
24 I've seen pictures of the windmills, and they do have
25 nice looking pictures, crops around them and so

1 forth. I farm some in Van Wert County, some in
2 Paulding County. To the contrary, maybe in some
3 areas that's true, that the crops are going to grow
4 just as well around the turbines. I personally would
5 have to tend to say I would disagree with that here
6 in our soil type.

7 Thirty years ago on 114 between Haviland
8 and Grover Hill a farm that's been in the family for
9 over a hundred years, we farmed then, we farm today,
10 30 years ago there was -- I don't know if anybody
11 would remember, there was test wells drilled for oil.
12 There was a test well for a five-mile span, every
13 mile had a test well.

14 We had a test well on the 80 acres where
15 my dad lives. When the conditions are right in the
16 spring, I can show you the 1-acre lot that was leased
17 30 years ago; the crops do not grow the same. Maybe
18 in some areas, some soil types that would be true.

19 Another question I've got, I would like
20 to ask, how many people would start a business where
21 you can't make any money? Is that -- doesn't really
22 sound like a good idea, at least it doesn't to me.
23 But I would like to say, I was asked that question
24 about ten weeks ago in Antwerp, Ohio. I met with
25 Mr. Dave Dixon at the landlord's house. I was asked

1 that question: Would you start a business where you
2 cannot make any money? Isn't that what's going on?
3 Iberdrola is asking me that, so they know there's no
4 money to be made.

5 And also I would like to say Mr. Dixon
6 said to me he did not work for Iberdrola. I see he's
7 got an Iberdrola shirt on tonight.

8 And I don't know about the study with the
9 TV 6 foot off the ground. If that's true and you do
10 a skewed study, you're going to get skewed results.

11 But I would like to say that as far as
12 the question about making any money where you
13 can't -- starting a business where you can't make any
14 money, it doesn't make sense. And I guess I felt
15 like that, kind of along the study of the TV, the day
16 that I met with the landlords and Mr. Dixon in
17 Antwerp and was told that he did not work for
18 Iberdrola, which I said "You are here representing
19 Iberdrola," and come to the conclusion that he was
20 subcontracted by Iberdrola. Maybe he works for them
21 today, I don't know.

22 Subcontracted. You were there
23 representing them. I put that with a skewed test on
24 the -- the results of a skewed test. If you're doing
25 skewed tests at 6-foot tall, it's kind of the same

1 thing, you're going to get skewed results.

2 I think I had a third point but I don't
3 remember what it was because I didn't come prepared
4 to speak. So, personally, I have a lot of
5 reservations about them, and I do think a lot of it
6 comes back to money.

7 I do want to comment on your comment,
8 your -- back you up on your thing on the 30-year
9 payback on a personal windmill. My mom and dad and
10 us looked into them as well; 30 years is very
11 accurate for the size, doing the study, how much
12 kilowatts you use in your house, so forth, do the
13 study, do the payback, 30 years. Where's the leases
14 at? 30 to 50 years. 30 years renewable. I think
15 there's a reason for that.

16 So I guess that's really all I have to
17 say. I didn't come prepared or I would have had more
18 notes. So thank you for your time.

19 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

20 (Witness sworn.)

21 ALJ AGRANOFF: If you could please state
22 your name and address.

23 THE WITNESS: Sherri Randall. I live at
24 278 East Beacon Light Road in Eagle, Idaho. And no,
25 that is not in the construction area.

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SHERRI RANDALL

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

DIRECT TESTIMONY

THE WITNESS: I'm not from around here.
Actually, I am from around here. I don't live here
now. Both my parents were raised in this area, so my
heart's here.

I actually work in renewable energy;
that's my job. I'm a big proponent of renewable
energy. I am not a fan of wind energy. It is, in my
experience, expensive, inefficient, disruptive, and
it's unstable.

I hear a lot of talk about economic
development here, and I'm not sure -- I'm not sure
what kind of money, other than the landowners that
are going to get paid, is going to be coming in from
this. And I apologize for not being completely
informed about this, but as I understood it they are
exempt, exempt from taxes, from personal property
taxes, so you won't be getting that money. You'll
have construction jobs which are 18 months. Any of
you with children know how fast 18 months goes;
that's a pretty short period of time. And I heard
talk of permanent jobs. Do you have that in writing?

1 How many permanent jobs?

2 We run -- my company does renewable
3 energy and what we do is we harvest methane from
4 landfills and we use that to turn turbines, to turn
5 generators and produce electricity, and we use very
6 little labor. They're very -- they're low labor
7 intensive.

8 I'm not sure about the wind farms. I
9 can't imagine, it's not a factory, people aren't
10 reporting to work there every day. It's basically
11 maintenance of those facilities.

12 I go to a lot of public hearings and that
13 is the shortest information from an applicant I've
14 ever heard, ever. Generally they are going to sell
15 you, they're going to give you all types of
16 information about their project.

17 I am flabbergasted that basically all I
18 heard was you were going to produce energy for 80,000
19 homes. That's amazing that you didn't take that
20 opportunity to give these people more information.

21 Or are you all informed already? Maybe
22 you all know all of this and I'm coming in way too
23 late to the party.

24 What I did want to talk a little bit
25 about too is these comments that were made about

1 taking 30 years to pay for wind energy. Wind energy
2 is extremely expensive. It's very, very expensive to
3 put up these turbines, and that's -- there's a reason
4 they want to be here in this location, it's because
5 it's very expensive to wheel power.

6 It's very expensive to move power over
7 great distances, so when you put it way out where
8 there isn't anything, which we do in Idaho, it's very
9 expensive to get that power from where you produce it
10 to where it's used. And there's something called
11 line loss. A certain amount of that electricity is
12 lost as it's transported. That's why they want to be
13 here. That's why they want to be closer to where
14 they can wheel that power.

15 And right now they have some unique
16 opportunities in their industry. Right now, due to
17 some recent legislation, they get help paying for
18 these turbines.

19 I don't know what you're using. Are you
20 using USDA loans? USDA grants? Section 1603 money?

21 There's a lot of opportunities for them
22 right now to help pay for these farms. That's why,
23 I'm guessing, my opinion, that's why they're working
24 on it right now, they're getting help paying for this
25 because it's very, very expensive to build these

1 facilities.

2 I work with these kind of people every
3 day; you people don't. You folks don't. You folks
4 are hardworking. This is a farm community. You are
5 concentrating on crop prices, what the weather is,
6 keeping your machinery running. You're honest,
7 hardworking people. They know that. They know that
8 you still make a deal with a handshake. They know
9 when they put a piece of paper in front of you that
10 they've told you what's in that piece of paper, you
11 have no reason to distrust them. You are do unto
12 others as you would have done unto you; they know
13 that.

14 This is not a charity. This is not a
15 church. This is a for-profit organization. And I
16 heard about their little neighbor -- good neighbor
17 policy. They're not your neighbors. They are not.
18 They don't give away something for nothing. They're
19 selling something to you. And you have to decide --
20 they're buying something from you and you have to
21 decide how valuable that is, what you're willing to
22 take for that. They're having you sign a piece of
23 paper and you're giving away your rights with that
24 piece of paper and that says that when the wildlife
25 disappears and your view is gone and you're sick, you

1 have no recourse to them.

2 So I would ask you to be -- I would be
3 really surprised if any of these folks live near a
4 wind turbine farm; that would be very surprising to
5 me. I would also be very surprised if any of them
6 asked their brother, their uncle, their father to
7 sign the pieces of paper they're asking you to sign;
8 that would be very surprising to me.

9 They know how you do business and that's
10 why they're here. I know it, and you know it, that
11 some of these folks are going to be very unhappy with
12 the decisions that they make.

13 I would ask you to remember that two of
14 your most valuable possessions that you have are your
15 health and your happiness. And I know times are hard
16 and I know that money is so tempting, but please
17 don't be shortsighted, and when you put a price tag
18 on your health and your happiness, make sure you're
19 ready to live with it. Thank you.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: Two questions.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 ALJ AGRANOFF: Clarifications. First,
23 what is your connection to the communities that
24 are --

25 THE WITNESS: My parents were raised

1 here.

2 ALJ AGRANOFF: And second question is you
3 said you were involved in a renewable energy
4 industry. Who are you employed with?

5 THE WITNESS: G2 Energy.

6 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: Is there anybody else in
9 attendance that would be interested in providing
10 testimony?

11 FROM THE FLOOR: Over here.

12 ALJ AGRANOFF: Please come forward, sir.
13 Please raise your right hand.

14 (Witness sworn.)

15 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please state
16 your full name and address.

17 THE WITNESS: My name is Monte
18 Bollenbacher. My address is 1628 Dutch John Road,
19 Scott, Ohio 45886.

20 ALJ AGRANOFF: And is your residence
21 within the proposed construction site?

22 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

23 - - -

24 MONTE BOLLENBACHER
25 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law,

1 testified as follows:

2 DIRECT TESTIMONY

3 THE WITNESS: I'm going to have three
4 windmills, I don't know the exact distances, roughly
5 between 600 and 800 yards from my house, one to the
6 south, one to the southwest, and one directly west of
7 me.

8 I wasn't planning on talking tonight
9 either. I really didn't know what the hearing was
10 going to be like. I didn't realize it was going to
11 have all the, you know, prepared statements and
12 everything, so forgive me if I'm, you know, not too
13 ready to say a lot of stuff.

14 But after hearing what everybody said,
15 both sides, tonight, I couldn't help but want to
16 speak up a little bit. When I first heard about
17 this, I was real excited. I consider myself a very
18 environmentally friendly person, a green kind of a
19 person. I strive to, you know, live a green
20 lifestyle to the best of my ability. It's kind of
21 hard in our society and in our area that we live in.

22 But -- so I was real excited, I thought,
23 you know, it was great to be hearing about wind
24 energy and everything. Any renewable energy I think
25 is a positive compared to, you know, oil and coal,

1 which we all know where that gets us.

2 Then more information started coming out.
 3 I found out how close these things were going to be
 4 to my house. I've always lived in the country all my
 5 life. A few short years in Van Wert, which I
 6 despised. I'm pretty sure everybody here are
 7 probably country people, probably always lived in the
 8 country and you cherish that.

9 I love looking out my window and watching
 10 the sun set, watching the sun rise. When I look out
 11 my window now -- when I'm outside and I look to the
 12 west, now I'm going to see a windmill. And I'm not
 13 only going to see the one that's 600 yards directly
 14 to the west of my house, the numbers I've heard are
 15 120 or whatever in the area, and if these things are
 16 400 feet tall, you're going to see them for miles.

17 I live near Scott. You can see the big
 18 silos at Scott, you know, from a couple miles away
 19 when you're driving toward Scott, and these things
 20 are, you know, I'm sure they're not anywhere near 400
 21 feet tall. So these things are going to be
 22 everywhere. That's all we're going to see.

23 The more I started thinking about that
 24 type of stuff, that really started bothering me, you
 25 know. As flat as it is around here, that's all

1 you're going to see. And I've seen windmills before.
2 In my travels out west through Wyoming and in
3 Pennsylvania I've seen wind farms. The most I've
4 ever seen were maybe a dozen in a row. They were
5 pretty cool to see, you know.

6 I've heard guys talk about how they're so
7 neat to look at, comparing it to watching an air show
8 or whatever. I've been to air shows; they were
9 pretty neat to look at. I wouldn't want to go to an
10 air show every day. I wouldn't want an air show
11 going by my house every day. And there's a big
12 difference between seeing a dozen out in the middle
13 of nowhere in Wyoming or on a ridge in Pennsylvania
14 as compared to hundreds, 120 or however many it may
15 be, in flat Van Wert County.

16 Geez, lots of points. You know, like I
17 said, I didn't know -- I should have been taking
18 notes and everything tonight. A lot of stuff brought
19 up tonight made me think, both pros and cons. Let me
20 talk about the pros.

21 Most of the pros that I've heard tonight
22 involve economics, put it that way. Van Wert needs
23 it; everybody knows that. That's a good thing. But
24 I think there's a big difference between a wind farm
25 in a very rural area of the county as compared to

1 factories in town and the supersite or whatever where
2 people are used to seeing factories; granted, a lot
3 of them are leaving.

4 There's a big difference. Something
5 that's going to be there. I think we need to look at
6 the long-term more than the short-term. People are
7 talking about construction jobs, 18 months, 2 years,
8 however long it may be; they're going to be gone.
9 Most of those construction workers are probably not
10 even going to be local people. They're probably
11 going to be contracted people that know what they're
12 doing, know how to do these things; they're going to
13 be going.

14 It's going to help restaurants and hotels
15 and stuff while they're here, but then they're going
16 to be gone and we're going to be the ones stuck
17 looking at these things in our back yards.

18 The number of jobs that are going to be
19 here, 20, 60, different numbers I've heard,
20 maintenance crews. Great. Awesome. That's a pretty
21 low number in the scheme of things. We're used to
22 farms and factories around here, factories that
23 employ hundreds of people. Big difference between
24 factories that employ hundreds of people and 60
25 maintenance guys.

1 What else? Those are about the only pros
2 I can think of. I'm not a farmer, so I'm not going
3 to be cashing in big time. Just looking out here I
4 can tell a lot of you guys are probably farmers or
5 landowners. I'm sure you're going to be cashing in.
6 I don't know what the number is, but if you have one,
7 two, three, four, five of these things, I'm sure
8 you're going to be cashing in.

9 They tell me they'll pay me a thousand
10 dollars a year, roughly, since I live close to one of
11 these things. Great. But you cannot pay me a
12 thousand dollars a year and -- say we'll give you a
13 thousand dollars a year if you move back into town.
14 No way. I don't think anybody here if they said --
15 if it's a thousand dollars you can get because you're
16 a homeowner or the thousands more as landowner, hey,
17 move into town then we'll pay it for you. No, you
18 don't want to move to town.

19 We love living in the country. Why?
20 Because it's beautiful. We love seeing our sunsets,
21 our sunrises, the woods, the crops.

22 I'm sure the crops aren't going to be all
23 that damaged. I'm sure the woods aren't going to be
24 all that damaged. I'm sure they're going to fix the
25 roads. I'm sure they're going to fix everything and

1 they're going to be gone, in the short-term. But in
2 the long-term we're the ones getting stuck seeing
3 these things in every direction we look. They're
4 going to be everywhere for us to see.

5 Like I said, big difference between 12 of
6 them looking neat when you're driving down some big
7 interstate somewhere and hundreds of them in this
8 populated area. We may be rural, but there are a lot
9 of people that live here still.

10 And, you know, it's going to suck looking
11 at that every day, and it's probably going to end up
12 driving me crazy. I'm trying to be really
13 optimistic. Like I said, when I heard about this, I
14 was really excited. I tried to be optimistic, but I
15 just know looking at that is going to drive me crazy,
16 and if you don't think that's going to drive you
17 crazy too, especially if you've lived in the country
18 all your life, I find that hard to believe.

19 And then if I do want to sell my house --
20 I like my house. I like where I live. I live in the
21 country for a reason. I moved from Van Wert out to
22 the country for a reason. I have a
23 one-and-a-half-year-old son, an eight-year-old
24 daughter, I want them to live in the country for a
25 reason.

1 If I want to sell my house because these
2 things are driving me crazy, I don't know if I'm
3 going to be able to. I mean, the economy right now,
4 the housing market right now, it all stinks; we all
5 know that. Who's going to want to buy these things?
6 Property values. I've heard things about property
7 values. I haven't heard anything set in stone, you
8 know, what it does to your property value, but I
9 can't imagine that it's good.

10 And if I do want to move, like this guy
11 here, I'm probably going to be stuck, and that's just
12 not very appealing to me thinking about that kind of
13 a thing.

14 The guys talking about the birds. I
15 don't know one way or another. I know I like my
16 finches. I love looking out my window and sitting
17 out in my hammock and seeing my finches fly around.
18 If I don't have my finches anymore, I'm not going to
19 like that one bit. It's going to be bad enough to
20 see those things let alone not to see my finches.

21 I have Direct TV, I don't watch it a lot,
22 I like to be outside, but I have a few shows I like
23 to sit down and watch. If I'm trying to watch
24 "Deadliest Catch" on a Tuesday night and I can't, it
25 goes in and out, you know, like when it storms, a lot

1 of people probably have Direct TV, when it storms,
2 you can't receive your signal. If that's flapping on
3 and off, I don't know, it's probably really going to
4 bug me.

5 Short-term? Yeah, okay. If it happens
6 every once in a while, okay, yeah, you can live with
7 it. But I want people to think about the long-term.
8 Something little happens to you, you just kind of
9 brush it aside, but when it's over and over and over
10 again, it starts driving you crazy.

11 Anyway, so, you know, that's just what I
12 think about it. The biggest pros, like I said, I'm
13 hearing from everybody are money related. Being a
14 country kid all my life and my family being country
15 people, my grandpa was a farmer, money, as great as
16 money is, don't get me wrong, it's never been the
17 most important thing I think in most people's lives.
18 You love it, but it's not the most important thing if
19 you're, you know, in the country for a reason.
20 That's what I'm seeing driving all this.

21 County development, I know it's a good
22 thing, we need it, but, once again, in the
23 long-term -- the numbers of people I think this is
24 going to negatively effect is bigger than the
25 positive. The people that are going to be cashing in

1 or the county officials that are, you know, it's
2 their job to try to bring things to Van Wert.

3 So those are my big concerns. Like I
4 said, I think renewable energy is great, but in the
5 long-term I think it's going to really be a problem
6 probably. So that's all I got, I guess.

7 ALJ AGRANOFF: Thank you.

8 THE WITNESS: Oh, one last thing I guess.
9 You know, I'm standing over there and I'm hearing
10 lots of things, and I wish I would have been writing
11 down notes because I probably forgot half of the
12 things I would have liked to have said.

13 I know the way most of you people are. I
14 know the kind of people you are. Like the lady said,
15 you're good people. A farming community. We're
16 different than, you know, people in cities and Fort
17 Wayne, Lima. The bigger you get, whatever. We all
18 know how different we are and why we're different, in
19 a good way.

20 Like I said, this is being driven by the
21 money. I don't want to say "greed" because I know
22 most of you people are not greedy people, but I think
23 it's bordering on greed, and I think if we do this,
24 it will be kind of like selling our souls here
25 because you're going to cash in, but in the

1 long-term, you know, it's -- it's going to drive you
2 crazy seeing these things, I guarantee you. A big
3 difference between a dozen and a hundred. So that's
4 all I got.

5 ALJ AGRANOFF: Anybody else interested in
6 providing testimony?

7 (No response.)

8 ALJ AGRANOFF: If not, I really
9 appreciate everybody being here this evening and for
10 your cooperation. If you have any questions, I
11 believe the company does have some representatives in
12 attendance that you can speak with.

13 And if there's nothing further, this
14 hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

15 (The hearing concluded at 7:18 p.m.)

16 - - -

CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Thursday, July 8, 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-3588)

- - -

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Case No(s). 09-1066-EL-BGN

Summary: Transcript Transcript from 7/8/10 hearing electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Jones, Maria DiPaolo Mrs.