

# Large Filing Separator Sheet

Case Number: 12-160-EL-BGN

File Date: 12/3/2012

Section: 1 of 3

Number of Pages: 150

Description of Document: Public Hearing

FILE

1  
2  
3 THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
4 CHAMPAIGNE WIND, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE TO  
5 CONSTRUCT A WIND-POWERED ELECTRIC GENERATING  
6 FACILITY IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, OHIO.

7  
8 Cas No. 12-160-EL-BGN  
9

10 Hearing before  
11 Jonathan Tauber  
12 Bryce McKenney

13 October 25, 2012

14 6:00 p.m.  
15

16 Taken at:

17 Triad High School  
18 8099 Brush Lake Road  
19 North Lewisburg, OH 43060

20  
21 Court Reporter:

22 Katrina Dearborn  
23  
24  
25

PUCO

2012 DEC -3 PM 3:06

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1 MR. TAUBER: The Ohio Power Siting  
2 Board is assigned for public hearing at  
3 this time and place, Case No. 12-160-EL-  
4 BGN in the Matter of the Application of  
5 Champaign Wind, LLC for a certificate to  
6 construct a wind-powered electric  
7 generating facility in Champaign County,  
8 Ohio.

9 My name is John Tauber. With me to  
10 my right is Bryce McKenney,  
11 administrative law judge. Judges will  
12 be conducting tonight's public hearing.  
13 In addition, for Matt Butler and Steve  
14 Erwin, representatives from the Power  
15 Siting Board, probably greeted you when  
16 you came in at the front door with  
17 information. If you have any questions  
18 about the overall power Siting process,  
19 they'll be able to answer those.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak louder.

21 MR. TAUBER: Let me know if you  
22 can't hear me.

23 We'll begin by taking appearances  
24 of parties that are in attendance. So  
25 we'll start on behalf of the applicant,

1 Champaign Wind.

2 MR. SETTINERI: Thank you, Your  
3 Honors. On behalf of the applicant,  
4 Champaign Wind, LLC, Michael J.  
5 Settineri, from the law firm of Vorys,  
6 Sater Seymour & Pease, 53 East Gay  
7 Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

8 MR. TAUBER: On behalf of UNU?

9 FEMALE AUDIENCE MEMBER: Not  
10 represented by counsel.

11 MR. TAUBER: On behalf of the Ohio  
12 Farm Bureau.

13 MS. CURTIS: Your Honor, Lea  
14 Curtis.

15 MR. TAUBER: Thank you. On behalf  
16 of the Champaign County Board of  
17 Commissioners and Township Trustees.

18 MS. MEAGER: Your Honor, Jane  
19 Meager, Assistant Prosecutor, Champaign  
20 County.

21 MR. TAUBER: Thank you. City of  
22 Urbana?

23 MR. WIKMAN: Gil Wikeman, City Law  
24 Director.

25 MR. TAUBER: The Pioneer of the

1 World Electric Cooperative?

2 Okay. The public hearing this  
3 evening is one aspect of the process in  
4 this case. There is going to be an  
5 adjudicatory hearing, which is scheduled  
6 to commence in Columbus on November 8th,  
7 2012. The purpose of tonight's hearing  
8 is to receive comments regarding the  
9 application. This isn't a question-and-  
10 answer session, but rather this is an  
11 opportunity for you to let the Board  
12 know what you think about this proposed  
13 project.

14 As you may have noticed, to my  
15 right there's a court reporter present  
16 and she'll be transcribing everything in  
17 the hearing. Essentially this means  
18 that she'll be recording, in a  
19 typewritten fashion, all the statements  
20 that will be made tonight. And then all  
21 those statements will be submitted to  
22 the Board as part of the official record  
23 in this proceeding.

24 Since tonight's proceeding is being  
25 transcribed, I would like to ask, if you

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1 do testify, please speak very plainly  
2 and clearly to ensure that she can  
3 accurately reflect the comments on the  
4 record. If by chance you prepared a  
5 written statement, if you could, please  
6 leave that with her as well. That would  
7 be helpful.

8 Looks like we have a full house  
9 tonight, and I want to make sure  
10 everyone who wishes to testify this  
11 evening has an opportunity to do so, so  
12 I would like to ask that all individuals  
13 please be respectful of others waiting.  
14 And if you could keep your statements to  
15 a reasonable length of time, if  
16 possible, that would appreciated, since  
17 it looks like we have a line out the  
18 door of people still trying to sign up  
19 to testify.

20 I would also like to point out,  
21 too, that if a party to this case wishes  
22 to testify here rather than in Columbus  
23 at the adjudicatory hearing, you must  
24 state on the record that you no longer  
25 wish to be a party in the proceeding.

1           The reason we do this is because the  
2           public hearing and the adjudicatory  
3           hearing serve two separate functions.  
4           So no person, including any person who  
5           has been granted intervener status, is  
6           allowed to testify both at tonight's  
7           hearing and at the adjudicatory hearing  
8           in Columbus.

9           So at this time it looks like we  
10          can begin calling witnesses forward who  
11          wish to give statements on the record.  
12          Because the testimony will become part  
13          of the official Board record in this  
14          case, and it will be reviewed by the  
15          Board members before reaching their  
16          final decision, what we'll do is we'll  
17          swear you in by asking you to take an  
18          oath or affirmation that what you're  
19          about to say is true. In addition,  
20          before you give your statement, either  
21          Bryce or I will ask you to confirm your  
22          name and address on the record, as  
23          well.

24          Attorneys for the company and other  
25          parties are allowed to ask you questions

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1 about your statement while you're under  
2 oath. When we call your name, if you  
3 chose not to testify, you can merely  
4 pass and we'll call the next witness.  
5 Once you finish testifying or if you're  
6 just in attendance to observe this  
7 evening, you're free to leave at any  
8 time. If you have not signed up to  
9 testify and wish to do so, we have  
10 additional sign-up sheets in the front  
11 of the room. And then after we go  
12 through everybody's name who signed up,  
13 we'll also ask if anybody in attendance  
14 would like to testify who had not yet  
15 had an opportunity to.

16 So at this time Bryce will begin  
17 calling witnesses forward.

18 MR. MCKENNEY: Good afternoon. I  
19 will be calling the witnesses forward.  
20 I apologize ahead of time if I  
21 mispronounce any of your names. When I  
22 call you forward, if you would please  
23 step up to the front of stage here. At  
24 that time I will have you raise your  
25 right hand and I will swear you in.



1 Your testimony here today will be your  
2 sworn testimony. At that time if you  
3 would step to the stadium, there is a  
4 microphone at the stadium. I would ask  
5 that you please state your name and  
6 address.

7 So I will begin with Joy Mohr. Is  
8 there a Joy Mohr here?

9 JOY MOHR,

10 After having been first duly sworn, as  
11 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
12 as follows:

13 MR. MCKENNEY: Thank you. You may  
14 step to the podium.

15 MS. MOHR: Can you hear me now?

16 Good evening everyone. Tonight I  
17 speak on behalf of my husband John and  
18 myself. My name is Joy Mohr. I am  
19 speaking by default. Please bear with  
20 me.

21 To the Ohio Power Siting Board and  
22 the community of Champaign County, Big  
23 Wind simply makes benign statements,  
24 such as, industrial wind turbines will  
25 bring green jobs, lower CO-2 emissions,

1 makes U.S. less dependant on foreign  
2 oil, money for your schools, or will  
3 help invigorate your local economy. And  
4 all the while they continue to refuse to  
5 acknowledge and/or outright dismiss any  
6 claims being made by hundreds of people  
7 who are living the nightmare of the true  
8 reality of having to live among  
9 industrial wind farms. Big Wind  
10 maintains wind farms have detrimental --  
11 little detrimental effects on the health  
12 and well-being of humans, pets,  
13 livestock, and the environment and  
14 wildlife, bats and birds. And Big Winds  
15 still maintains outright denial of  
16 residential property devaluation. Each  
17 and every statement the wind industry  
18 makes can be debunked with a little  
19 research and a little bit of critical  
20 thinking.

21 Wind advocates insist that property  
22 values are not affected by nearby  
23 industrial wind turbines because, they  
24 assert, that there will always be a  
25 buyer, as it is just a matter of taste.

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1 This is small comfort for those who  
2 already own homes near potential wind  
3 farm sites, but whose tastes are not so  
4 keen on rattling windows, humming walls,  
5 flickering lights, 100-plus foot blades  
6 spinning overhead, giant metal towers  
7 with supply roads where once there were  
8 tree and deer trails. The true facts on  
9 the industry's claim of safe, clean,  
10 green energy, jobs, and promised money  
11 to the community is catching up to them,  
12 and this truth is proving to be just the  
13 opposite.

14 A project as big as this will not  
15 only hurt the 1000 families or so who  
16 own homes within the footprint of this  
17 project, it will also have far reaching  
18 ripple effects that will negatively  
19 affect the entire county for years to  
20 come. The 1000 plus homes within the  
21 footprint of this wind farm project  
22 represent 40 percent of Champaign  
23 County's assessed residential real  
24 estate value. How do you think this  
25 will affect the tax base for the county

1           once those who will be forced to live  
2           within the project footprint begin to  
3           see a fall in their homes value or  
4           become worthless because of the turbines  
5           all around them.

6           We say Ever Power should give all  
7           families who live within the footprint  
8           of this project guaranteed property  
9           value, period.

10          The forecasted growth in Champaign  
11          is in the eastern third. Now, do you  
12          honestly think folks will be buying up  
13          real estate around the footprint area to  
14          live amongst the largest turbines to be  
15          built amongst residential homes? We  
16          think not. Growth in the county will  
17          decrease and some homes will be  
18          abandoned. So to when these very  
19          families begin to flee the area because  
20          of the turbines, the schools will suffer  
21          loss of students, hence the loss of  
22          money as well. So all of that big money  
23          promised to the schools, how long do you  
24          think that will last then, and for what  
25          purpose if there are no students to

1 attend the schools now?

2 The wind industry has been kept  
3 afloat my subsidies for the last 20  
4 years and still they have not produced  
5 anything by way of what they taught to  
6 supposedly be doing. A typical lay  
7 person has never really heard of wind  
8 turbines and the travesties that occur  
9 when sited near homes or what they do to  
10 surrounding environments, wildlife,  
11 humans, and property values. The  
12 industry got greedier and began making  
13 the move within the last ten years of  
14 constructing wind farms in rural  
15 residential communities. Now, they're  
16 up close and personal. That is when the  
17 industry began to expose their own  
18 selves. Now humans are realizing too  
19 well what is going on and the fight to  
20 stop them from being erected near humans  
21 is under way. But still, the industry  
22 keeps poo-pooing these reports and says  
23 that people are making it all up simply  
24 because they don't like looking at  
25 them. But hundreds and hundreds of

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1 people who are all suffering the same  
2 type of symptoms and health issues are  
3 telling the horrors of the true  
4 realities of living in the shadows of  
5 turbines. The wind industry continually  
6 denounces and/or dismisses these claims,  
7 but how is it that so many people are  
8 experiencing the same symptoms all over  
9 the country and abroad as well? Are  
10 They All Experiencing the No seagull  
11 effect as the wind industry likes to  
12 claim? Does the wind industry truly  
13 believe that all of these people who are  
14 experiencing these health issues because  
15 of the turbines being near their home  
16 are all making it up? Hogwash we say.  
17 It is not hard to connect the dots and  
18 implement some critical thinking. So  
19 let us get this right, that Ever Power  
20 is willing to sacrifice 1000 families,  
21 throw us all under the bus, and for  
22 what? The Ohio Power Siting Board  
23 cannot let this happen.

24 These wind farm companies aren't  
25 going to be around long enough for wind

1 farms to merely expire their leases.

2 All of these companies are likely to be  
3 long gone and bankrupt. And bankrupt  
4 companies don't tend to spend money on  
5 their obligations. Creditors first. So  
6 far blood has not successfully been  
7 extracted from a turnip, so too, it goes  
8 with companies that have gone insolvent  
9 regardless of what any signed lease  
10 agreements may contain. They have all  
11 formed limited liability companies, and  
12 for good reason, so good luck with  
13 that.

14 When considering setbacks for the  
15 Buckeye Wind project here in Champaign  
16 County, we asked that critical thinking  
17 be implemented, as Buckeye Wind has yet  
18 to determine the exact model of  
19 turbines. Buckeye Wind should not be  
20 suggesting their own setbacks, as one of  
21 its biggest problems is, there are no  
22 national standards for the construction  
23 of industrial wind projects. And the  
24 industry has taken full advantage of  
25 that. They have even disregarded

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1 manufacturer's recommended setbacks.  
2 Nor should the Power Siting Board look  
3 towards other states or counties as  
4 setback models or as any sort of  
5 guideline in making your determination,  
6 as evidence is quickly proving out and  
7 confirming that setbacks adopted by  
8 other states and counties clearly are  
9 not working with regard to the public's  
10 health, safety and welfare. These are  
11 guidelines that other communities have  
12 been communicating to others over and  
13 over again that the setback distances  
14 that they have implemented didn't work.

15 We hope that the Ohio Power Siting  
16 Board follows your own mission statement  
17 when you say you wish to support sound  
18 energy policies for the benefit of all  
19 Ohio citizens, while protecting the  
20 environment and land use.

21 This project meets none of those  
22 criteria when under further scrutiny.  
23 Restore true total transparency and  
24 fairness to permitting and regulations  
25 in order to ascertain what is most



1 appropriate regarding industrial wind  
2 farms near residential homes when all of  
3 the facts are fully investigated.

4 Champaign County might be the first  
5 community in the U.S. to have industrial  
6 wind turbines of such size constructed  
7 in such a heavily populated rural  
8 setting. To date, not one of any  
9 495-foot wind turbine, as proposed to be  
10 erected here in Champaign County, has  
11 been erected anywhere near residential  
12 homes. We're the first. We're the  
13 guinea pigs. These are unproven  
14 models. We strongly urge that a siting  
15 distance of two miles from any dwelling  
16 be assessed for this project because, in  
17 a situation such as this, common sense  
18 should dictate that if the model of  
19 turbine is one of the largest ever to be  
20 used, then the noise concern, health  
21 dangers and all of the other issues  
22 surrounding wind turbines will follow  
23 them in size equally as much.  
24 Therefore, so too, should the setbacks  
25 allowances. So let's all think outside

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1 of the box.

2 I would like to also state that my  
3 husband and I are property homeowners in  
4 the footprint area of this proposed  
5 project, and we are non participants.  
6 And we invite anyone that comes up here  
7 and speaks tonight to identify yourself  
8 as such.

9 MR. MCKENNEY: Next call Robert  
10 Townsend.

11 ROBERT TOWNSEND,

12 After having been first duly sworn, as  
13 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
14 as follows:

15 MR. MCKENNEY: You may take the  
16 podium. Please state your name and  
17 address when you do.

18 MR. TOWNSEND: My name is Robert  
19 Townsend. I live at 668 Kiser Lake  
20 Road, St. Paris, Ohio.

21 Other than the six years that I  
22 spent in the Army, I've lived in  
23 Champaign County my entire life. And  
24 I've worked in the county for all but  
25 three of those years. I grew up on

1 Cemetery Road in the middle of my  
2 grandparents' farm. I didn't get into  
3 the farming much as a kid because I was  
4 too busy being Simon Kenton. I was  
5 exploring all the neighboring farms at  
6 Kaiser Lake.

7 My personal interest in this  
8 project concerns the issues and  
9 environmental impact, economic benefits  
10 and public necessity. These issues are  
11 very important to me because I  
12 volunteered many hours working on  
13 conservation issues and projects as the  
14 conservation director for just over  
15 10,000 bass masters in the State of  
16 Ohio.

17 Because I'm also a blue collar  
18 worker in a Champaign County machine  
19 shop, and because I'm veteran, I'm a  
20 skeptic. I found most large business's  
21 conservation plans to be little more  
22 than cookie cutter templet, consisting  
23 of off-site mitigation projects and full  
24 of catch phrases weekly conveying  
25 concerns for the environment.

1 I'm leery of promises of more jobs  
2 and a better economy. The only water  
3 that has been in the St. Paris bottling  
4 plant that the previous Governor  
5 dedicated was when a summer's wind storm  
6 blew off the corner of its roof. I'm  
7 not sure if it is a public necessity for  
8 more infrastructures to be completed. I  
9 think we have enough concrete dividers  
10 and orange barrels.

11 I've read the conservation plan and  
12 the environmental impact assessment for  
13 this project. It is the most thorough  
14 plan and assessment that I've ever  
15 read. I learned that the amount of  
16 regulations and standards that power  
17 companies have to meet is vastly  
18 exceptional when compared to all other  
19 businesses.

20 If we, as ordinary citizens, had to  
21 play by the same rules when we built our  
22 homes in the fields along road frontage  
23 in the middle of the wood lots, we would  
24 revert to being cavemen, except that is  
25 where the bats live.

1           It is my opinion that as a  
2           conversationalist that if I oppose this  
3           project on environmental concerns, I  
4           would be emulating Don Quixote and  
5           tilting at windmills. We have all heard  
6           the promise of more jobs, most of us, if  
7           any, have not seen it come true. I  
8           program and set up machines at a job  
9           shop in this county that has 21 CNC  
10          machines. We had 30 employees and went  
11          down to six. We have a about 15 now,  
12          but that number is misleading. It's not  
13          that there is more work available for  
14          shops, but that many shops have closed.  
15          This part that I am holding is a rare  
16          example of how plants and promises for  
17          jobs are fulfilled and the atypical  
18          story of what is special about our local  
19          small businesses.

20                I programmed and set up this part  
21                for the first time several months ago,  
22                and all that I was told was that we  
23                quoted the job because another local  
24                shop went under. And the part gets  
25                polished by our new customer, and they

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1 send it on to their customer. We have  
2 went several months since, and the  
3 operator who runs this part is a young  
4 lady who supports herself, has her only  
5 apartment. It's hard to find parts that  
6 she can run because she had Cerebral  
7 Palsy and the use of only one hand and  
8 arm.

9 Recently I learned that this part  
10 is a reflector that goes in the lights  
11 that Urbana's Hughey and Phillips has  
12 contracted to make for Everpower and  
13 will be placed on a wind turbine.

14 Although it seems like just  
15 yesterday, twenty years ago, and 30  
16 pounds ago, I was a sergeant in the  
17 101st Airborne Division in the first  
18 Gulf War. I had the privilege of  
19 serving the greatest nation of people in  
20 the world. I have the honor -- the  
21 unforgettable honor to serve with the  
22 greatest warriors that the world has  
23 ever seen. Those vivid memories and  
24 experiences, coupled with what every one  
25 of us in this room has witnessed every

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1 day since September 11, 2001 -- there is  
2 too many deaths and so many heroes.

3 There is no escaping the fact that  
4 one of our interests in the middle east  
5 is, and there is no doubt in my mind  
6 that it was a gross understatement to  
7 say it's public necessity, it is a  
8 public obligation, to wisely use all of  
9 our technological and natural resources  
10 to seek energy independence for our  
11 nation.

12 The wind farm project has far  
13 exceeded my expectations. I'm eagerly  
14 optimistic for its future benefit to the  
15 community, and I fully support its  
16 implementation.

17 MR. MCKENNEY: Ted Black. Is Ted  
18 Black here?

19 TED BLACK,

20 After having been first duly sworn, as  
21 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
22 as follows:

23 MR. MCKENNEY: You may take the  
24 podium. Please state your name and  
25 address.

1 MR. BLACK: My name is Ted Black.  
2 I live on 2073 Talbott Road,  
3 Mechanicsburg, Ohio. My family has  
4 farmed in Champaign County for seven  
5 generations. And my family lives and  
6 farms within the project -- phase two  
7 project area.

8 My family and I agree that this  
9 wind project will be good for the  
10 community. First, due to recent budget  
11 cuts, Mechanicsburg and Triad High  
12 Schools are sharing an Ag instructor.  
13 The revenue generated by this project  
14 will greatly improve the financial  
15 situation. The schools in the  
16 surrounding area can receive a grand  
17 total of \$929,600 from the phase two  
18 wind turbine project annually. Local  
19 schools will receive as much as:  
20 Mechanicsburg, \$448,200 a year; Triad,  
21 \$415,000 a year; Urbana, \$49,800 a year,  
22 and West Liberty Salem, \$16,600 a year.  
23 By the way, the issue -- today's issue  
24 in Urbana Daily Citizen, the Triad  
25 School District is predicting its first



1 deficit in 2015, 2016 of \$204,000. That  
2 deficit is estimated to grow to 1.2  
3 million for the 2016, 2017 fiscal year.

4 Second, wind farms have little  
5 impact on farming operations. Wind  
6 turbines will also help preserve the  
7 farming ground in the area.

8 Third, studies have shown that wind  
9 turbines have little to no impact on  
10 wildlife. This is much less than  
11 housing developments.

12 Last, the wind turbine project will  
13 employ 10 to 15 full-time workers.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. MCKENNEY: Tom Stacy.

16 TOM STACY,

17 After having been first duly sworn, as  
18 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
19 as follows:

20 MR. MCKENNEY: Take the podium.

21 Please state your name and address.

22 MR. STACY: My name is Tom Stacy.

23 I live at 6628 County Road 10 in  
24 Zanesfield, Ohio.

25 I'm not a lease holder in the

1           Buckeye wind plan. In early 2009 I met  
2           with Ohio Power Siting Board Director,  
3           Kim Wissman, her staff expert on wind,  
4           Klaus Lombourg, and several others. I  
5           asked her if a second wind plant might  
6           ever be built over the same project area  
7           as another one. I described the  
8           compounding affects of a greater number  
9           of wind machines on nearby residents, as  
10          well as the affects some of these  
11          machines might impose on each other.

12                Ms. Wissman assured us that the  
13                OPSB will never allow overlap of wind  
14                projects. Yet here we are, reviewing  
15                the staff report to the Ohio Power  
16                Siting Board, recommending that just  
17                such an overlay project be approved.

18                At another public meeting held in  
19                2010 at Champaign County Government  
20                Center, Ms. Wissman told us that the  
21                mission of the Power Siting Board was  
22                not to prevent ill-conceived energy  
23                projects from being built, but rather to  
24                ensure all applicants will be granted a  
25                permit.

1                   She went on to tell us the Ohio  
2                   Power Siting Board had never turned down  
3                   a formal application. And I was  
4                   disappointed to hear that the Power  
5                   Siting Board, in fact, works behind the  
6                   scenes, before developers submit their  
7                   application, to assure it is ultimately  
8                   approved. And the Power Siting Board  
9                   does not compare the impacts and  
10                  benefits among generation proposals to  
11                  weed out the losers. That is just not  
12                  their job. What is their job? The  
13                  definition of the powers of the Ohio  
14                  Power Siting Board sounds noble, giving  
15                  them purview to ensure, among other  
16                  things, that the facility represents the  
17                  minimum adverse environmental impact  
18                  considering the states of available  
19                  technology and the nature and economics  
20                  of the various alternatives from Section  
21                  4906.1 of the Revised Code. That  
22                  particular definition of law seemed  
23                  powerful. But on second glance, it weds  
24                  economic analysis to an estimation of  
25                  environmental benefits among generation

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1 projects, and it gets pretty murky. I  
2 personally believe that economic  
3 environmental reports submitted by the  
4 applicants are too narrow in scope,  
5 mired in generalities and conjecture,  
6 and overall are deeply flawed in  
7 numerous way. So numerous and obviously  
8 are these flaws, in fact, that I am  
9 sparing you the details. I do, though,  
10 encourage you to carefully read them for  
11 yourselves.

12 Other powers bestowed on the Power  
13 Siting Board give them authority to  
14 ensure that a proposed facility will  
15 serve the interest of electric system  
16 economy and reliability, and that the  
17 facility will serve the public interest,  
18 convenience, and necessity.

19 I charge the wind energy projects  
20 and the Buckeye Wind project, in  
21 particular, demonstrably failed to meet  
22 any of the above criteria. They do not  
23 serve the system economics. They are  
24 not reliable. And they are not in the  
25 public interest. But I want to focus on

1           just one. And that is the facility --  
2           that the facility serves the public  
3           necessity. Necessity is a broad term.  
4           It can be argued that a potential  
5           electricity generation project is  
6           unnecessary if there is not a shortage  
7           of generating capacity for the  
8           foreseeable future. Ohio's economy and  
9           electricity demands have fallen in  
10          recent years and may continue to fall.  
11          Necessity might mean that dependable  
12          base load plants nearing retirement must  
13          be replaced with generation projects of  
14          equal or better capability in the base  
15          load role, and that such project  
16          applications should be approved. In  
17          fact, some older Ohio coal plants are  
18          closing even before the end of their  
19          designed life, due to tightening federal  
20          EPA regulations. But can a wind plant  
21          developer demonstrate technology to  
22          replace the capability of retiring coal  
23          plants? Even the developer must admit  
24          they absolutely cannot. In fact, wind  
25          plants cannot replace our current or

1 future need for any conventional  
2 generation plant for one simple reason,  
3 neither wind current nor the untimely  
4 energy they produce can be placed into  
5 inventory until needed. The fuels for  
6 our conventional plants can be and are  
7 inventoried or are available for just-  
8 in-time delivery through our natural gas  
9 transmission and distribution system to  
10 meet demands precisely as it rises and  
11 falls. Wind cannot be saved up and  
12 furthermore tends to produce energy  
13 counter cyclically to demand patterns.  
14 Hopefully we all know this by now, but  
15 the implications of this fact are not  
16 always obvious. For one, necessity of  
17 building wind plants does not forestall  
18 the necessity for building conventional  
19 plants, existing or new, that really may  
20 be needed.

21 So how else exactly might the Power  
22 Siting Board interpret the passage in  
23 Ohio law asking them to ensure that the  
24 facility will serve the public interest  
25 convenience and necessity. Might

1 necessity mean that since Ohio has  
2 adopted into law a renewable energy  
3 mandate, such facilities are needed? If  
4 so, this is a stark departure from what  
5 public necessity has meant in the past  
6 and should mean today. And if the  
7 renewable mandate imposes on the  
8 definition of public necessity, does the  
9 mandate also overshadow other bases for  
10 granting or denying specifics to build  
11 Buckeye Wind? I believe this is not  
12 only possible but likely.

13 I believe that the Power Siting  
14 Board is compelled by law to approve  
15 wind projects regardless of whether they  
16 serve the public interest; regardless;  
17 of whether they are financially viable  
18 without our tax dollars committed to  
19 them; regardless of whether or not  
20 demand is on the rise; regardless of the  
21 fact that they are not a substitute for  
22 conventional generating plants  
23 dependability; regardless of their  
24 comparative sprawl, industrial  
25 imposition, 500 feet up, overwhelmingly

1 altering the character of rural regions;  
2 and regardless of the number of citizens  
3 who know and persist in these facts.

4 Because of the possibilities that Ohio  
5 Power Siting Board is operating under a  
6 compromised definition of public  
7 necessity, I argue that they should  
8 attach much greater weight to the impact  
9 of wind project applications they  
10 consider. Current population density  
11 and land use within and around the  
12 enormous footprint of these industrial  
13 sites, co mingled with rural  
14 residential, recreational, and even  
15 agricultural uses should be a strong  
16 limiting factor in the approval  
17 projects. Not all projects should be  
18 approved, least of all, this one.

19 Real world experience proves visual  
20 and auditory impositions will  
21 substantially lower residential property  
22 values and dissuade future residential  
23 growth. For this reason alone, Eastern  
24 Champaign County is an abominable choice  
25 for wind energy's industrial sprawl.



1                   Since the Power Siting Board is  
2                   compelled to permit intrusive wind  
3                   development, less populated areas with  
4                   less natural beauty and less personal  
5                   investment in homestead should be sought  
6                   and can, indeed, be found within our  
7                   state's borders. Access to comparable  
8                   and substantially cleaner wind streams,  
9                   along with proximate transmission access  
10                  do, in fact, correspond with far less  
11                  populated and less naturally attractive  
12                  areas. Permits for wind development, if  
13                  they must be approved at all, should be  
14                  limited to those areas.

15                 Now, I know I sound like one, but I  
16                 am not a NIMBY. I don't just say, build  
17                 it somewhere else instead of in my  
18                 backyard. I say, don't build wind at  
19                 all, anywhere. But if you, the Power  
20                 Siting Board, must permit it under your  
21                 definition of public interest,  
22                 convenience, and necessity, then please,  
23                 carefully select sites that will  
24                 inconvenience the least number of the  
25                 rural residents; distract from our

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1 interests and pride in our scenic  
2 business, and necessitate less harm to  
3 endangered species, such as the Indiana  
4 Bat. We are counting on you to exercise  
5 your authority to its limits in light of  
6 the arguably corrupted definition of  
7 public necessity applied to renewable  
8 energy projects. To date you have not  
9 done so. The scope and quality of work  
10 the Siting Board staff has produced is  
11 clearly too narrow and unquestionably  
12 biased in favor of creating permits for  
13 wind.

14 Competent leadership in the Power  
15 Siting Board and Public Utilities  
16 Commission should vow to recognize this  
17 problem and correct it to the limit of  
18 the law.

19 Tonight's showcase may be a weak  
20 excuse for prudent energy policy and  
21 regulations, and no substitute for  
22 justice, but we are earnest in trying to  
23 make the best of this opportunity to be  
24 heard. We hope the Power Siting Board  
25 recognizes and appreciates that we have

1           worked hard to understand and verify the  
2           economic and technical impracticality of  
3           using the air currents as an electricity  
4           fuel; that we are aware of the  
5           demographics and land use  
6           characteristics of various areas of the  
7           state; that we are confident in our  
8           analysis of the net technical, economic  
9           and environmental value wind produces.  
10          The impacts are many and the footprint,  
11          several orders of magnitude greater than  
12          for nuclear, natural gas, and even coal,  
13          per unit of energy or capacity they  
14          produce.

15                 We seek to impress upon the Power  
16          Siting Board that such public diligence  
17          and awareness demands your attention and  
18          accountability. We want the Power  
19          Siting Board and the County  
20          Commissioners to know that even the full  
21          utility property tax this project might  
22          return to the community is not  
23          sufficient to overcome the impact,  
24          especially since any tax money the  
25          county and townships would receive is

1 taxpayer money to begin with. Even the  
2 President's white house staff admits  
3 that two-thirds of wind project  
4 development costs are taxpayer  
5 giveaways. According to a 2010 briefing  
6 memo to the president regarding typical  
7 wind energy projects quotes, the  
8 government would provide a significant  
9 subsidy, 65 or more percent, while the  
10 sponsor would provide little skin in the  
11 game, equity of about ten percent.

12 Using figures from applicants'  
13 economic study, the project costs are  
14 estimated \$345 million. A 65 or more  
15 percent taxpayer charity donating is  
16 more that \$245 million for this project  
17 alone. Of that \$245 million handout  
18 Everpower might return two million in  
19 taxes, and a million to lease holders  
20 each year. Aside from anyone's desire  
21 to profit at the expense of our nation's  
22 treasury and their neighboring  
23 taxpayers, how is that a fair trade?

24 At the state level, this project is  
25 a legacy of an alliance between then

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1 Speaker of The House, John Husted, and  
2 then Governor, Ted Strickland. Their  
3 vision was to promote wind energy by  
4 forcing it into Ohio's land and the  
5 regional electricity grid under penalty  
6 of law. This use of force was  
7 necessary, you see, because our tax  
8 dollars making wind price competitive  
9 wasn't enough to make wind a good fit  
10 for our electricity system. How do we  
11 know this? Well, prior to the state  
12 forcing renewables on them, utilities  
13 made generation choices based on the  
14 best overall value, not just price.  
15 Wind just didn't pass muster.

16 Why did law makers demand utilities  
17 use renewable energy in ever-increasing  
18 quantities, when the utilities hadn't  
19 chosen to do so on their own. Governor  
20 Strickland and Speaker Husted, along  
21 with most of the 127th general assembly,  
22 had been sold a bill of goods by the  
23 wind industry lobby. The wind lobby was  
24 so effective at promoting their  
25 distorted view of reality facts that

1           lawmakers became afflicted with tunnel  
2           vision and near-sightedness. They came  
3           to believe that 16th century energy was  
4           the wave of the future. It looked so  
5           good they couldn't see straight. The  
6           visual impairment of these office  
7           holders were, therefore, compounded by  
8           another malady of office, a lack of  
9           hindsight. Clear hindsight might have  
10          reminded them that wind as fuel was long  
11          ago abandoned by the electricity system  
12          because of its indifference to demand,  
13          and as records show, wind behavior is  
14          worse than indifference to demand  
15          cycles. It's argumentative set.

16                 In a very real market place, some  
17          of them considered by the public,  
18          electricity consumers cry, "I need more  
19          electricity right now." Wind energy  
20          producers typically shout back, "sorry,  
21          we don't have any right now. Let the  
22          fossil plants provide it." At other  
23          times consumers are asleep, they need  
24          less and less electricity. At such  
25          inopportune moments, wind producers

1 often raid the market with sudden bursts  
2 and lulls of wind power, disrupting the  
3 efficient order in which controllable  
4 generators back down smoothly as demand  
5 recedes.

6 Back to the state government's  
7 unfortunate vision problems. While we  
8 are not opticians or ophthalmologists, a  
9 few of us knew then in 2008 that we must  
10 at least offer corrective lenses to  
11 state legislature and the Strickland  
12 administration. We worked hard at it,  
13 but leadership wouldn't even try on the  
14 glasses. They, instead, celebrated new  
15 jobs in a tiny industry whose growth  
16 makes our entire state and nation less  
17 competitive and less productive in every  
18 other industry by inducing higher  
19 electricity costs. They had tunnel  
20 vision. They promoted the miss use of  
21 our tax dollars that could otherwise  
22 help reduce our national debt, instead  
23 spending them to support a mandate -- to  
24 support production tax credits with a  
25 mandate that will eventually make our

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1 electricity more expensive and its  
2 sources more land intensive. They were  
3 nearsighted. They failed to recognize  
4 the reason wind energy was abandoned as  
5 a grid-contributing energy source over a  
6 century ago because its fuel is  
7 available at inconvenient times and not  
8 available when we need it most. Wind  
9 energy became impractical and  
10 uncompetitive when the steam engine was  
11 invented and applied to electricity  
12 generation.

13 Controllable, dependable, and  
14 timely generation provides far greater  
15 value. But state leaderships' hindsight  
16 was far from 20/20.

17 As for the wind industry, it is  
18 dishonest to imply that energy at the  
19 mercy of the wind could ever approach  
20 the value derived from human-controlled  
21 sources, no matter the price. Would you  
22 buy an automobile or an alarm clock that  
23 worked only 25 or 30 percent of the time  
24 and the times they worked were seldom  
25 when you needed them? It is fool



1           hearted to resurrect obsolete,  
2           undependable technologies and to call  
3           them the wave of the future. If the  
4           president and the EPA are truly  
5           committed to destroying the coal  
6           industry, which today supplies 80  
7           percent of Ohio's dependable, affordable  
8           electricity, I hope they chose an  
9           alternative that works when we need it  
10          to work and does so at the lowest  
11          possible price. Hint: wind ain't it.

12                 Misguided renewable energy policies  
13           persist and the OPSB is beholding to  
14           them, but there is still hope. Many  
15           science-driven citizens and a growing  
16           number of elected officials are working  
17           to help their peers recognize the truth,  
18           that while they can change the laws of  
19           our state and our nation, they can't  
20           change the laws of physics, mathematics,  
21           or economics. They certainly cannot  
22           mandate that Ohio wind blow more  
23           consistently.

24                 Forty-nine U.S. congress persons  
25           signed a letter to the U.S. Speaker of

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1 the House, John Boehner, earlier this  
2 month demanding that federal subsidies  
3 for wind energy be eliminated at the end  
4 of 2012 without compromise. I hope they  
5 can hear you. Among them was Ohio  
6 congressman Jim Jordan, and make no  
7 mistake, if the wind energy federal  
8 welfare checks dry up, so will plans for  
9 Buckeye Wind. Reading from that letter  
10 sent to Speaker Boehner and authored by  
11 congressman Pompayo, of Windy Kansas,  
12 "subsidized intermittent power distorts  
13 markets and threatens round-the-clock  
14 base load power producers, forcing them  
15 to pay or shut down for long periods of  
16 the day when their power is needed  
17 most. This will ultimately harm  
18 consumers who need power that is  
19 affordable and available around the  
20 clock. Our nation can simply no longer  
21 afford to pick winners and losers in the  
22 energy market place. The production tax  
23 credit should expire at the end of the  
24 year under current law. The letter was  
25 signed by 49 elected officials that

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1 recognize that the laws of physics and  
2 basic economics trump the fantasy  
3 inspired hopes that wind energy is  
4 environmentally, technically or  
5 financially prudent. They signed on to  
6 that letter in spite of green energy  
7 myths many of their own constituents have  
8 come to believe. These brave officials  
9 are doing what they know is best for all  
10 of us in the long term, even if it isn't  
11 what is best for their political  
12 aspirations in the short term. God  
13 Bless them. And if speaker Boehner and  
14 the U.S. Congress can't open their eyes  
15 to these facts and support them, then  
16 God help us all.

17 In a sense, we should be grateful  
18 that the elaborate plans for Buckeye  
19 Wind are at the mercy of ongoing  
20 irresponsible government policies.  
21 After all, policies can change. But  
22 regardless of whether this project is  
23 ever built, I hope each of you,  
24 including the county commissioners,  
25 state legislators, administrators, U.S.

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1 Congress persons, and Governor John  
2 Kasich will do your part to help guide  
3 future policy toward cost effective,  
4 dependable energy solutions that  
5 strengthen our economy, and away from  
6 impractical, expensive energy fads that  
7 increase our federal debt, hobble  
8 efforts to reduce our trade deficit,  
9 hamper growth in gross domestic  
10 products, litter residential areas with  
11 inefficient, propeller-wielding machines  
12 in the sky, lower rural homestead  
13 values, compromise residential property  
14 rights, and make Ohio and America less  
15 competitive and less prosperous, just as  
16 the challenges and opportunities of the  
17 more competitive global market blossom.

18 The emperor of wind energy touts  
19 its beautiful clothing, but stands naked  
20 before you. See it for what it is.  
21 Make it known to your political  
22 representatives, your neighbors, and our  
23 fine administrative law judges. We  
24 might just make Buckeye Wind and the  
25 rest of this embarrassing industry face

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1 reality, blush and then run for cover in  
2 a sudden display of modesty.

3 MR. MCKENNEY: Before calling our  
4 next witness, I just wanted to let  
5 everybody know, while we'll be here all  
6 night until everybody who wants to  
7 testify can testify, I'm guessing, in  
8 the event that some of you might have to  
9 leave earlier than that, we do have  
10 sheets in the front of the room that are  
11 petitions that you can sign if you're in  
12 favor the project or if you're opposed  
13 to the project. So if you need to leave  
14 early or if you wish to leave, those are  
15 available, and those will also be a part  
16 of the official record.

17 I would also like to ask,  
18 Mr. Stacy, if have your comments in  
19 written form, we would accept those for  
20 the court reporter's benefit. Thank  
21 you.

22 Next I will call Scott Stevenson.

23 SCOTT STEVENSON,

24 After having been first duly sworn, as  
25 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified

1 as follows:

2

3

MR. MCKENNEY: Thank you. You may  
take the podium. Please state your name  
and address when you do.

6

7

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15

MR. STEVENSON: Good evening. I'm  
Scott Stevenson. I live at 4352 Honey  
Locust Lane, Beaver Creek, Ohio. I'm  
not a resident of Champaign County. I  
am a representative of the Operating  
Engineers, Local 18, 15,000 members  
state wide. I'm here speaking on behalf  
of the 200 families that we represent in  
Champaign County, along with the  
retirees.

16

17

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20

I'm basing my statement on wind  
farm projects already completed or  
currently under way by our members that  
they've been working on in the last  
couple of years.

21

22

23

24

25

Usually, in a setting such as this,  
I would speak to the merits of the  
construction process and how it affects  
the workers in the area. But having  
seen the economic study, I understand

1           there's hundreds of construction jobs  
2           and tens of thousands of man hours being  
3           worked by local tradesmen and has been  
4           well covered. As well as the fact that  
5           the monies paid in wages and fringes are  
6           majority returned to the community. The  
7           monies into the insurance, it is spent  
8           at the local hospitals and doctors. The  
9           monies to go into the scholarship funds  
10          are spent at the local colleges. The  
11          monies that go in the pension funds are  
12          spent to support local pensions.  
13          Utility bills, the taxes paid by our  
14          members are spent locally. These are  
15          all facts that have been well cover and  
16          are not in dispute.

17                 What I would like to briefly cover  
18                 is an aspect of this project that's  
19                 highly beneficial to the community but  
20                 hasn't been adequately addressed. It  
21                 would be the infrastructure  
22                 improvements. The economic climate  
23                 we're in is eliminating the amount of  
24                 infrastructure work the county and  
25                 township can keep up with.

1 Understandably, the high priority roads  
2 and bridges get the attention first. As  
3 we have seen as operating engineers of  
4 any other wind farm projects, the  
5 majority of hours worked are not on  
6 turbines themselves, but on  
7 infrastructure improvements. These  
8 improvements go to facilitate projects.  
9 The improvements themselves are a great  
10 benefit to the local community, and  
11 unlike normal infrastructure  
12 improvements, these are no cost to the  
13 tax payers.

14 Miles of roads will need to be  
15 improved and widened. Intersections  
16 will be need to be improved and  
17 widened. Drainage systems will be need  
18 to be upgraded and replaced. Box  
19 culverts and bridges will need to be  
20 upgraded and replaced. All these  
21 projects are done at no cost to the  
22 community. This is not only beneficial  
23 to the residents, but to local  
24 agriculture and businesses as well.

25 As a member of the operating

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1 engineers and members of this community,  
2 we must support Buckeye Wind project.

3 MR. MCKENNEY: Jon Berry.

4 JON BERRY,

5 After having been first duly sworn, as  
6 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
7 as follows:

8 - - - - -

9 MR. MCKENNEY: You may take the  
10 podium. Please state your name and  
11 address when you do.

12 MR. BARRY: My name is Jon Barry.  
13 I'm from Cable, Ohio. I would like to  
14 welcome you to our school. I'm a local  
15 farmer and an ag businessman, and I live  
16 here near Cable, Ohio in Union  
17 Township.

18 I'm speaking in favor of the  
19 Buckeye Wind II project and Everpower  
20 Renewable's handling of its planning and  
21 permitting of the project. I've had the  
22 opportunity to represent the farmers of  
23 this county as a representative in the  
24 Champaign County Wind Turbine Study  
25 Group. I represented them as their

1 representative to the local Farm  
2 Bureau. I was also a founding member of  
3 the Champaign Advocates for Renewable  
4 Energy. CARE was the name of our group,  
5 and still is. It's an educational group  
6 that's held a series of seminars on the  
7 positive aspects of renewable energy. I  
8 also represented CARE on the Ohio Wind  
9 Working Group when we was active.

10 Some of the past seminars and  
11 guests CARE has hosted were Environment  
12 Ohio, Invenergy, Everpower Renewables,  
13 Ohio Farm Bureau, PK BioDiesel, Clean  
14 Fuels Ohio, Dovetail Solar and Wind,  
15 Green Energy Ohio, Solar Central, USA --  
16 USDA Rural Development, and Owens  
17 Technical Institute. The public was  
18 always invited and the seminars were  
19 well attended. We usually had them at  
20 the community center here in Urbana. We  
21 had a seminar at Mechanicsburg and one  
22 at Urbana University. Also, through the  
23 efforts of the Champaign County Farm  
24 Bureau, CARE or Everpower, bus trips  
25 were organized and the public was

1 invited to visit wind developments at  
2 Bowling Green, Benton County, Indiana  
3 and Bloomington, Illinois.

4 Through the whole process there  
5 four or five years ago, my wife and/or  
6 myself we visited -- we also visited  
7 wind farms in Ontario and Pennsylvania.  
8 In doing research for the wind turbine  
9 study group for the county, I found that  
10 there has never been public death caused  
11 by a commercial wind turbine. There are  
12 also 150,000 wind turbines operating  
13 worldwide, and still no epidemic of  
14 death and disease, despite the anti-wind  
15 hype in the English speaking world.

16 On our own operation and farm we  
17 gave it a lot of careful thought and  
18 went through the decision-making process  
19 that you go through, and it's been, I  
20 think, five years that we released to  
21 our farm to Invenergy. We took a  
22 serious, hard look at it, because it was  
23 a long-term lease and we was going to  
24 commit our farm and the property for the  
25 rest of our adult lives. And since

1           then, Everpower bought out that  
2           project. It's been about a year ago.  
3           Working with the folks from Everpower  
4           has always been pleasant. It's been  
5           professional, and we've been very  
6           satisfied and we've been proud of the  
7           decision since we made that.

8           Ohio Senate Bill 221 calls for 25  
9           percent of investor-owned utility's  
10          electricity come from advanced renewable  
11          generation by the year 2025. In order to  
12          meet that requirement, the cheapest form  
13          of new generation of electricity is  
14          wind. The best wind in the state, other  
15          than Lake Erie, is the ridge that starts  
16          just south of here near Catawba, that's  
17          in Clark County, and it runs to this  
18          ridge just north of Kenton, Ohio. This  
19          land is largely agriculture and lends  
20          itself to wind development without  
21          disturbing agricultural production.

22          The turbines should have a minimum  
23          impact on our farm. If the project is  
24          approved for development, we will farm  
25          right up to the base of them. After the

1 crops are harvested, our cattle will be  
2 turned out on the corn stalks to graze  
3 the residue. The cattle will winter  
4 underneath the turbines from November  
5 until March.

6 My hope is that the project gets  
7 approval, that the school and the  
8 surrounding schools in the project area  
9 will benefit from tax dollars  
10 generated. I do ask through the  
11 permitting process that the board use  
12 all the scientific tools available to  
13 make sure that there are minimal impacts  
14 to my neighbors if the turbines are  
15 committed to go on our farm or  
16 surrounding farms. Our family has  
17 always made good practice to be  
18 neighborly and get along with our  
19 neighbors, and I know this has kind of  
20 been a contentious issue. We're proud  
21 of the fact that we are part of the  
22 project. I know it's upset some people,  
23 but we want to be part of it. We also  
24 want to make sure that science protects  
25 everybody involved. We certainly want

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1 to make sure it's done right.

2 My mother's family came out of  
3 Shenandoah Valley in 1834 and settled in  
4 southern Champaign County. My children  
5 are the eighth generation in Champaign  
6 County of our family. I'm proud of our  
7 family -- that that farm that my  
8 ancestors settled on is still in our  
9 family after 178 years. That's pretty  
10 hard to do, just like the Blacks and  
11 their long-time generational farm. Many  
12 farms in this eastern Champaign County  
13 share the same generational heritage.  
14 Many here goes back six, seven  
15 generations and we take this real  
16 serious, what we do with our farms. And  
17 we didn't enter into these contracts  
18 real lightly, and we looked at this real  
19 seriously. And I -- we take it -- you  
20 know, we're upset that the neighbors are  
21 upset. But we do take this seriously  
22 when we signed these, and we want to  
23 make sure that we've done this right.

24 One of the reasons we did sign it,  
25 we want to make sure we pass the farms

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1 on to the next generation, and we  
2 believe this is a way to preserve the  
3 farmland, and we think this will be a  
4 good economical tool if it was to  
5 happen.

6 I just want to thank you for the  
7 time allowing me to speak and this  
8 public hearing to get both sides, their  
9 input. Thank you.

10 MR. MCKENNEY: Mr. Berry, if you  
11 have a written copy of the comments,  
12 will you hand those to the court  
13 reporter, please? Thank you.

14 Next Nancy Roberto.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Nancy Roberts?

16 MR. MCKENNEY: Excuse me, Roberts.  
17 Forgive me.

18 NANCY ROBERTS,

19 After having been first duly sworn, as  
20 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
21 as follows:

22 MR. MCKENNEY: You may take the  
23 podium. Please state your name and  
24 address.

25 MS. ROBERTS: My name is Nancy

1           Roberts. I live on North Mutual-Union  
2           Road, Cable, Ohio.

3           Gentlemen, thank you for hearing my  
4           testimony. I live on our family farm in  
5           Champaign County, Ohio. My husband and  
6           I bought this farm 35 years ago. It is  
7           on this farm that we raised our  
8           children, farmed the land, and worked  
9           hard for a living. I'm sure other  
10          participants tonight will recite many  
11          examples of the reasons why they are for  
12          or against the wind projects.

13          I would like to explain just two  
14          reasons why I am so passionately in  
15          favor of Buckeye Wind project. You see,  
16          I'm a widow now and I'm worried. I'm  
17          worried that I may have to sell my farm  
18          some day. I'm worried that my future  
19          great, great grand-children may never  
20          get to see a dairy cow grazing on a  
21          rolling pasture, or a flock of sheep  
22          sleeping under a large shade tree. I  
23          believe the family farm is in danger.  
24          Too many farms have been sold for  
25          housing development. Without farms,

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1 will future children have to go to a zoo  
2 to see a horse or a cow? This wind  
3 project would provide income so that  
4 landowners like me could keep their land  
5 in agriculture. Communities would  
6 benefit by having green spaces and  
7 picturesque country sides, not just city  
8 streets and pavement. The tax dollars  
9 generated from a wind farm would greatly  
10 help our schools and new jobs would be  
11 created.

12 Secondly, I cannot understand how  
13 someone could be against renewable wind  
14 energy. I know it's always windy at my  
15 house and it would be wonderful to use  
16 this free, renewable energy to supply  
17 needed electricity for generations to  
18 come. We need to prepare now for energy  
19 shortages in the future.

20 I have met with representatives of  
21 Buckeye Wind. I believe they have done  
22 their homework, completed studies on the  
23 environment and land usage. They  
24 continue to work with local farmers and  
25 landowners. They are ready to move

1 forward. Buckeye Wind Phase I has  
2 thoroughly been vetted and is ready to  
3 go. It's time to move on with it. It's  
4 time to think about family farms. It's  
5 time to think about our schools. It's  
6 time to think about using renewable  
7 energy.

8 I'm a landowner and I would like my  
9 ground to be used for agriculture  
10 forever. I support the family farms. I  
11 support renewable energy. I support our  
12 schools. And I support Buckeye Wind.

13 MR. MCKENNEY: Jerri Palmer.

14 JERRI PALMER,

15 After having been first duly sworn, as  
16 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
17 as follows:

18 - - - - -

19 MR. MCKENNEY: You may take the  
20 podium. Please state your name and  
21 address when you do.

22 MS. PALMER: I'm Jerry Palmer from  
23 Cable Ohio. I am a widow in Champaign  
24 County, a landowner with the wind lease.  
25 I look forward to the construction of

1 the Buckeye Wind project, not just for  
2 my own benefit, but for the benefit of  
3 the community.

4 Each week I travel to Shipshawana,  
5 Indiana, where I operate a booth. Each  
6 week I look forward to viewing the  
7 majestic new wind turbines near Van  
8 Wert, Ohio. They generate millions of  
9 dollars in local tax revenues for their  
10 schools, jobs for the Van Wert  
11 community.

12 Each week I speak to 100 people who  
13 visit my booth from Ohio, Indiana and  
14 Illinois, states that have thousands of  
15 wind turbines. When I learn from the  
16 customers that they live in a community  
17 with the wind turbines, I ask their  
18 opinion. Their reply is 90 percent  
19 positive among the farmers and other  
20 residents in these communities. They  
21 confirm the jobs and tax payments and a  
22 real boom to the local community.

23 In response to my questions, they  
24 also shared that they are not concerned  
25 about being injured by broken turbines,

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1 as setbacks and safety standards worked  
2 in the recent Van Wert incident and no  
3 one has ever been injured or fallen from  
4 a turbine.

5 I am disappointed that many of  
6 those opposed Buckeye Wind project have  
7 not visited a working farm. The local  
8 Farm Bureau and Everpower have organized  
9 several tours over five years. Green  
10 Energy sponsored the tour to Van Wert  
11 Farm just last month. These tours have  
12 shown to those willing to take time that  
13 the wind projects do produce jobs and  
14 economic and tax benefits and are a  
15 positive influence on local  
16 communities.

17 I encourage you to approve the  
18 application before you. And may I add,  
19 I was up there two years ago when they  
20 started the construction. I saw how  
21 many people they hired, how they hauled  
22 the wind turbines and, I mean, everybody  
23 was just excited because there was a lot  
24 of people there working. I never saw  
25 any construction on the roads tore up or

1 nothing. And now they're very  
2 peaceful. I never hear them. They're  
3 let up at night when I come home. And  
4 sometimes they're all running and  
5 sometimes just part of them. But  
6 they're very peaceful to me. Thank  
7 you.

8 MR. MCKENNEY: Barbara Behling.

9 BARBARA BEHLING,

10 After having been first duly sworn, as  
11 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
12 as follows:

13 - - - - -

14 MR. MCKENNEY: You may take the  
15 podium. Please state your name and  
16 address when you do.

17 MS. BEHLING: My name is Barbara  
18 Behling. I live at 4730 East County  
19 Line Road.

20 My husband and I live in Urbana  
21 Township, and we have a farm in Union  
22 Township. After reading about wind farm  
23 problems in other rural residential  
24 areas, we turned down contracts for both  
25 the turbines and a lay down lot. I'm

1 here to talk about one of those problems  
2 - setbacks. The Ohio Revised Code  
3 states, the Ohio Power Siting Board  
4 shall not grant the certificate for a  
5 major utility facility unless "it finds  
6 and determines all of the following."  
7 Criteria No. 6 of the eight criteria  
8 says that the facility will serve the  
9 public interest, convenience and  
10 necessity. I believe the phrase "public  
11 interest" includes several factors, one  
12 of which is public safety.

13 Both manufacturer recommendations  
14 and actual experience from other wind  
15 farms can help determine what is needed  
16 to ensure public safety.

17 First, manufacturer  
18 recommendations. Because Everpower has  
19 not yet announced the make and model of  
20 the turbines to be used for this  
21 project, I used a sample of several of  
22 the leading turbine manufacturers.

23 Vestas, they recommend individuals  
24 not stay within 1,300 feet of a 410-foot  
25 turbine.

1                   Nordex recommends a setbacks of  
2                   1,640 feet.

3                   Repower recommends setbacks of four  
4                   times the turbine height.

5                   Fuhrlander recommends setbacks of  
6                   four-and-a-half times turbine height.

7                   All of these expert recommendations  
8                   are much greater than the 914-foot  
9                   setbacks proposed for this project.

10                  Second, wind farm experiences: In  
11                  April 2012 a San Diego article  
12                  documented worldwide turbine safety  
13                  concerns. And I know Mr. Berry stated  
14                  that there had never been a public  
15                  fatality. This article states,  
16                  "worldwide there have been 32 public  
17                  fatalities from turbines." And a public  
18                  fatality is one that's not a  
19                  construction worker on the turbine, it's  
20                  not a worker on the turbine. It's  
21                  somebody in the general public.

22                  Injuries and deaths have been  
23                  caused by blade failure, structural  
24                  failure, fires and ice throws. Pieces  
25                  of blades are documented to have flown

1 over 4,266 feet. They have landed near  
2 homes, through a neighbor's roof, across  
3 roads and into cars. Several  
4 communities are re-evaluating their  
5 setback regulations. Some California  
6 communities now use three times the  
7 turbine height. The Australian  
8 government has adopted a 1.24 mile  
9 setback requirement. Brown County,  
10 Wisconsin now recommends a minimum  
11 setback of one-half mile from a property  
12 line.

13 Both the French Academy of Medicine  
14 and the United Kingdom Noise Association  
15 recommend a minimum of just under one  
16 mile between giant turbines and homes.  
17 The question the OPSB must answer is,  
18 "based on manufacturer recommendations  
19 and actual experience from other wind  
20 farms and communities, is the safety of  
21 the Champaign County public at risk due  
22 to the turbine setbacks proposed for  
23 this project?" I would say definitely,  
24 yes.

25 In conclusion, it seems to me the

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1 prudent approach forward would be, once  
2 the project turbines are selected and  
3 before roads and lay down lots are  
4 constructed, and before turbines are  
5 erected, the siting map should be drawn  
6 with setbacks that is a minimum complied  
7 with the manufacturer's recommended  
8 setbacks. Only then could we say that  
9 this project has attempted to serve the  
10 public interest for safety. To quote  
11 again from the Ohio Revised Code, the  
12 consideration of safety shall be  
13 paramount to considerations of economic  
14 or technical factors.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. MCKENNEY: James Dan Boulton.

17 JAMES DAN BOULTON,

18 After having been first duly sworn, as  
19 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
20 as follows:

21 - - - - -

22 MR. MCKENNEY: Take the podium.

23 Please state your name and address when  
24 you do.

25 MR. BOULTON: My name is James Dan

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1 Boulton. I reside at 9681 State Route  
2 161, Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

3 I'm opposed to Everpower's phase  
4 two project in Champaign County for the  
5 following four reasons: The phase two  
6 project is not an economically viable  
7 business, and wind turbines are not an  
8 economically viable way to generate  
9 electricity. Phase two must rely on  
10 special tax favors on the federal, state  
11 and county levels. The project may also  
12 received direct federal subsidies.  
13 Other businesses in Champaign County do  
14 not receive such special favors. Also,  
15 the electricity generated by wind  
16 turbines costs more per kilowatt to  
17 produce than what is generated by normal  
18 power plants. This means that the  
19 project will be a contributing factor to  
20 higher electric bills for everyone.

21 Everpower should be a good  
22 corporate citizen and refuse all direct  
23 government subsidies and special tax  
24 favors. We tax payers cannot afford to  
25 prop up economically unsustainable

1 businesses and at the same time pay more  
2 for electricity.

3 My second reason to oppose this  
4 project is that phase two is not  
5 environmentally friendly for the  
6 following reasons:

7 The base foundation pad for each  
8 turbine will require several hundred  
9 thousand tons of concrete and steel.  
10 That steel and concrete will never be  
11 removed, even when the turbines are  
12 removed sometime in the next 20 to 40  
13 years. Each of the turbine sites will  
14 forever be condemned with that base  
15 pad. Think how many thousands of years  
16 the Great Pyramids of Egypt have been  
17 around and they are not constructed with  
18 modern concrete and steel. These pads  
19 will be here even longer. There is a  
20 significantly high enough concern for  
21 the endangered Indiana Bat that  
22 Everpower has to get special approval  
23 from the Fish and Wildlife service to do  
24 what they're proposing. Any reduction  
25 in the bat population means that there

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1 will be a potential increase in use of  
2 pesticides.

3 My third reason for opposing the  
4 project is that I live in Goshen  
5 Township. I live within the footprint  
6 of the project and I'm a non  
7 participating person involved with it.  
8 And Champaign -- or Goshen Township is  
9 not a remote, rural area. Goshen  
10 Township is an agriculture and rural  
11 residential area. The majority of the  
12 land used in Goshen Township may be for  
13 agriculture, but the majority of the  
14 residents do not make their living in  
15 agriculture. My home is 25 minutes from  
16 Dublin, 50 minutes from either the  
17 Columbus or Dayton airport.

18 Two illustrations may be helpful.  
19 Everpower offered me \$800 a year for an  
20 easement across my property for  
21 construction and cabling purposes, or  
22 whatever else they deemed useful. The  
23 easement would have connected the  
24 proposed turbines to the east and west  
25 of my property. I declined this offer.

1           Second, I asked about the setback  
2           requirements for the proposed turbines,  
3           which would bracket my property. After  
4           checking with the engineers in New York,  
5           Everpower's representative told me that  
6           the turbine proposed to the east of my  
7           property was actually planned to be  
8           built too close to my property to meet  
9           the setback requirement. I was then  
10          offered a signing bonus of \$1,500 and  
11          \$2,500 a year to allow Everpower to  
12          construction the turbine inside the  
13          setback requirements. I again declined  
14          the offer.

15                What concerns me is that setback  
16                requirements are negotiable for a  
17                price. I believe they should be  
18                increased and not negotiable.

19                My conclusion is that Everpower is  
20                seeking to shoehorn turbines into an  
21                area that has too many homes and  
22                property owners. If Phase II is  
23                constructed, it will negatively affect  
24                the value of residential real estate in  
25                Goshen Township. This will not only be

1 detrimental to individual homeowners,  
2 but will lower the property tax base.  
3 This, in turn, will cause a decrease in  
4 tax revenues. If Everpower proceeds  
5 with Phase II, it will change Goshen  
6 Township from a rural residential and  
7 agriculture community into a scattered  
8 site industrial area.

9 The fourth reason I oppose this  
10 project is that Phase II -- the Phase II  
11 project does not take into consideration  
12 the Goshen Township zoning laws. Goshen  
13 Township has been its own community  
14 since the early 1970s. We pro actively  
15 put in place zoning laws to care for the  
16 possibility of wind turbines before  
17 Everpower ever came to Champaign County  
18 or Goshen Township. None of our zoning  
19 laws are being taken into consideration.  
20 No other business or individual coming  
21 into our community has shown this type  
22 of special favoritism.

23 MR. MCKENNEY: Mary Alice  
24 McFarland.

25 MARY ALICE MCFARLAND,

1 After having been first duly sworn, as  
2 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
3 as follows:

4 - - - - -

5 MR. MCKENNEY: You may take the  
6 podium. Please state your name and  
7 address when you do.

8 MS. MCFARLAND: Good evening. My  
9 name is Mary Alice McFarland. I live at  
10 4762 East U.S. Highway 36 in Urbana. My  
11 husband and you live in the footprint of  
12 Everpower Champaign Buckeye Wind  
13 project. For five years we looked for a  
14 historic house in the most beautiful  
15 area we could find that was easy to  
16 communicate from our business in  
17 Hilliard. We've restored the grounds of  
18 our 1890's home, which some say is a  
19 showplace, and are one of the 1,000  
20 homes along the ridge who provide  
21 Champaign County tax revenues.

22 What happens to our County tax base  
23 when these homes are devalued by  
24 millions of dollars and can't be sold at  
25 all. This area is not just for

1 farming. Along this ridge is a  
2 community of professionals, business  
3 owners, and hard working tax payers.  
4 Most of us commute to Columbus,  
5 Marysville, Springfield, Dayton, and  
6 Urbana, of course, to work. We, like  
7 many others in the area, have built or  
8 restored or dream homes hoping to resale  
9 and maybe finance our retirement.  
10 Anyone who restores an older home would  
11 hope that the market value would  
12 certainly increase, not decrease. The  
13 restoration of these homes is vital to  
14 our community because the history and  
15 the overall beauty of its character.

16 The wind company will tell that you  
17 there is no property devaluation. But  
18 they are basing this on homes reports  
19 and did not include any homes within one  
20 mile of a turbine. It did include homes  
21 that are ten miles away and did not view  
22 any turbines.

23 My husband and I believe that  
24 Everpower Wind Project, with its 1,000  
25 homes too close to turbines, will be a

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1 poster child for bad planning and  
2 placement of the wind project. It will  
3 be the lesson that other wind companies  
4 point out on the way not to site an  
5 industrial wind project. Is there  
6 anywhere else in the world that has this  
7 many homes within one mile of the wind  
8 turbines?

9 The wind company's own noise  
10 expert, Mr. Hessler, stated that in the  
11 Phase I testimony there would be noise  
12 problems with five to 40 percent of the  
13 population within the project. Now  
14 Everpower wants to double the number of  
15 turbines in Phase II in the same already  
16 noise pollution area.

17 In addition, this company has  
18 nothing in place to address or mitigate  
19 the complaints in non participating  
20 neighbors concerning noise, flicker,  
21 health, or property value issues. Phase  
22 II of the Champaign wind project has too  
23 many turbines, too close to homes and  
24 too noisy and impacts too many people.  
25 I believe it should not be permitted.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. MCKENNEY: Janet Dye.

3 JANET DYE,

4 After having been first duly sworn, as  
5 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
6 as follows:

7 - - - - -

8 MS. DYE: I'm Janet Dye. I live on  
9 Madden Road in Cable, Ohio. We're not  
10 leaseholders. We were offered one, but  
11 we declined. This is a little thing  
12 that I wrote that explains how I have  
13 perceived this project, and I call it  
14 the Blueprint for Wind Company  
15 Takeover.

16 Take one of the most beautiful  
17 counties in Ohio, known for its rolling  
18 hills, breathtaking vistas, pristine  
19 farms, and great small towns. Take the  
20 county seat of Urbana, a thriving town  
21 known for its beautiful houses and  
22 churches, voted best small town in Ohio,  
23 home to great restaurants and unique  
24 shops. Home to Grimes Airport, hosting  
25 several major events every year. Take

1           20 or so small towns dotted around the  
2           country, not thriving but serving as  
3           homes to folks who live there. Take a  
4           county that boasts of Ohio Caverns,  
5           Cedar Bog, Goshen Park, Apple orchards,  
6           Indian Mounds. Take a County with  
7           40,000 people making room for new comers  
8           who move there just because of the  
9           natural beauty and welcoming people.  
10          Then take men in New York, wanting to  
11          get in on this green movement that is  
12          sweeping the country and to make a few  
13          bucks in the process. Take a thumbtack  
14          and the map of Ohio, even though the  
15          state rates 37th in the wind -- the  
16          country for wind potential, find the  
17          highest point in Ohio, get the steam  
18          roller out and make it happen -- the  
19          first wind project in the country in a  
20          highly residential area.

21                Next, find two or three respected  
22          locals who are one of the guys, then  
23          begin to train them. Get your lawyers  
24          to teach them lawyer-talk so that they  
25          can speak what sounds like truth but

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1           seldom is. Get some respected  
2           organizations in on this so that their  
3           constitutes can potentially become  
4           wealthy, too. Go to school boards and  
5           promise them the pie in the sky. Now  
6           visit the zoning board, the township  
7           trustees and other elected or appointed  
8           officials who are supposed to be there  
9           for the majority of the people they are  
10          elected to serve. Speak lawyer-talk to  
11          them so that they will not be -- they  
12          will be more confused than they are  
13          already. The fact that many of them are  
14          farmers is not going to hurt either.

15                Next, order 500 red, white and blue  
16          signs that say "Wind Makes America  
17          Strong" and ask people that don't have a  
18          clue what that means to put them in  
19          their yard. Begin to put a rift between  
20          the established farmer and the  
21          newcomers, even though some them have  
22          been living here for 30 years, who would  
23          dare to build their houses on farm land,  
24          even though the farmer sold them the  
25          land in the first place. Hint that this

1 is all about the farmers verses the  
2 country club people, whatever that  
3 means. Tell the farmers that they can  
4 do whatever they want on their property,  
5 even though no one else in Champaign  
6 County is exempt from zoning laws. Look  
7 the other way when you drive down the  
8 country roads and see the signs, "zoning  
9 laws strictly enforced" in whatever  
10 township.

11 Now start going to unsuspecting  
12 farmers, telling them that they can get  
13 thousands of dollars a year if they will  
14 sign a lease. Tell them that they will  
15 be patriotic citizens plus have a nice  
16 retirement income. Tell them that they  
17 might as well sign up, as their  
18 neighbors already have. Now tell them  
19 they cannot reveal what is in the lease  
20 agreement. They cannot complain, but  
21 don't tell them their land will be torn  
22 up with roads to the turbine base and  
23 that their land must be available 24/7  
24 to the land company people. Don't tell  
25 them that blades may fall off. Laugh

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1           when they ask if there is any truth to  
2           the claims of health dangers to those  
3           living nearby. Just say that there has  
4           never been any scientific evidence to  
5           support that claim, even though they  
6           know that hundreds of people have  
7           abandon their houses because of  
8           compromised health.

9           If the lease holders have the  
10          foresight to ask about potential  
11          lawsuits from sick or disgruntled  
12          neighbors, assure them that, in the  
13          unlikely event that would happen, the  
14          wind company would be there for them.

15          Be patient, it's going to be take a  
16          long time to wear everyone down. In the  
17          meantime, hold public meetings, take out  
18          huge ads in the local newspaper, buy  
19          more land, be omnipresent, keep  
20          repeating how great this is going to be  
21          for the community, and above all, keep  
22          smiling.

23                 MR. MCKENNEY: Nancy Frick.

24                         NANCY FRICK,

25           After having been first duly sworn, as

1 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
2 as follows:

3 - - - - -

4 MS. FRICK: My name is Nancy  
5 Frick. I live at 3657 Singing Wind Way  
6 in Urbana. And if I'm understanding  
7 everything correctly, I will be three  
8 miles as the crow flies from four wind  
9 turbines. I've already put my house up  
10 for sale four months ago, and I'm hoping  
11 to get out before the wind turbines get  
12 in. Thank you.

13 MR. MCKENNEY: Thank you.

14 Mary Jo Parello.

15 MARY JO PARELLO,

16 After having been first duly sworn, as  
17 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
18 as follows:

19 - - - - -

20 MS. PARELLO: My name is Mary Jo  
21 Parello and I'm a resident of Champaign  
22 County. I live in Mechanicsburg, 2469  
23 S. Parkview Road. I'm a property owner  
24 but I'm not a leaseholder. I stood  
25 here, right here, when the first wind

1 factory was applying for siting of  
2 turbines in Champaign County. I offered  
3 all the reasons why it was a horrible  
4 idea to put them here, yet we are now  
5 considering doubling down on a bad  
6 decision by yet a second wind factory.  
7 Will there be no end to turbines here?

8 I'm not going to dwell on the  
9 adverse effects of industrial turbines.  
10 If I did, I'd up here a very, very long  
11 time. Instead, I would like to talk  
12 about one thing, one issue, which I  
13 personally connected with, and that's my  
14 property. I own property here and I  
15 want to address one issue, and that is,  
16 property values -- or the values of  
17 homes of people who are unfortunate  
18 enough to be located within the  
19 footprint of an industrial wind  
20 factory.

21 The loss of property values to  
22 areas around wind factories is well  
23 documented. Canadian property was  
24 devalued anywhere from 30 to 50  
25 percent. In Wisconsin, homes in the



1 footprint of a 22-wind complex went from  
2 selling at 104 percent of the assessed  
3 value to 78 percent of the assessed  
4 value. In New Jersey, a homeowner  
5 couldn't even get anyone to come look at  
6 his property. In Illinois, values  
7 dropped anywhere from 25 to 40 percent.  
8 And these are only a few of the many  
9 example. In fact, property in the  
10 footprint of a wind complex may very  
11 well be totally worthless if there are  
12 no buyers who are willing to live next  
13 to 500-foot turbines. I wouldn't choose  
14 to, and I'm sure no one here would  
15 either. Yet that is what Everpower is  
16 asking you to approve, to approve the  
17 devastation of more than 1,000 families  
18 that live here. There's a very simple  
19 cure for this problem: Don't build wind  
20 turbines in populated areas.

21 You might accuse me of one who  
22 doesn't want wind turbines in my  
23 backyard. Well, then you would be  
24 right. However, I would go further to  
25 say that they don't belong in anyone's

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1 backyard. People and turbines just  
2 don't mix.

3 When I bought my property here, I  
4 was overwhelmed with the peaceful beauty  
5 of it all, the night noises of nature,  
6 and dark star-filled night skies were  
7 enough for me to want to live out my  
8 retirement here. I felt this investment  
9 was safe because my property came with  
10 restrictions on it. This was a good  
11 thing. It was zoned agricultural-  
12 residential, and I felt confident that  
13 there would never be any project here  
14 that would even come close to the  
15 industrial nature of the Ohio Valley  
16 that I moved out of. I find it hard to  
17 understand, then, why my neighbors who  
18 hold leases where I used to live -- I'm  
19 sorry -- my neighbors who hold leases  
20 can be allowed to turn this area into an  
21 industrial complex. If it were zoned  
22 industrial, there would be no  
23 residential property here. We wouldn't  
24 be permitted to live in an industrial  
25 area. I know from personal experience

1           that property in the footprint of these  
2           wind factories will be worth  
3           considerably less, because I've had my  
4           own house up for sale for the past 13  
5           months. I have a beautiful home. I've  
6           made more than \$100,000 worth of  
7           improvements in it since I moved in it.  
8           And during this time that my house has  
9           been up for sale, I have changed  
10          realtors twice. He sends me a printout  
11          on the computer. So I look at that.  
12          And there have been over 6,000 actions  
13          on my property on the Internet, yet I  
14          have had only one showing in 13 months  
15          and, needless to say, no offers. I'm  
16          not alone in this situation. I know of  
17          seven or eight properties located within  
18          a mile of my home that are less  
19          expensive than mine and have built in  
20          Champaign County and their property has  
21          been on the market for probably as long  
22          as mine. It seems the only people  
23          interested in building or living in  
24          Champaign County want to be far away  
25          from these intrusive turbines.

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1                   People have done their homework.  
2                   The wind factory is in the news. It's  
3                   already killed our housing market. So I  
4                   suggest that those who believe that this  
5                   project will benefit their tax base,  
6                   take a closer look. You may gain wind  
7                   turbines, but you'll surely lose  
8                   population, and with it, tax base and  
9                   property values. Blame the economy,  
10                  slow housing markets, the elections, if  
11                  you want to, but I think we're ignoring  
12                  the elephant in the room, and those  
13                  elephants are those ugly, costly and  
14                  inefficient 500-foot turbines.

15                 Does the wind company -- this is  
16                 something else I just can't understand.  
17                 Does the wind company have the right to  
18                 make private property unlivable and  
19                 unsalable? Is it okay to ruin the lives  
20                 of ordinary people because they don't  
21                 have the money to hire a whole fleet of  
22                 lawyers? Where are my rights? I feel  
23                 my civil rights are being violated. If  
24                 I want to use the equity in my home, for  
25                 example, to pay medical bills, to fund

1           some of my retirement, I can't. If I  
2           want to take care of, maybe, my elderly  
3           parents, I can't. If I want to borrow  
4           money to fund college for my children, I  
5           can't. There is something very wrong  
6           with this picture. No private company  
7           or neighboring landowner should have the  
8           right to deny me the right to enjoy my  
9           property or use it for my own needs.  
10          Buying a home is the single largest  
11          investment that a person can make.  
12          Ruining the value of that purchase is  
13          akin to dealing the neighbor or the  
14          property owner an economic destruction.  
15          How can any private company, neighboring  
16          landowner or government change the rules  
17          in the middle of the game. Leaseholders  
18          argue that they should be able to use  
19          the land as they see fit since. They  
20          own it. Then shouldn't I be given the  
21          same privilege? Shouldn't these wind  
22          companies be required to give property  
23          owners a guarantee of value for their  
24          property after these factories are  
25          operational and we suffer economic death

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1 blows? This has been advocated in  
2 Illinois to protect non participating  
3 neighbors. I think that it is fair and  
4 just and the right thing to do.

5 When it's all said and done, the  
6 big question is, is this worth the  
7 sacrifice? Is nothing sacred in this  
8 country anymore? I ask this board to  
9 consider if this wind development is  
10 worth what it's costing the area and its  
11 residents? I urge you to deny the  
12 petition to site more turbines here,  
13 making a bad problem even worse. When I  
14 was writing this opinion, I couldn't  
15 help but think of an old saying that  
16 still rings true, and that is, the road  
17 to destruction is often paved with good  
18 intentions.

19 I offer -- I ask you, please, to  
20 think this through. Thank you.

21 MR. MCKENNEY: Thank you. I would  
22 just like to ask everyone to please hold  
23 applause until the end of each speaker,  
24 just to make sure that everybody can  
25 hear what the person testifying is

1 saying. With that, we'll move to Nancy  
2 Instine.

3 NANCY INSTINE,

4 After having been first duly sworn, as  
5 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
6 as follows:

7 - - - - -

8 MS. INSTINE: To begin with, I was  
9 not planning to speak tonight, but I  
10 felt like some of my neighbors need to  
11 know where I stand in this process.

12 I'm Nancy Instine. My address is  
13 1375 Yocum Road, Cable. I am a co-owner  
14 of NCS Farm, along with my husband,  
15 William, my sister Carol Reed, and her  
16 husband James and my sister Sally  
17 O'Brien. I am here to encourage the  
18 Ohio Power Siting Board to allow Phase  
19 II of the Buckeye Wind Farm to pass. I  
20 have a financial stake in this wind farm  
21 project. I admit that. However, I also  
22 believe, as a life-long citizen of  
23 Champaign County, that we need to do  
24 something to boost our economy in this  
25 county. The wind farm will do that. I

1 read in the Spingfield News and Sun that  
2 during construction there will be 600  
3 temporary jobs, and after completion, 38  
4 permanent jobs. I also read that one of  
5 our local companies is already supplying  
6 lights for turbines in another state,  
7 and I believe we had a gentlemen show  
8 that part. This might be a possibility  
9 for more business for that company and  
10 maybe more jobs. It will add much-  
11 needed revenue to our schools and  
12 between 840,000 and 1.26 million in tax  
13 revenues. I think we can all agree that  
14 this county could use that kind of  
15 money.

16 I believe in wind energy because it  
17 is clean and unending and good for the  
18 environment. I worry about the world  
19 that my children, grandchildren, nieces  
20 and nephews will inherit from us. I  
21 would hope that they would be proud of  
22 my efforts to give them a better world  
23 to live in. Fossil fuels are non  
24 renewable, as well as damaging to the  
25 environment. Global warming is a major



1 concern of the environmentalists, and we  
2 are already experiencing some of the  
3 effects with milder winter weather,  
4 polar ice caps melting, and the drought  
5 that we have experienced in past years.  
6 This affects our wildlife species as  
7 much, if not more, than wind turbines.  
8 Also, the non renewable resource are  
9 affecting our health as well. And we  
10 need to think about that for our  
11 children and grand-children. We need to  
12 step forward and think what is best for  
13 our community, our country and our  
14 families, not only from a financial  
15 point of view, but environmentally.  
16 Thank you.

17 MR. MCKENNEY: Anita Stoll?

18 Amy Blanton?

19 AMY BLANTON,

20 After having been first duly sworn, as  
21 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
22 as follows:

23 - - - - -

24 MS. BLANTON: My name is Amy  
25 Blanton. I reside at 36 North Main

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1 Street in Mechanicsburg. I'm a joint  
2 owner of the Madden Farm on Madden Road  
3 just outside of Mutual-Union -- Mutual  
4 Ohio, in Union Township, which is the  
5 center of Everpower's proposed turbine  
6 project. I'm not a leaseholder in  
7 Everpower's wind project nor is anyone  
8 in my family. From our best  
9 calculations, if the proposed Buckeye  
10 Wind II project goes through, our farm  
11 will be surrounded by ten wind turbines  
12 in distances ranging from 1300 feet to  
13 4000 feet to the farm house.

14 A few years back we decided it was  
15 time to move our family to the farm near  
16 Mutual in Union Township. Our desire  
17 was to build on the property. And we  
18 spent some time finding the perfect  
19 location to build our home. We met with  
20 the Union Township zoning inspector and  
21 were disappointed to find that,  
22 according to the laws of Union Township,  
23 our chosen spot would not be permitted.  
24 We checked on a couple of other places  
25 on the property and found that they,

1 too, did not meet the required formula  
2 of road frontage verses distance back  
3 from road, et cetera that Union Township  
4 had set in place. We felt frustrated by  
5 these restrictions, yet we understood  
6 why zoning laws are in place and are  
7 necessary.

8 By talking to people from other  
9 areas, we discovered that Union Township  
10 is known for its strict zoning laws; in  
11 fact, there are numerous signs placed  
12 throughout the township that read "Union  
13 Township zoning laws strictly  
14 enforced." With zoning laws strictly  
15 enforced, I find it extremely ironic  
16 that Union Township is in the center of  
17 this industrial wind turbine project.  
18 In the Buckeye Wind Phase I, 54 turbines  
19 were approved, and 57 more turbines are  
20 being proposed for Phase II.  
21 Approximately 44 of the Phase I and  
22 Phase II turbines are in Union  
23 Township.

24 Remember, we are not able to use  
25 our own land to build a 30-foot tall

1 home where we would like, yet industrial  
2 machines nearly 500 feet tall will be  
3 placed all over Union Township and the  
4 surrounding Townships in Champaign  
5 County. How is it that I am not  
6 permitted to build a 30-foot tall  
7 structure on my land, yet my neighbor  
8 can put up a nearly 500-foot tall  
9 structure with 164-foot whirling blades  
10 and flashing lights on his? To add to  
11 this injustice, some of these massive  
12 structures will actually be closer to  
13 the home of the non participating land  
14 owners than the neighbor who signed the  
15 lease. From my calculations -- from my  
16 calculations, this will be the case of  
17 at least four of the turbines  
18 surrounding our farm. Local  
19 leaseholders are prompted by Everpower  
20 to claim that they have their property  
21 rights, that they can do whatever they  
22 please with their land. What about the  
23 property rights of the other 40,000  
24 people in this county.

25 The other issue that needs to be

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1 addressed again is the unreasonable  
2 distance of the wind turbines to home.  
3 For the model of the turbine proposed in  
4 Everpower's project, the State of Ohio  
5 and its governing board has approved a  
6 914-feet setback from homes.

7 Where did this arbitrary number  
8 come from? This unprecedented setback  
9 began with the promoters of the this  
10 project influencing our local township  
11 board and zoning board to put through  
12 this very small setback. The only  
13 semblance of a vote to get the entire  
14 county's input was held in just one  
15 township, Union. However, some of the  
16 voters reported that the wording was so  
17 confusing that they voted for a lesser  
18 setback when they thought they were  
19 voting for a greater setback. It also  
20 needs to be brought before this board  
21 and the members of our community that at  
22 that time there were leaseholders on the  
23 deciding board in Union township. At  
24 that point, the promoters of this  
25 project then lobbied to the state to

1 approve this setback and it became the  
2 acceptable distance, knowing that 914  
3 feet setback was essentially the only  
4 way this project would ever be  
5 possible. But is this reasonable? In  
6 his article "Wind Ordinance Debate,"  
7 Tony Fleming states that a 1000 foot  
8 buffer zone, as it is called, is starkly  
9 smaller than those mandated in several  
10 countries widely touted by the wind  
11 industry as success stories. For  
12 instance, Denmark's setback is four  
13 times total turbine height, about 2,000  
14 feet for a large turbine. In Holland it  
15 is one kilometer or 3,280 feet. In  
16 Germany the noise-based setback ranges  
17 up to a full mile. According to  
18 Fleming dozen of jurisdiction scattered  
19 around the U.S. and Canada have also  
20 adopted larger setbacks, often in the  
21 one-half to two mile range from abutting  
22 residences. All of these larger  
23 setbacks are in line with what is  
24 recommended by many independent,  
25 scientific bodies, medical authorities,

1 and acoustical engineers. Fleming also  
2 questions what the makers of wind  
3 turbines recommend regarding distances  
4 and turbines to dwellings.

5 Vestas, the Danish company and  
6 world leader in wind turbine  
7 manufacturing had this to say to; its  
8 own staff: "Do not stay within a radius  
9 400 meters, or 1,300 feet, from the  
10 turbine unless it is necessary. It also  
11 went on to say, make sure that your  
12 children do not stay by or play near the  
13 turbine, contrary to setbacks in  
14 question, which may place households  
15 with children well within that range.

16 General Electric, the largest  
17 domestic turbine manufacturer, has  
18 refused to site towers that do not meet  
19 their own minimum published standards,  
20 which is 1.5 times hub height plus the  
21 rotor diameter for ice throw, or about  
22 1,300 feet for a 350 foot turbine with a  
23 300 foot rotor.

24 Finally, the large German turbine  
25 manufacturer, Retexo, recommends

1 setbacks of two kilometer, or 6,562 feet  
2 from its turbine hub, citing both safety  
3 and noise considerations.

4 If the recommendations from the  
5 world leaders in the wind industry and  
6 the turbine experts are certain that we  
7 should not be so close to turbines, why  
8 is it that the State of Ohio is allowing  
9 this to happen? Why have you, the Ohio  
10 Power Siting Board, listened to the wind  
11 companies and the lobbyists who are only  
12 looking out for their own interests in  
13 promoting this industry? These two  
14 issues, lack of personal property rights  
15 and unsafe, high risk setbacks are just  
16 two issues among dozens of issues that  
17 cause great concern and frustration to  
18 the residents of this community.

19 How is this injustice happening in  
20 our community and why are we the center  
21 of, essentially, of an experiment? From  
22 the moment Everpower stepped into our  
23 community, there have been questionable  
24 dealings on the part of this company's  
25 practices and the acts of their local



1           representatives. Everpower's two local  
2           employees have used their personal  
3           interests to influence the local Farm  
4           Bureau and civic clubs, while looking  
5           out for the best interest of the  
6           community. They have visited school  
7           board meetings, made presentations in  
8           environmental science public school  
9           classrooms promoting wind energy and the  
10          company Everpower. They have set up  
11          displays at the county fair and other  
12          local events, while promoting, along  
13          with their product, hostility between  
14          the farmers and the country club folks.  
15          They've deceived neighbors, long-time  
16          friends, by telling them that everyone  
17          else has signed up, so you might as well  
18          too, while in reality, this wasn't the  
19          case at all. Is it a conflict of  
20          interest or just very unethical that  
21          these same two people are themselves  
22          leaseholders and will benefit  
23          financially, all at the expense of the  
24          neighbors, if these turbine projects go  
25          through? What about our local

1 officials? Is it conflict of interest  
2 or just very unethical behavior when the  
3 very people who represent us as a county  
4 and are making decisions for us also  
5 hold leases with Everpower? Some of  
6 these people who created Union  
7 Township's strictly enforced zoning laws  
8 are the same people who approved and  
9 pushed through the unsafe and  
10 unprecedented setbacks, and they are  
11 also the same people who will gain  
12 financially if the project goes  
13 through.

14 We are once again relying on you,  
15 Ohio Power Siting Board, to assist us in  
16 this situation. Phase I of the Buckeye  
17 Wind Farm has been approved, and now we  
18 are at the deciding point of yet another  
19 phase, another 57 turbines in our  
20 community.

21 There are many health and safety  
22 concerns. There's the probability of  
23 loss of property rights and property  
24 values. We will be simply overburdened  
25 with these combined projects. My

1 question for you, OPSB, is when will you  
2 say no? Thank you.

3 MR. TAUBER: We're going to take a  
4 brief five-minute recess.

5 - - - - -

6 (Thereupon, a brief recess was had.)

7 - - - - -

8 MR. MCKENNEY: Scott Blanton.

9 SCOTT BLANTON,

10 After having been first duly sworn, as  
11 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
12 as follows:

13 - - - - -

14 MR. MCKENNEY: We're about to get  
15 started so if everyone can please be  
16 seated.

17 MR. BLANTON: All right. Here we  
18 go. I'll begin by stating that I am not  
19 a leaseholder.

20 MR. MCKENNEY: Could you provide  
21 your name and address, please?

22 MR. BLANTON: Sorry. Scott  
23 Blanton, 36 North Main Street,  
24 Mechanicsburg, Ohio.

25 I'm not a leaseholder. My family

1 and I do own property within the  
2 footprint of the project. In the report  
3 that I am attaching to my statement,  
4 it's clear that there is a mounting body  
5 of evidence worldwide that people have  
6 experienced adverse health effects  
7 because they live in close proximity to  
8 large scale, industrial wind turbines.

9 Canadian court judgment, for  
10 example, from July 2011 confirming that  
11 wind turbines can harm human health,  
12 puts it in simple terms. The decision  
13 from July 18th, 2011 states, "the debate  
14 should not be simplified to one about  
15 whether wind turbines can cause harm to  
16 humans. The evidence presented  
17 demonstrates that they can, if  
18 facilities are placed too close to  
19 residents."

20 Even at the previous two-week long  
21 OPSB Hearing in Columbus, Everpower's  
22 own expert witness testified in court  
23 agreeing that, due to high noise levels,  
24 up to 40 percent of the population  
25 within the project footprint may be

1 adversely affected by the industrial  
2 wind turbine's factory.

3 Unless Champaign County residents  
4 are different than the rest of the human  
5 population around this world, people  
6 will experience the same well-known  
7 stress effects of exposure to turbine  
8 noise. They include sleep disturbance,  
9 headache, dizziness, nausea, problems  
10 with concentration and memory, ear  
11 pressure, ringing of the ears, excessive  
12 heart rate. Because theses issues are  
13 coming to the forefront around the  
14 globe, we cannot, as a community and a  
15 state, ignore these facts that are  
16 indisputable.

17 Although, I believe that common  
18 sense was ignored in the previous  
19 hearings, please, once again consider,  
20 since there are approximately a thousand  
21 homes within the project area and there  
22 would be roughly four persons per  
23 household, it goes to figure that of  
24 Everpower's own admission, out of  
25 approximately 4,000 people, the health

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1 of up to 1,600 individuals may be  
2 adversely affected in the area of the  
3 two combined large scale industrial wind  
4 plants.

5 To all audience members here  
6 tonight, beware that the adverse health  
7 effects are not selective. They don't  
8 just choose non-lease holders over the  
9 leaseholders. They will affect both  
10 equally, despite any reassuring words  
11 from the wind industry.

12 I'm sure that Everpower disclosed  
13 that information to all of you  
14 leaseholders when you signed on with  
15 their company. I leave you with these  
16 questions: How does a government agency  
17 such as the OPSB and a wind company such  
18 as Everpower decide that up to 1,600  
19 people within the project zone may be  
20 sacrificed at the alter of Green  
21 Energy? What heartless officials heard  
22 those statistics and then decided that,  
23 in regards to quality of life, the men,  
24 women and children in project area were  
25 expendable? Why should we as a

1 community trust these entities that  
2 either shows a blatant disregard for  
3 human safety or crave the green that  
4 will line the pockets if this project  
5 gets approved.

6 MR. TAUBER: Mitchell B. Smith.

7 - - - - -

8 MITCHELL SMITH,

9 After having been first duly sworn, as  
10 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
11 as follows:

12 - - - - -

13 MR. SMITH: Hello. I'm Mitchell  
14 Smith. I reside at 1904 Talbott Road.  
15 I'm not a leaseholder, but I'm certainly  
16 within the footprint of the Buckeye Wind  
17 farm. I do have some comments. A lot  
18 of things have been said before, so I'm  
19 going to be very short.

20 One, I am all for wind turbines,  
21 but in the windy west. Not in the  
22 marginal wind area and more densely  
23 populated Champaign County. I say  
24 marginal, because even the recent legal  
25 publications in the newspaper from

1           Everpower indicate the possibility of 30  
2           percent efficiency. The highest  
3           efficiency I know about is Judith Gap,  
4           Montana, which is only 36 percent. Wind  
5           turbines in this area will be lucky to  
6           be in the 20s.

7           Two, I'm definitely an opponent of  
8           shipping our tax dollars and any tax  
9           breaks out of the country. I'm talking  
10          about to Everpower or any other company  
11          representing England, or Spain, or  
12          worse, China.

13          The article that hit the paper this  
14          week about a partnership -- you should  
15          take a look at -- between one or more of  
16          these companies in China is and should  
17          be the last straw. They're looking for  
18          other funding, folks. But does that  
19          mean that someone will get an imitation  
20          wind turbine? The current setbacks are  
21          not a result of good science, not  
22          relevant to blade shear or sound.

23          I have done my own tour of wind  
24          farms from Illinois to Iowa, to  
25          Independence, Wyoming, and I've even



1           been to that one in Judith Gap,  
2           Montana. And they definitely make  
3           noise, folks, especially when there is a  
4           high density of turbines, from low  
5           frequency to high frequency pig like  
6           squeals. Now, we even have to consider,  
7           now, putting these machines into the  
8           countryside and the skies of Champaign  
9           County, we should rethink the setbacks.  
10          I recommend what some other countries  
11          are doing. That they are placing a  
12          moratorium on wind turbines to study the  
13          effects on people rather than just birds  
14          and bats. They are setting the limits  
15          at 2,000 meters. Now, if you need to  
16          know what that is in feet, 6,562 feet.

17               My last point of comment today  
18          concerns this process, this meeting and  
19          all the process of what Everpower and  
20          any of the other wind companies have  
21          used in treating our countryside. In  
22          other geographical areas, the community  
23          was recognized early on, some with true  
24          concern of those who lived in these  
25          areas recognize the wind and the sky

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1           were not owned by anyone. And it should  
2           be truly a community decision to build  
3           500 feet into the sky on numerous  
4           sites. Not so here. Our former  
5           governor and whoever else, including Big  
6           Wind, made that decision for us;  
7           therefore, allowing Big Wind to do just  
8           about anything they wanted to, even  
9           setting up because these setback  
10          limits. And that's been so much then  
11          for the community and democracy over the  
12          last several years.

13                 But what I'm saying tonight,  
14                 hearing in this evening's meeting, is a  
15                 community that knows that it is affected  
16                 by this process and it wants to reassert  
17                 itself domestically. Thank you.

18                 MR. TAUBER: Joan Stadler.

19                 JOAN STADLER,

20                 After having been first duly sworn, as  
21                 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
22                 as follows:

23                         - - - - -

24                 MS. STADLER: I'm not only old, I  
25                 shrunk.

1           To the Ohio Power Siting Board, I  
2           am Joan Stadler, and I live at 1755  
3           North State Route 560, Urbana. And I am  
4           not a participating landowner.

5           Almost 60 years ago we moved from  
6           the United States Navy to the peaceful  
7           countryside of Urbana, Champaign  
8           County. I to be a farm wife and mother,  
9           my husband Charles to return to the  
10          1500-acre Stadler Farm, operated and  
11          maintained by his family for many  
12          generations since the 1800s.

13          About two years ago people here  
14          began talking and asking questions about  
15          wind turbines in Champaign County. We  
16          then learned that some residents of  
17          the County had signed contracts with the  
18          wind turbine company secretly and were  
19          told not to tell anyone. That seemed  
20          very strange. Later, the names of the  
21          wind turbine signers were listed in the  
22          Urbana Daily Citizen with a map of where  
23          the proposed turbines -- over 100 of  
24          them -- would be. Needless to say, the  
25          peace and tranquility of Champaign

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1 County disappeared overnight.

2 We believe in wind turbines on  
3 remote wind farms, whether on land or  
4 water, but not helter skelter next door  
5 to neighbors or on the 13,500 acres of  
6 good farm land that the Everpower  
7 company would cover.

8 Charles Stadler, my husband, has  
9 been a member of the Champaign County  
10 Farm Bureau for over 50 years and  
11 president for a term. And he is more  
12 than interested that they would favor  
13 the use of farmland for wind turbines,  
14 knowing wind turbine development is not  
15 farming.

16 They understand full well that wind  
17 turbine construction would compact the  
18 land, crush the tiles, ruin roads,  
19 interfere with GPS and destroy  
20 habitats. I was pleased that Brenda  
21 Burns, the managing editor of the Urbana  
22 Daily Citizen, cared enough to go to Van  
23 Wert, Ohio and see for herself the wind  
24 project there. She visited a home near  
25 the wind turbine site and saw the

1 flicker, as well as the sound generated  
2 by the blades. Did they ever conclude  
3 the reason why one of the blades at the  
4 Van Wert project broke off; a real  
5 concern for the citizens of Champaign  
6 County, if there are not safe setbacks.

7 It is understood that the wind  
8 turbines cannot be built without  
9 government support, which means we tax  
10 payers would end up paying in some way.  
11 Only a small percentage of the Champaign  
12 County residence have signed wind  
13 turbine leases, so it seems very  
14 unfair -- very unfair for all the  
15 remaining residents to have to live with  
16 structures, all 500-feet tall.

17 In making any decision, the Ohio  
18 Power Siting Board needs to remember how  
19 many families will be subjected to the  
20 noise, the flicker, and other dangers.  
21 And in sympathy to those residents who  
22 have lived near the turbines, we do not  
23 want wind turbines here. Thank you.

24 MR. TAUBER: Shary Stadler.

25 SHARY STADLER,

1 After having been first duly sworn, as  
2 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
3 as follows:

4 - - - - -

5 MS. STADLER: I'm Shary Stadler and  
6 I live at 2089 North State Route 560 in  
7 Urbana. I'm a non participating  
8 landowner. My family farms 1,500 acres  
9 on the west side of the county. My  
10 husband is the fifth generation to  
11 steward this land. We are members of  
12 the Farm Bureau and we are firm  
13 believers in the rights of farmers to  
14 use their land as they see fit.  
15 However, those rights end when they  
16 encroach upon the rights of their  
17 neighbors.

18 I believe that the setbacks as  
19 currently set in the Buckeye Wind  
20 project are inadequate and unsafe. Not  
21 only are the setbacks less than the  
22 manufacturer's recommended minimum, the  
23 full setbacks are set at the neighboring  
24 property's residence and not at the  
25 property line. That means if my

1 neighbor chose to put up a turbine near  
2 my farm, I may no longer be able to  
3 safely erect or insure a building where  
4 I could have before the existence of the  
5 turbine.

6 Some farmers may have an existing  
7 barn or a pasture that is in the unsafe  
8 zone. It is likely that the existence  
9 of the turbines will diminish the bat  
10 population, either through killing or  
11 making the environment inhospitable to  
12 them. The results will be increased  
13 insects, a problem to our crops and to  
14 our horses. I am concerned about the  
15 likely increase in the mosquito  
16 population, and the resulting increase  
17 in the risk of mosquito-born diseases,  
18 including the West Nile Virus, which can  
19 affect horses and people. We probably  
20 wouldn't have the option for area  
21 spraying of our crops to address an  
22 increased pest population.

23 To call Buckeye Wind a farm is a  
24 misnomer. If they want to construct a  
25 wind farm, they should buy the land that

1           they need and provide adequate setbacks  
2           to adjoining properties. To have this  
3           so called farm scattered throughout six  
4           townships spreads the disadvantages  
5           throughout the area. There is no  
6           benefit to this community that outweighs  
7           the overwhelming cost to the environment  
8           and to the people. Thank you.

9           MR. TAUBER: Mary Sue Schmidt.

10           MARY SUE SCHMIDT,

11           After having been first duly sworn, as  
12           hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
13           as follows:

14           - - - - -

15           MS. SCHMIDT: Good evening. My  
16           name is Mary Sue Schmidt. I live at  
17           3000 Stone Quarry Road, Urbana, Ohio. I  
18           am a non participating landowner. I am  
19           also a nurse and I am very concerned  
20           about the health effects for everyone  
21           here, which affects both those  
22           participating in the project and those  
23           not participating in the project.

24           As it may not come as a surprise  
25           that there is not a whole lot of



1 research done on the adverse health  
2 effects of people living within the  
3 surrounding areas of the wind turbines,  
4 maybe because the government supports  
5 the wind project and renewable energy  
6 and they themselves have not done much  
7 funding, if any, for health effects  
8 within the area. And the wind companies  
9 themselves, although they try not to  
10 admit that there are health problems,  
11 have not done them either. So it comes  
12 more from independent people, such as  
13 Dr. Phillips, who is currently in  
14 epidemiology. So looking at the health  
15 outcomes of people who are currently  
16 living within the area of the wind  
17 turbines and seeing the effects that  
18 they have suffered. There is also a  
19 pediatrician, Nina Pierport, from New  
20 York. And she wrote, The Wind Turbine  
21 Syndrome, which is a very similar list  
22 of health effects experienced by people  
23 living within the area of the wind  
24 turbines.

25 For public safety, the setbacks

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1           come to the forefront once again. With  
2           the symptoms that they talk about, Nina  
3           Pierport said, you need to be at least  
4           1.25 miles away to decrease some of the  
5           effects that can -- people can suffer,  
6           the adverse effects. And Dr. Phillips  
7           says somewhere between one to two miles  
8           away. So it says, people living within  
9           two kilometers, 1.2 miles of the these  
10          spinning, giants get sick, so sick that  
11          they often abandoned and lock the door  
12          and leave their homes. Then nobody  
13          wants to buy their particularly toxic  
14          homes. The lucky ones get quietly  
15          bought out by the wind developers who  
16          steadfastly refuse to acknowledge that  
17          wind turbine syndrome exists. And yet,  
18          as wind developers -- and yet, the wind  
19          developers thoughtfully include  
20          confidentially clauses in the field  
21          agreement, forbidding the victim from  
22          discussing the matter further.

23                 There is trouble with the wind  
24                 turbine infrasound and then the low  
25                 noise frequency is one of the big

1 concerns that then leads to sleep  
2 disorders, such as insomnia, typically  
3 sleeping, fatigue that could be  
4 secondary to the insomnia and difficulty  
5 with sleeping. Difficulty  
6 concentrating. Mood disorders.  
7 Increased touchiness. Quick to get  
8 angry. Children more touchy. More  
9 fighting. More restlessness.  
10 Headaches. Vestibular balance problems  
11 and ringing in the ears or the  
12 tinnitus. There's also the trouble with  
13 the wind -- with the flickers and the  
14 possibility of seizures. And that  
15 report comes from the Neuroscience  
16 Institute of Birmingham of United  
17 Kingdom. And they say that it doesn't  
18 -- the risk of the seizures doesn't  
19 diminish with the viewing distance. The  
20 flash frequency is, therefore, the  
21 critical factor and should be kept to a  
22 maximum of three per second. For  
23 example, 60 revolutions per minute per  
24 three-bladed turbine on wind farms, the  
25 shadow cast by one turbine on another

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1 should not be viewable by the public if  
2 accumulative flash rates exceeds three  
3 per second, and turbine blades should  
4 not be reflective. So those are some of  
5 the frequently mentioned health concerns  
6 for those living within the realm of the  
7 turbines. Thank you.

8 MR. TAUBER: Mark Schmidt.

9 MARK SCHMIDT,

10 After having been first duly sworn, as  
11 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
12 as follows:

13 - - - - -

14 MR. SCHMIDT: My name is Mark  
15 Schmidt. I live at 3000 Stone Quarry  
16 Road in Urbana, Ohio. I'm a non  
17 participating landowner.

18 Mary Sue shared some facts, some  
19 really good facts. She's very good on  
20 research. What it boils down to, it's  
21 not a good idea to have wind turbines  
22 that close to structures or people. I'm  
23 actually an associate professor of  
24 anatomy and physiology, so I know a  
25 little bit about the human body and the

1 physiology of the human body.

2 When I lecture, it's usually 45  
3 minutes to an hour, so I'm shooting for  
4 three minutes here.

5 So when we look at the human body,  
6 the human body is 45 to 75 percent  
7 water. 45 to 75 percent water. When we  
8 talk about low frequency noise, low  
9 frequency sounds, there's some things  
10 that we have to take into  
11 consideration. Low frequency has a lot  
12 of energy and low frequency waves travel  
13 a long distance. They travel around  
14 obstructions until they meet an object,  
15 be that a wall, a tree, or a person.  
16 Once that low frequency wave meets and  
17 contacts an object, it's going to try  
18 and create the same oscillation in that  
19 object as the oscillation of a wave.  
20 That means we are going to vibrate as  
21 the same speed as the wave.

22 We've had a lot of statements  
23 about, you know, these effects. I can't  
24 speak personally about what those  
25 effects might be. But there will be an

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1 effect. The water within our body is  
2 going be easier move than that concrete  
3 wall, and when that wave strikes our  
4 body, the water will begin to vibrate.  
5 There is water on the outside of the  
6 cells and there is water on the inside  
7 of the cells. That's not a normal  
8 oscillation. That's not a normal  
9 vibration that's going to occur, so  
10 something abnormal is happening within  
11 your body when that wave strikes.  
12 That's when we're going to have  
13 consequences.

14 Again, low frequency waves travel  
15 of the same amplitude. If I got a high  
16 frequency wave and a low frequency wave  
17 and they're of the same amplitude, the  
18 low frequency wave will travel ten to  
19 100 times further than the high  
20 frequency waves. High frequency waves  
21 are very unidirectional. High frequency  
22 waves, you can hear them only if you  
23 stand right in front of them. Low  
24 frequency waves spread out and travel as  
25 a larger body. So these are going to

1 definitely affect large masses of  
2 surface area and large masses of  
3 people.

4 Setbacks, I -- when I look at it, I  
5 look at who already has wind turbines in  
6 place. They've been in Canada for a  
7 large period of time. They're now  
8 saying setbacks a mile and a half to two  
9 miles are only reasonable because of  
10 those low frequency waves causing impact  
11 within the population. That's what I  
12 would expect here for a legitimate  
13 expectation for people protecting the  
14 public good. To look at projects that  
15 are already in place and the effects  
16 that are being experienced there and  
17 then reflect that to us.

18 Last thing, that's a bit of a  
19 hyperbole, but I use hyperboles to make  
20 points in my classes. The hyperbole is,  
21 U.S. government and other governments  
22 already know the power of low frequency  
23 waves. They use low frequency weapons.  
24 They're ultra low frequency, but it's in  
25 the same realm. It's a low frequency

1 wave and they use those low frequency  
2 waves to set up oscillations of the  
3 enemy's body and explode the organs.  
4 I'm not saying that these low frequency  
5 waves are going to cause an explosion of  
6 your organs, but it will cause an  
7 oscillation of the water within the  
8 system. So forgive me if I speak in  
9 hyperboles when somebody is building a  
10 400-foot weapon on a hill and pointing  
11 it at my house. Thank you.

12 MR. TAUBER: Phyllis Rittenhouse.

13 PHYLLIS RITTENHOUSE,

14 After having been first duly sworn, as  
15 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
16 as follows:

17 - - - - -

18 MS. RITTENHOUSE: Hi. My name is  
19 Phyllis Rittenhouse. I live at 1906  
20 North Ludlow Road. And I do live within  
21 the footprint of the wind farm, and I am  
22 not a leaseholder.

23 I ask that you consider the impact  
24 that Champaign Wind will have on our  
25 community beyond the state mandate that



1 Ohio produce 25 percent of its energy  
2 through renewable.

3 Phase One and Phase Two combined,  
4 will construct over 110 490-foot tall  
5 turbines right in the middle of a highly  
6 populated residential area.

7 Our countryside here is safe,  
8 beautiful, quiet and peaceful. My  
9 husband and I bought our houses 27 years  
10 ago and fell in love with the  
11 countryside and knew renovating the  
12 house would be worth all the work. We  
13 love where we live and we had hoped to  
14 spend the rest of our lives there.

15 I understand the need for renewable  
16 energy, and I believe there's a place  
17 for wind turbines. Their place,  
18 however, is not in the middle of a  
19 highly populated area with such close  
20 setbacks.

21 I cannot understand how these  
22 turbines can be approved for this area  
23 by our local townships and zoning when  
24 we cannot even put a garden shed on our  
25 area that is just one acre without

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1 commissioned and being told where to put  
2 it. I cannot understand how they can be  
3 considered agricultural. There is  
4 nothing ag about wind turbines. They  
5 are industrial. I understand any other  
6 industry could not be so close to  
7 residential homes, nor should these  
8 turbines. And what about our rights to  
9 continue to live where we choose and  
10 enjoy the safety, beauty -- the  
11 beautiful views, the peace and quiet  
12 that our countryside provides. We have  
13 a great deal of respect for our local  
14 farmers. We take care not to damage our  
15 fields that surround us. We clean up  
16 trash from the fields and ditches. We  
17 take care when they are on the road with  
18 their equipment. We have gone and  
19 checked on their cows when they sounded  
20 alarmed in the night because we couldn't  
21 -- we were concerned about them. And my  
22 husband and I, we had both spent some of  
23 our lives on -- growing up on small  
24 farms. My grandparents were farmers and  
25 I have family that still have farms, and

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1 I cannot understand the disregard for  
2 our property and our livelihoods. I  
3 cannot help but to believe that there  
4 will be adverse side effects of our  
5 homes and health being so close to the  
6 turbines. There are too many news  
7 articles and stories from people  
8 globally who have been suffering. They  
9 cannot all be wrong. They just cannot.  
10 And most of all, plain common sense  
11 should tell us that there will be  
12 problems with this project for many,  
13 including the landowners holding  
14 leases.

15 There are so few who will gain from  
16 this project. Our county government and  
17 schools will not truly gain financially  
18 as much as Everpower claims. And the  
19 permanent jobs are so few. For the  
20 landowners holding leases, how can they  
21 ever be sure, after reading their  
22 contracts, that they will gain  
23 financially when there are so many ways  
24 out for Everpower if they don't feel  
25 that they are making enough money.

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1                   How will they ever remove the  
2                   turbines on a \$5,000 decommission bond?  
3                   Will there be federal government  
4                   subsidies to take the turbines down when  
5                   they prove to -- excuse me -- when they  
6                   prove that the hazards so many others  
7                   tried to warn us about are true? Our  
8                   countryside will be visually polluted  
9                   forever, and when Everpower is finished  
10                  they will leave our county with millions  
11                  of our tax payers dollars and leave us  
12                  in the aftermath without enough money to  
13                  fix it.

14                 At this time there are too many  
15                 unknowns of wind power, and at present,  
16                 it is not sustainable, reliable, too  
17                 expensive to build, and the energy will  
18                 be too costly for the consumers, and  
19                 their safety is in doubt. The energy  
20                 produced will not stay in Champaign  
21                 County, or even possibly Ohio.

22                 There are many moratoriums globally  
23                 stopping the construction of the farms  
24                 because of the harmful effects  
25                 environmentally and to human health,

1 home values, and the rising cost of  
2 electricity. Should we not listen and  
3 learn from those who have experienced  
4 this for years, those who can tell us  
5 the truth? I don't believe the gain is  
6 worth the cost of Champaign County. If  
7 the gain truly was worth the cost, as in  
8 many new jobs, more than seven, even  
9 though they say 38, it comes back to  
10 seven every time, and our county getting  
11 off the grid, very low energy costs,  
12 increased property values, no harm to  
13 our wildlife, and millions of dollars  
14 annually for the county, not one  
15 million, we would stay quite, adjust,  
16 and be grateful for such an opportunity  
17 for everyone in our county to win.

18 I will confess, I am alarmed at the  
19 unknowns of the proposed wind farms and  
20 the half truths of Everpower. Phase one  
21 is enough. Phase two is just asking too  
22 much from us nonparticipants. And when  
23 will it end, because we have been told  
24 Phase Two has already -- or Phase Three  
25 has already been in the works.

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1 Please, again, I ask that you be  
2 mindful of our lives and so many lives  
3 living inside the footprint of the  
4 proposed wind farm. Is it not the first  
5 duty of the government to protect the  
6 people and care for them? Our future is  
7 in your hands. Thank you.

8 MR. TAUBER: Dave Dye.

9 DAVE DYE,

10 After having been first duly sworn, as  
11 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
12 as follows:

13 - - - - -

14 MR. DYE: Dave Dye from Cable,  
15 Ohio. And I appreciate the opportunity  
16 to be here and make a comment.

17 For the record, we own and reside  
18 on our small 60-acre farm property and  
19 have rejected the lease overtures from  
20 the wind industry promoters. As a  
21 practicing CPA for over 30 years in  
22 Champaign County, I would like to  
23 address the statement that I've heard  
24 repeatedly that our county is  
25 agricultural. The implication being

1           that 500-foot wind plants with blade  
2           spans the length of a football field,  
3           rotating at a speed of 180 miles per  
4           hour are a natural fit in our  
5           agricultural community. And while I  
6           would not argue with the claim that the  
7           majority of our land area is dedicated  
8           to agro business, I would estimate that  
9           somewhere between 80 to 90 percent of  
10          the approximately 40,000 residents  
11          derive their livelihood from non  
12          agricultural related sources. I do  
13          recognize that 40, 50 years ago this  
14          probably was not the case. However,  
15          time has brought change to our county.

16                Today 2012, for example, I'm part  
17          of a service industry and derive no more  
18          that 10 percent, with five percent  
19          within our county, from ag business  
20          sources. Furthermore, I believe that  
21          the vast majority of our Champaign  
22          County households, like mine, depend  
23          upon service rendered or jobs in  
24          factories, offices and shops located in  
25          Urbana, Springfield, Marysville,

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1 Columbus, Dayton, and surrounding  
2 localities to provide their stream of  
3 income. Therefore, as much as my  
4 contention that statistically few of our  
5 residents are occupied in agro business,  
6 that the more accurate description of  
7 Champaign County would be as a rural  
8 residential community, and that the  
9 impact of wind plants upon on our  
10 residents and the infringement of their  
11 property rights due to unconscionably  
12 inadequate setbacks have not been  
13 diligently considered.

14 The subject of setbacks -- and this  
15 is -- a lot of this has been covered by  
16 other people, but the subject of  
17 setbacks is quite pertinent because  
18 should these plants go to production,  
19 there will be no defense to the  
20 inevitable legal actions in as much as  
21 the facts concerning setbacks are  
22 readily available. In Holland the  
23 setback is one kilometer, 3,280 feet.  
24 In Germany, setbacks range up to 1.6  
25 kilometers or one mile. In Australia



1 setbacks in Victoria Precinct, the  
2 government has adopted two kilometer,  
3 1.24 miles setback requirements. In  
4 Denmark the setbacks is four times the  
5 total turbine height, or about 2,000  
6 feet. Various jurisdictions scattered  
7 around the U.S. and Canada have adopted  
8 setbacks in the one-half to two mile  
9 range. The Wisconsin Citizens Safe Wind  
10 Siting Guidelines require setbacks of at  
11 least 2,640 feet. Whitley County,  
12 Indiana now requires one-half mile  
13 setbacks. The Danish company Vestas  
14 cautions not to stay within 400 meters,  
15 1,300 feet, from its V-90 turbine. The  
16 German manufacturer RETEXO recommended a  
17 setbacks of two kilometers, 6,562 feet,  
18 from its turbine. General Electric has  
19 refused to site towers within  
20 approximate 1,300 feet for a 350-foot  
21 turbine with a 300-foot rotor. I have  
22 been unable to find any scientific  
23 basis, independent study, or public  
24 rationale in support of the vaunted  
25 1,000 foot setbacks.

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1           The anecdotal evidence appears to  
2           point toward the "wind industry people"  
3           or "ad-hoc public/industry groups."

4           Thank you.

5           MR. TAUBER:   Allen Michaels?

6           Shelby Davis?   Dawn Davis?

7           -   -   -   -   -

8           MS. DAVIS:   My name is Dawn Davis,  
9           I reside about an hour and a half from  
10          here.

11          You can say that wind energy has  
12          become a bit of a serious hobby for me.  
13          My family left me an impression, and  
14          that's what brought me here.

15          Everpower states on their website  
16          that it is, I quote, "owned by its  
17          employees and the private equity firm  
18          Terraferma, which has a range of  
19          institutional investors, with the  
20          largest portion being U.S. based."   But  
21          on October 9th in Recharge News there  
22          was an article stating that Terraferma  
23          is quietly preparing a new renewable  
24          focus investment fund with the backing  
25          of the China Development bank.

1 Communist China may provide as much as  
2 4.8 billion dollars, and Terraferma will  
3 focus on western markets. It also says  
4 China is deep pocketed and it continues  
5 to aide Chinese manufacturing. Of the  
6 top ten worldwide turbine manufacturers,  
7 four out of ten are headquartered in  
8 China, only one here in the USA. The  
9 leases that Champaign County farmers  
10 signed can easily be renewed for  
11 decades. Do you really want to allow  
12 Communist China, the largest holder of  
13 our foreign debt, some 40 percent of our  
14 treasury bonds, to control a significant  
15 portion of this county for decades to  
16 come?

17 If congress renews the production  
18 tax credit, it is estimated to cost tax  
19 payers \$12 billion next year alone.  
20 Additionally, in Ohio we give groups  
21 like Everpower direct access to our  
22 grid, tax abatements, and we force  
23 companies like AEP to purchase their  
24 very expensive power, and these costs  
25 are passed on to us, the American

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1 taxpayer.

2 The USA is already electrically  
3 independent and we don't need wind. Few  
4 people realize that, especially in this  
5 political environment. That drives me  
6 nuts, so I'm going to repeat it. The  
7 USA is already electrically independent  
8 and we don't need wind. Look at your  
9 bills at home. We produce our  
10 electricity from coal, natural gas,  
11 nuclear, and hydro. All are within our  
12 borders.

13 Turbines are not environmentally  
14 green. Every turbine requires the rare  
15 element neodymium, only mined in Asia.  
16 Every large turbine has hundreds of  
17 gallons of oil in the gearbox at the top  
18 that must be changed approximately every  
19 five years. Every turbine, therefore,  
20 makes us more dependent on foreign  
21 countries.

22 Have turbines lowered electricity  
23 rates anywhere on this planet? No. But  
24 rates have risen where they are. Have  
25 turbines replaced fossil fuels and

1 caused the closing of a fossil fuel  
2 plant anywhere on this planet? No. But  
3 more fossil fuel plants and nuclear  
4 energy plants are now being prepared to  
5 back them up.

6 By the way, did you know that we  
7 now export our coal to China? This  
8 energy is only green in my mind because  
9 of these -- I have something to show.

10 According to our energy department  
11 for every one tax dollar given to coal,  
12 natural gas and oil, wind is given \$88.  
13 Let me repeat that. One dollar, coal,  
14 oil, natural gas. Wind alone gets 88.  
15 I don't what solar gets. Wind receives  
16 77 percent of our energy tax subsidies.  
17 It's a gold mine. It's the only reason  
18 they're here. The wind lobbyists are  
19 now one of, if not the most powerful  
20 group in Washington D.C. I will not be  
21 the last American taxpayer to follow  
22 this money trail. People are waking  
23 up. It is time that we take a stand and  
24 say no to foreign countries and  
25 companies, like China, taking over our

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1 natural resources and forcing our  
2 dependence on them. Thank you.

3 MR. TAUBER: Daniel Dye.

4 DANIEL DYE,

5 After having been first duly sworn, as  
6 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
7 as follows:

8 - - - - -

9 MR. DYE: Hello. My name is Daniel  
10 Dye. I live at 325-and-a-half South  
11 Bellmont in Springfield. I grew up in  
12 Champaign County, and I own property  
13 owner here in Champaign County as well,  
14 and have a family farm in the middle of  
15 this project. I love progress and I  
16 love industry, and both are essential  
17 for future generations; however,  
18 progress and industry need to be done  
19 responsible and conscientiously.

20 We can all agree that we need to do  
21 something in terms of energy and  
22 consumption and future generations. But  
23 there are a lot of myths floating around  
24 about the wind industry and the  
25 industrialization of this county. And I

1 would like to address some of these  
2 tonight. Most of which, if not all,  
3 have been addressed already, so I'm  
4 going to shorten my list down to just  
5 four or five. But there is one myth  
6 floating around that wind energy is  
7 clean and green. The fact is that  
8 industrial turbines have never taken a  
9 single polar nuclear plant offline. In  
10 fact, because wind is unreliable, it  
11 doesn't blow when you need it, coal  
12 plants cannot be shut off or ramped  
13 down. So that's one fact.

14 Another fact is that this is going  
15 to create lots and lots of jobs. But  
16 tonight we've seen and there's been some  
17 testimonies about the amount of jobs,  
18 there will be just a handful of jobs  
19 right here in this county, a handful of  
20 the permanent jobs, and the temporary  
21 jobs will typically come from out of the  
22 area there.

23 Another myth is that industrial  
24 turbines are safe near homes, and this  
25 has been addressed over and over again

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1           tonight. But, again, within a half a  
2           mile they can cause headaches, and  
3           sleeplessness, and nausea and other  
4           symptoms. So the wind industry claims  
5           this is all psychological, which is  
6           interesting, because when I fly in a  
7           plane, my ears start popping, which is  
8           considered to be physical. But when I'm  
9           around the turbines my ears pop, but  
10          that would be psychological. So that's  
11          one of the things that wind industry  
12          claims.

13                 And then there are also matters of  
14                 ice throw, and blade safety, and shadow  
15                 flicker. Companies always say, well, we  
16                 can shut the turbines off when there is  
17                 ice on them so there is no problem. But  
18                 then you go and do research and you find  
19                 this thing is still spinning and ice is  
20                 flying and that sort of thing.

21                 There is also information that the  
22                 bats do not matter and this has been  
23                 addressed tonight, as well. But they're  
24                 crucial to the ecosystem for pest  
25                 control. And they're dying near wind



1           installations. And, again, Big Wind  
2           said this was no big deal, but they  
3           don't point out decreased bat population  
4           means increased pesticide use by  
5           farmers, which is not clean or green.

6           Another myth that I keep hearing  
7           here is that we'll be powered by Big  
8           Wind here in Champaign County.           But  
9           nearly all of the electricity  
10          generated -- when it's generated -- will  
11          be sold out of the county and out of  
12          state, with profits funneled towards  
13          Terraferma, the U.K.-based company and,  
14          which is now in the process, we've  
15          heard, of taking on Chinese investors.

16          Another myth is that Big Wind will  
17          pay their share of taxes so it's okay.  
18          But they have developed a scheme called  
19          PILOT, Payment In Lieu of Taxes, which  
20          means they just pay a fraction of their  
21          actual tax burden, unlike other  
22          businesses.

23          The other myth is that -- I don't  
24          think it's been mentioned tonight, is  
25          that flying through turbines, around

1 turbines is no big deal. But pilots  
2 will tell you that flying through  
3 500-foot structures in a tightly  
4 congested region is a big deal. In  
5 fact, crop dusters charge a premium for  
6 having to fly through or close to nearby  
7 wind installation projects. So this  
8 will cut into leaseholders profits from  
9 the turbine leases.

10 There is another myth that if I'm  
11 not a leaseholder, why should I care?  
12 Even if you are not a leaseholder, if  
13 you live within the project, you could  
14 be subject to Big Wind use of your  
15 property. They control access and  
16 setbacks to turbines that trumps your  
17 own property rights and your ability to  
18 do what you choose to do with your  
19 property.

20 The last thing is, I hear this  
21 argument: This is for the greater  
22 good. Well, I'm for the greater good.  
23 I'm for clean, green sustainable  
24 living. And I also wonder about future  
25 generations. But Everpower's version of

1 the greater good is a story that we've  
2 heard many, many times before. It's a  
3 multinational corporation pushing its  
4 weight around and making a lot of money,  
5 in the name of progress, while only  
6 telling one side of the story. And in  
7 this case, it's right here in Champaign  
8 County. It's a little place in the  
9 world, but with real people and real  
10 concerns.

11 So please listen closely tonight,  
12 OPSB. Thank you.

13 MR. TAUBER: Brad McDavid.

14 BRAD McDAVID,

15 After having been first duly sworn, as  
16 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
17 as follows:

18 MR. McDAVID: To the Power Siting  
19 Board and staff, good evening. My name  
20 is Brad McDavid. My family and I live  
21 in Union Township. We are non  
22 participating landowners. I'm a member  
23 of the Union Township Zoning  
24 Commission. I want to speak to you  
25 about zoning.

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1           The whole purpose of zoning is to  
2           prevent problems associated with land  
3           uses that are incompatible. Effective  
4           zoning should prevent new developments  
5           from interfering with existing  
6           developments. Zoning categories include  
7           residential, agricultural, commercial,  
8           and industrial. Some would argue that  
9           our township was one of agriculture, but  
10          in reality, only about five percent of  
11          the population is involved in farming.  
12          No, Union Township is a rural  
13          residential area with approximately  
14          4,000 residents and 1,000 homes.

15                The two proposed wind farms consist  
16                of over 100 industrial wind turbines.  
17                Our residential community is on the  
18                brink of being transformed into an  
19                industrial zone.

20                Industrial wind turbines in a  
21                residential area are not only  
22                inappropriate, they are unacceptable.  
23                If we still had local control of zoning  
24                these turbines, the area would be zoned  
25                for industrial, and homes would be

1 prohibited from being built there.

2 Eminent domain would be more just  
3 treatment for our residents, take them  
4 out of harm's way and compensate them  
5 for their losses.

6 I'm sure you're already aware of  
7 the population density concerns that  
8 exist in our area versus others with  
9 industrial wind development. This  
10 project is, in many ways, an  
11 experiment. Is this smart? Is this  
12 safe? With such lenient setbacks, what  
13 are the liabilities associated with this  
14 project over the next 20 to 50 years?

15 The Ohio Power Siting Board has as  
16 mission statement: To install energy  
17 infrastructure for Ohio citizens and  
18 economic interest, while protecting the  
19 environment and land use.

20 It sounds like you are promoting  
21 Ohio's energy interests at the expense  
22 of its citizens and existing land use.  
23 The economics of the project are not  
24 feasible without subsidies and tax  
25 breaks. This project violates your own

1 mission statement.

2 Industrial wind turbines have a  
3 placed. This is not it. Yes, we have  
4 wind. Yes, we have transmission lines,  
5 but yes, we also have two million  
6 residents who were here first.

7 We can accomplish our energy goals  
8 by other cost effective and ethical  
9 means. Put yourself in our shoes.  
10 Would you and your family like to live  
11 under these conditions? I doubt it.  
12 Industrial wind turbines in residential  
13 areas are incompatible.

14 MR. TAUBER: Terry Rittenhouse.

15 TERRY RITTENHOUSE,

16 After having been first duly sworn, as  
17 hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
18 as follows:

19 MR. RITTENHOUSE: First, I would  
20 like to thank all of you folks for  
21 coming out tonight. I was going to wear  
22 a yellow hat, but there wasn't enough of  
23 them to go around.

24 MR. MCKENNEY: Before you get too  
25 far into your testimony, could you just

1 state your name and address for the  
2 record?

3 MR. RITTENHOUSE: Sure. My name is  
4 Terry Rittenhouse. I live at 1906 north  
5 Ludlow Road here in Urbana.

6 I'm so impressed with the level of  
7 the testimony tonight. I underestimated  
8 you guys. Thank you so much for your  
9 words of wisdom. And I sure hope you  
10 guys are hearing what the level is  
11 against it and I'll move forward.

12 My name is Terry Rittenhouse, and I  
13 welcome the representatives of the Ohio  
14 Power Siting Board to Champaign County.  
15 Thank you for this hearing.

16 To our possible new investors in  
17 Champaign County I say this: Wen Hou,  
18 Wamem da doalnqua dato dooda Champaign  
19 xian. Greetings to our Chinese  
20 investors in Champaign.

21 I am a non compensated, affected  
22 participant in the Buckeye Wind Farm,  
23 and now the Champaign Wind Farm. I live  
24 just across the road from the proposed  
25 main base of operations. We call it

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1 ground zero. My home is to be  
2 surrounded by over 20 industrial wind  
3 turbines, with a cluster of eight  
4 pointed directly at my house. I will  
5 know the full weight of the negative  
6 costs associated with the wind turbine  
7 industrial complex construction.

8 You, meaning the OPSB, have left  
9 those that will be losing their property  
10 and value rights completely out of the  
11 equation, while all around us dance in  
12 the dirty money. There is no way out  
13 for my wife and I, nor for many of the  
14 1,000 plus homeowners that live within  
15 the footprint of this proposed wind farm  
16 that have caused dissension and split  
17 our community forever, whether it goes  
18 up or not.

19 At our last meeting I informed the  
20 folks that they sent at that time that I  
21 very reluctantly put my wife -- my home  
22 and my wife's gardens of 27 years up for  
23 sale. Plenty of lookers came. We've  
24 got a beautiful, well-located home.  
25 We've been on the Tour of Homes; five-



1 car garage, ten-car barn, fair market  
2 value. We tried to downplay the true  
3 effects of the wind farm, just like  
4 Everpower does. But we had to tell a  
5 certain amount of truth. We offered  
6 help with the down payment and closing  
7 costs, we offered appliance warranties,  
8 and roof and fixture guarantees, but no  
9 one came back after knowing the truth,  
10 that the wind turbines were coming, no  
11 one. People aren't fools. I cannot,  
12 nor should be I be asked to endure the  
13 loss of my peaceable home or forego the  
14 lawful realization of my property  
15 values, or see this same thing happen  
16 also to my neighbors for the  
17 insufficient profit of a few insiders,  
18 and the huge profits in government  
19 grants for a few offshore investors of  
20 ill repute and their lawyers.

21 Speaking of lawyers, I don't have a  
22 joke, but I do have with me today, and I  
23 would like to submit into evidence the  
24 December 11, 2000 Columbus CEO  
25 magazine. In this magazine is a

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1 shocking, condescending and adversarial  
2 statement from the law firm named  
3 Vorys. Upon sound legal advice, I did  
4 not reprint it. So with the Board's  
5 permission, I will submit this original  
6 to the Board at the end of my  
7 testimony. Many in this room have  
8 received communication from Vorys, as  
9 they are the law firm that represents  
10 Everpower's interests at the state  
11 level, and also does the talking locally  
12 for Everpower, concerning official  
13 notices in compliance with Ohio law and  
14 procedures.

15 On page 55 of this magazine is an  
16 advertisement for service that was  
17 published by Vorys in this prestigious  
18 magazine about their influential  
19 expertise on the people of Champaign  
20 County and our governmental and  
21 regulatory bodies, including local,  
22 state and federal agencies, and their  
23 view of our competence and ability in  
24 comparison to their own. And I quote,  
25 "there were the landowners and the

1 neighbors and the environmentalists and  
2 the zoning board. There were the  
3 hunters and the farmers and the federal  
4 regulations and the land use  
5 restrictions. There were excavation and  
6 reclamation issues. There were  
7 aesthetic issues and there were the bird  
8 lovers and the bat lovers and the noise  
9 haters and their attorneys. So how did  
10 we get approval for the first large  
11 scale wind farm in Ohio, we figured it  
12 out. Vorys, higher standards make  
13 better lawyers.

14 This isn't about electricity. It's  
15 about power. This isn't about green  
16 energy. It's about red hot government  
17 money. This isn't about common sense.  
18 It's about influence. This isn't about  
19 economic development. It's about  
20 prostitution of the land and greed.  
21 This isn't about the community  
22 development. It's about the loss of a  
23 local community's ability to control  
24 their own development. This isn't about  
25 truth in practice. It's about hidden

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1 information, manipulation of data,  
2 skewed reasonings. This isn't about the  
3 rule of law. It's about changing the  
4 laws and rules in midair to suit your  
5 own desires. This isn't about property  
6 rights. It's about human rights and  
7 constitutional rights, and we will  
8 continue to address those if you allow  
9 them to put them up.

10 Maybe you've heard, there is and  
11 oil and gas boom in America, that five  
12 years ago no one could have predicted  
13 when the wind turbines came into  
14 fashion.

15 The Urbana Daily Citizens, October  
16 24th article quotes, "The U.S. Energy  
17 department, an oil market analyst, is  
18 calling the U.S the new middle east.  
19 Just below the output of Saudi Arabia by  
20 next year. Soon the world's top  
21 producer, and the most important change  
22 to the economy since the 1990s.

23 Other news outlets report that 100  
24 years of clean natural gas have been  
25 found right here in Ohio. It's

1           happening everywhere with new reports  
2           coming almost daily. The fundamentals  
3           of the energy game have dramatically  
4           changed. The future has been radically  
5           redefined. And no one knows it better  
6           than the Ohio Power Siting Board. The  
7           future of Ohio is bright. We can now  
8           get off foreign oil, and wind turbine  
9           subsidies too. We need better  
10          solutions. Twenty years of subsidies to  
11          this group and we still don't have a  
12          breakthrough. Wind is running out of  
13          gas. The result of the election in two  
14          weeks may drive this point home for us.  
15          Real economic development is welcome in  
16          Champaign County; confidence men, carpet  
17          baggers, and con men are not.

18                 MR. TAUBER: Glen Morfield?

19                 Erin Hennigan?

20                         ERIN HENNIGAN,

21           After having been first duly sworn, as  
22   hereinafter certified, was examined and testified  
23   as follows:

24                         MS. HENNIGAN: My name is Erin  
25           Hennigan. My address is 431 Cambrain

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1 Road. I'm a non participating landowner  
2 in the footprint of the project.

3 I would like to tell you my story.  
4 I have lived in Champaign County for  
5 over 14 years. I moved to Mechanicsburg  
6 after graduating from Whittenburg  
7 University. I am married to a man who  
8 was born and raised in Mechanicsburg.  
9 His grandparents owned their own  
10 business in Mechanicsburg. My husband  
11 has an Associate's Degree from Clark  
12 State, a Bachelor's Degree from Urbana  
13 University and a Master's from  
14 University of Phoenix. We have two  
15 children, 11 and 8. Our daughter is  
16 active in the Studio All-star  
17 Cheerleaders program, band, student  
18 council, and softball. Our son plays  
19 football, basketball, baseball and  
20 wrestles. Both are great students at  
21 Mechanicsburg Elementary School. My  
22 husband coaches softball. He has helped  
23 coach baseball and wrestling. I'm the  
24 treasurer of the school's elementary  
25 PTO. We're both active in the football