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**Butler, Matthew**

**From:** emmettrobinson@gmail.com on behalf of Emmett Robinson  
<EmmettRobinson@post.harvard.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2014 11:39 PM  
**To:** Puco ContactOPSB  
**Subject:** Comment regarding case 13-0990-EL-BGN  
  
**Categories:** Red Category

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August 21, 2014

Dear Members of the OPSB:

I write in strong opposition to the wind farm proposed for Greenwich Township. The wind farm is totally unnecessary. It is economically unfeasible, and it will be a burden on our community for decades to come. Allowing wind farm construction to go forward in Greenwich would disrupt our way of life and significantly reduce property values, possibly leading to civil litigation against 6011 Greenwich Windpark, LLC. Additionally, voting to approve the wind farm's certificate would be a ratification of the misbegotten policies of our previous Governor and his allies in the General Assembly. Ohio removed that administration with the help of the voters in places like Greenwich. With your help, we can rid ourselves of the lingering effects of that administration's misguided policies as well.

I am confident you are aware of the fact that the wind park, as a practical matter, is simply not needed. According to U.S. Energy Information Administration statistics, Ohio generated 129,745 MW of electricity in 2012.[1] By contrast, the maximum plated generation capacity of the entire proposed wind farm would be a mere 60 MW. With all 25 wind turbines cranking at maximum capacity, the wind farm would increase Ohio's electricity production by a whopping .046%.

Indeed, the wind farm will only be able to survive, if at all, because of massive federal tax subsidies and because utility companies have been forced, by the overreaching policies of a previous Governor and General Assembly, to comply with a renewable energy credit system that forces them to purchase unreasonable quantities of renewable energy. The apparent demise of the renewable energy credit system in recent months (subsequent to the public hearing in this case) is additional reason to refuse to issue a certificate here or, at minimum, to hold another public hearing.

In short, the proposed wind farm does not make policy sense. It does not make economic sense. For these reasons this wind farm is a bad deal for the people of Ohio. But it is a particularly bad deal for the people of Greenwich. As you are likely well aware, virtually every Greenwich citizen who has commented on the

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proposal—aside from those who commented several years ago and who stand to receive direct financial gain from the wind farm[2]—is in adamant opposition to the wind farm. And even though South Central, our local school district, stood to gain financially from the wind farm and initially indicated approval for the project (the superintendent, as you know, at first drafted a letter supporting the proposal), every member of the board of education, as well as the superintendent, has since rescinded the endorsement and now stands opposed to the wind farm.

This is all for good reason. The turbines, as you are aware, will cast massive, ever-moving shadows over our property. They will permanently scar our rural landscape and obstruct the otherwise largely pristine views from many of our homes. They will emit, as the wind company representatives have themselves admitted, 105 dB of sound (perhaps more as the turbine bearings wear and the tax subsidies dry up, leaving the company with little incentive to make repairs). In short, even setting other, less verifiable concerns aside, the shadow and sound, and the mere presence of these behemoths in our neighborhood, will affect our lives in a number of ways. Even in a best case scenario, the value of our homes, the historic character of our community, and the way we utilize the outdoors will all be negatively affected.

By enacting HB 438/SB 310, the General Assembly and Governor have made it clear that the big turbine companies—companies which can't survive without huge government subsidies—should not be permitted to harm Ohio's rural communities any more. The Governor and General Assembly have said no to more pandering to the "green" industry. But the legacy of the last administration lives on in this project, which, *provided the certificate is not amended*, will be exempted from the legislative changes by means of a technical deadline. Indeed, given these fundamental changes in Ohio renewable energy law, the timing of the public hearing regarding the Greenwich Windpark may raise due process and fundamental fairness concerns.

The wind park is unnecessary. It makes no economic sense. The turbines will cast huge, flickering shadows over our homes and property on a permanent basis. They will emit sound and obstruct our natural landscape. They will decrease property values. And their proliferation in Ohio is in large part due to the policies of a government administration that has been removed from office. Please do not force these turbines onto our community.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

All the Best,

/s/ Emmett Robinson

Emmett Robinson, Esq.

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[1] *Net Generation by State by Type of Producer by Energy Source*, Cell 38365 D, available at <http://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/state/>.

[2] These few people are our friends and neighbors, and I do not mean to disparage them with this comment. They are hardly to blame. If a wind park is coming to your community and is going to be within a few thousand (or few hundred) feet of your home or property whether you approve of it or not, you might as well cut your losses and have a turbine or two placed on your property, receiving a significant financial benefit while bearing the environmental, aesthetic, and other costs you will incur whether the turbine is on your land or not.