

1 **Q. Please describe Union Neighbors United, Inc.**

2 A. Union Neighbors United, Inc. (we refer to it by its initials, U-N-U) is a nonprofit corporation
3 that was formed for the purpose of promoting the safety and well-being of our community by
4 addressing issues relating to the siting of industrial wind turbines in Champaign County.

5 **Q. Who are the other officers and members of Union Neighbors United, Inc.?**

6 A. James L. Bartlett, Trustee, 6044 E. U.S. Highway 36, Cable, Ohio.

7 Larry L. Gordon, Trustee, 7400 State Route 161, Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

8 Diane E. McConnell, Trustee, 4880 E. U.S. Route 36, Urbana, Ohio.

9 Mildred I. Peace, Trustee, 466 Cambrian Rd., Cable, Ohio.

10 Glenda L. Rodriguez, Trustee, 6047 E. U.S. Highway 36, Cable.

11 Robert B. McConnell, President, 4880 E. U.S. Route 36, Urbana, Ohio.

12 Larry J. Peace, Vice President, 466 Cambrian Rd., Cable, Ohio.

13 Anita K. Bartlett, Secretary, 044 E. U.S. Highway 36, Cable, Ohio.

14 Linda A. Gordon, Treasurer, 7400 State Route 161, Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

15 **Q. Do all of the trustees and officers of Union Neighbors United live within the area**
16 **affected by the Buckeye II Wind Project?**

17 A. Yes.

18 **Q. Please identify the attached Exhibit A.**

19 A. It is the Articles of Incorporation of Union Neighbors United, Inc.

20 **Q. Please identify attached Exhibits B through G.**

21 A. These are certified copies of the deeds for each of the residences and other properties owned
22 by UNU members in the area that will be affected by the Buckeye II Wind Project. Attached

1 to each deed is a copy of the Champaign County Auditor’s record indicating the parcel
2 number for that property, as well as a photograph of the residence on that property.

3 **Q. Please identify attached Exhibit H.**

4 A. This is a set of maps showing the locations of residences and other properties owned by
5 Union Neighbors United trustees and officers within the area affected by the Buckeye II
6 Wind Project. They were created based on the maps contained in the Power Siting Staff’s
7 Report of Investigation.

8 **Q. Please identify attached Exhibit I.**

9 A. This is a map showing the locations of UNU member residences superimposed on a noise
10 modeling map from the Buckeye II Application. The map that was used for the Exhibit is
11 “Plot 5—Predicted Cumulative Sound Emissions (dBA) from both the Buckeye I & II
12 Projects” as set forth in Exhibit O of the Application.

13 **Q. Champaign Wind characterizes the area proposed for the Project as agricultural. Is
14 that an accurate characterization?**

15 A. No. Agriculture plays a significant role economically in our county, and when measured by
16 area, a much of the land is agricultural. However, our community is also home to many
17 residents who are not farmers. In fact, the majority of the population residing in Champaign
18 County and in Union Township do not derive their primary income from farming. The
19 township where I live, Union Township, has experienced significant residential growth since
20 2000, as have Wayne and Salem Townships. The impact of Honda Manufacturing in
21 Marysville accounts for some of this residential growth. But many residents, including me,
22 were attracted by the beauty and open space of the area, which is a significant element of our
23 county’s identity.

1 **Q. Please identify attached Exhibit J.**

2 A. It is a collection of photographs showing residences and other features in our community.

3 **Q. Are these photographs accurate representations of the residences and other features**
4 **shown at the addresses and locations specified?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **Q. How long have you been involved with Union Neighbors United?**

7 A. Since it was formed in early 2007. Before it was incorporated in September of 2008, UNU
8 was an unincorporated group of citizens.

9 **Q. Please tell me about the purpose and activities of Union Neighbors United.**

10 A. UNU has been actively engaged in educating ourselves and our community on issues related
11 to wind development. For example, in September, 2007 I sent a letter to the editor of our
12 local paper urging the community to engage in thoughtful land use planning to designate
13 areas appropriate for wind. In 2007-2008, two UNU representatives—Diane McConnell and
14 I—participated as members of the Champaign County Wind Turbine Study Group
15 established by our County Prosecutor, Nick Selvaggio. I became a member of the Ohio
16 Wind Working Group in 2007 and in December of that year was invited to serve as a
17 “Stakeholder” entitled to full participation representing consumer interests. UNU also
18 submitted written comments on the Power Siting Board’s proposed wind turbine siting rules,
19 and participated as an intervenor in the evidentiary hearing on the Buckeye I Wind Farm,
20 Case No. 08-666-EL-BGN.

21 **Q. What are Union Neighbors United’s concerns about the Buckeye II Wind Project?**

1 A. UNU is concerned about a number of issues. UNU is concerned about noise and shadow
2 flicker and their effects on nearby residents, including potential adverse effects that have
3 been experienced at other wind farms.

4
5 A big concern of our group is the way this project will industrialize our community,
6 particularly since the Power Siting Board has already approved the construction and
7 operation of up to fifty-four turbines in the same community. (*Matter of Buckeye I Wind*
8 *Farm*, OPSB Case No. 08-666-EL-BGN). These turbines are far taller than any structures
9 currently in our community, and the impact of fifty-six more 492' turbines—110 in total
10 when combined with Buckeye I--will destroy our landscape. The pulsing red aviation
11 warning lights will obliterate the view of the night sky.

12
13 UNU is also concerned about public safety in light of risks of ice shedding, high winds,
14 lightning strikes, blade throw and tower collapse. We are concerned about the impact of
15 construction activities, especially excavation, on the drinking water wells that neighboring
16 residents rely upon.

17
18 Diminution of surrounding property values is a significant concern of the group, as well as
19 the resulting tax decreases associated with diminished property values. We're concerned
20 about the impact of this project on our economy if nobody wants to live here.

21

1 We are concerned about the impact of the Buckeye II Wind project on wildlife. We're
2 concerned that our community may be left with rusting eyesores on our landscape if
3 Champaign Wind should go bankrupt or otherwise abandon the project.

4

5 We are concerned about the hazards that the Project poses to aviation, particularly the impact
6 on emergency medical helicopter service to our communities.

7

8 All of the above concerns are compounded due to the cumulative effect of the previously-
9 approved Buckeye I Wind Farm with the proposed Buckeye II Wind Farm. We are
10 concerned that these cumulative effects have not been adequately considered and that the
11 harms resulting from the construction and operation of up to 110 industrial wind turbines in
12 eastern Champaign County will far outweigh the benefits.

13

14 **Q. Has Union Neighbors United advocated for safe setbacks in connection with the**
15 **Buckeye II Wind Project?**

16 A. Yes, the issue of safe setbacks has been the major focus of UNU.

17 **Q. In the course of your work with the Champaign County Wind Turbine Study Group**
18 **and the Ohio Wind Working Group, did you do research concerning wind turbine**
19 **manufacturers' recommendations for setbacks?**

20 A. Yes.

21 **Q. Please identify attached Exhibit K.**

22 A. It is Page 32 of the Vestas publication "Safety Regulations for Operators and Technicians."

23 **Q. Who is Vestas?**

1 A. Vestas is a wind turbine manufacturer.

2 **Q. How did you find this document?**

3 A. It was part of an Appendix to the Application for the Roxbury/Stamford wind energy project
4 in New York, which I found through an internet search.

5 **Q. How is this document relevant to the issue of safe setbacks?**

6 A. Under Item 2 it states, “Do not stay within a radius of 400m (1300 ft.) from the turbine unless
7 it is necessary.” This indicates that the turbine may present a hazard to individuals at
8 distances of less than 1,300 feet.

9 **Q. Please identify attached Exhibit L.**

10 A. It is a planning aid published by turbine manufacturer Nordex discussing micrositing of
11 turbines.

12 **Q. How did you find UNU Exhibit L?**

13 A. I found it by going to the Nordex website.

14 **Q. When did you find UNU Exhibit L?**

15 A. In May, 2008.

16 **Q. How is UNU Exhibit L relevant to the issue of safe setbacks?**

17 A. It states, “It is important to keep a distance to the next residences in order not to disturb the
18 inhabitants by noise emission and shadow flickering of the turbine. Normally there have to
19 be at least 500 m between the WTG and the next residence.”

20 **Q. How many feet are in 500 meters?**

21 A. One thousand six hundred forty feet (1,640'). By using the term “at least” I view this as a
22 minimum requirement and a greater distance is probably preferable.

23 **Q. Please identify attached Exhibit M.**

1 A. It is a document prepared by GE Energy entitled, “Extreme Wind Speed—Risk and
2 Mitigation.”

3 **Q. How is this document relevant to the issue of safe setbacks?**

4 A. In this document, GE discusses the risk of blade failure or tower collapse resulting from high
5 winds. GE states that there is no modeling capability in place that can predict the impact on
6 a wind plant if an extreme wind event should occur. It states that if a turbine’s yaw control
7 should go inactive as a result of a power outage, the loss of yaw control could increase the
8 likelihood of damage or turbine failure in the case of an extreme wind event. GE observes
9 that siting turbines in remote areas usually tends to reduce the potential for collateral damage
10 in the event of storming winds.

11 **Q. Do you have any concerns or reservations about the recommendations in the above
12 documents?**

13 A. I agree to the extent that all of them recommend siting turbines a safe distance away from
14 neighbors, roads, and other public areas. But I strongly disagree with those
15 recommendations to the extent that they base setbacks only on distances from houses or
16 occupied structures, since setbacks should protect all of a neighbor’s property. Also, I am
17 not qualified to assess whether the recommended setbacks are sufficient to protect neighbors
18 from the impacts of turbines. I think they are relevant simply because they show that even
19 the turbine manufacturers are recommending setbacks in excess of the minimum setbacks
20 currently in Ohio law.

21 **Q. Why do you disagree with setbacks based on distances from houses or occupied
22 structures?**

1 A. If the setbacks are designed to mitigate safety or nuisance impacts, a setback measured from
2 an adjacent house might address the impacts on the house itself, but it would not adequately
3 mitigate safety hazards or nuisance impacts on the rest of the property. If only residence-
4 based setbacks are applied by a government entity such as the Power Siting Board, the Board
5 would be approving the establishment of safety hazards and nuisances on nonparticipating
6 neighboring properties. That would be an unjust interference with the rights of those
7 neighbors.

8 **Q. Please identify and describe the attached Exhibit N.**

9 A. Exhibit N consists of ten aerial photographs showing the ten locations at which David
10 Hessler measured background sound in the Buckeye Wind II project area for purposes of
11 preparing Exhibit O to Champaign Wind's application. I used the information on pages 6
12 through 15 and Graphic A of Exhibit O to identify these locations. I then visited each of the
13 locations to look at them and photograph them.

14 **Q. Please identify and describe the attached Exhibit O.**

15 A. Exhibit O contains photographs taken of the locations at which David Hessler made the
16 background sound measurements that I described in my previous answer. Exhibit O also
17 contains my notes about the characteristics of these locations based on my personal
18 observations.

19 **Q. Based on your familiarity with the area in which David Hessler took his background**
20 **sound measurements, how would you characterize the amount of traffic that uses the**
21 **roads near his measurement stations?**

1 A. While some of these roads are lightly used, Mr. Hessler's sound measurement locations 1, 3,
2 5, 8, 9, and 10 were located near heavily traveled roads. Monitoring station 7 was located
3 near a road with moderate traffic.

4 **Q. Are you familiar with the residence and property of Robert and Diane McConnell**
5 **located at 4880 E. U.S. Route 36, Urbana, Ohio?**

6 A. Yes. The McConnells live near me.

7 **Q. Have you been to their house?**

8 A. Yes, on many occasions.

9 **Q. Please describe it.**

10 A. The McConnell house sits toward the back of a long, narrow lot that is about 50 acres in area.
11 They have a beautifully-appointed house that has a finished area of 4556 square feet, not
12 including porches and garage. The house has a wonderful view out large back windows
13 toward a woods of about 17 acres. (All of these area estimates are according to the
14 Champaign County Auditor records attached as attached Exhibit F). I am personally aware
15 that the McConnells host equestrian events on their property and in their woods.

16 **Q. Please describe your own house and property.**

17 A. My house is approximately 3,000 square feet with two decks and a screened porch. It sits on
18 28 acres of land bordered by woods to the south and west and by the Urbana Country Club
19 golf course to the north and east. There are two ponds on the property and abundant wildlife.

20 **Q. What was important to you when you selected this property for your home?**

21 A. The privacy and serenity of the property was very important. Also, the view was very
22 important. My property is located on top of a ridge that provides a panoramic view of the
23 surrounding area. Also of significance was the extent to which the many floor to ceiling

1 windows and skylights filled the home with natural light creating a feeling of being outside
2 even when you are inside. As one who enjoys wildlife, the home is an ideal location for
3 observing turkeys, fox, deer, mink, heron, ducks and many birds. Weather permitting, I like
4 to keep the doors and windows open. I own a dog and enjoy walking every day with my dog.
5 It was important to me that I be able to enjoy the full extent of the property with my dog.

6 **Q. Did you expect that you would be able to enjoy the quiet and the nature when you**
7 **purchased the property?**

8 A. Absolutely. Those expectations were a significant part of my decision to buy the property.

9 **Q. Do you own other property within the Buckeye II Wind Project Area?**

10 A. Yes. I own an additional 184 acres of undeveloped property adjacent to my residential
11 property to the south and east, identified as Parcel Nos. J35-10-00-45-00-006-00, J35-10-00-
12 47-00-026-00 and J37-10-00-47-00-025-00. Approximately 22 acres of the land is wooded.

13 **Q. When did you purchase that undeveloped property?**

14 A. In May of 2008.

15 **Q. If the Buckeye II Wind Project is approved as proposed in the Application, what**
16 **concerns do you have about how it affect you and your property?**

17 A. I share all of the same concerns as UNU. For example, according to Champaign Wind's
18 Visual Impact Analysis (Exhibit Q of the Application), it appears that I will be able to see all
19 56 wind turbines from the Buckeye II project. Those are in addition to the 50 or more wind
20 turbines that the Buckeye I application (Exhibit I) said I could see from my property. I am
21 concerned that I will experience more noise and shadow flicker than from the Buckeye I
22 Wind Farm alone. I am concerned about the potential impact of these increased project
23 effects on my health.

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I am also concerned about the impact the project will have on the value of my property and my ability to use it to its best potential. I own 162 acres of farmland. I am concerned that the proximity of turbines so close to my property line may impair or prevent my ability to use aerial chemical application of agricultural chemicals in the future.

I am also concerned that this will not be the only industrial wind development in my community. At the time Buckeye Wind, LLC applied for a certificate for the Buckeye I Wind Farm, it did not disclose to the public that it or its parent company, EverPower, was planning or considering a second phase. Now that another EverPower subsidiary is seeking authorization of Phase II, I am concerned about the possibility of yet further future expansion of this project in my community.

Q. Do you recall attending a meeting with Kim Wissman of the Power Siting Board Staff and Senator William Seitz?

A. Yes. The meeting took place on June 10, 2008. Klaus Lambeck of the Power Siting Board Staff and Tom Stacy were also in attendance. The meeting was to express concern that the Staff would interpret the statutory minimum turbine setbacks as default standards. In the course of the discussion, it was noted that two separate wind developers were pursuing leases in eastern Champaign County. Ms. Wissman assured us that there would never be more than one project in our community, and the developer who applied to the Board first would have priority.

1 **Q. Please state whether you travel on the following roads regularly: Hickory Grove Road**
2 **(aka County Road 236), Mutual Union Road (aka County Road 167), Dolly Varden Road,**
3 **or State Route 161.**

4 A. Yes, I travel on each of those roads regularly.

5 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

6 A. Yes.

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Summary: Testimony of Julia F. Johnson electronically filed by Mr. Christopher A Walker on behalf of Union Neighbors United and McConnell, Robert Mr. and McConnell, Diane Mrs. and Johnson, Julia F. Ms.