

Katie (Heckerd) Wells
342 Imperial Drive
Gahanna, OH 43230

Hello,

My name is Katie Wells and I am a landowner in Seneca County, OH. I am currently enrolled in the master's program at The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs. My program focuses on public policy. My classmates and I have spent an extensive amount of time researching the issue of wind turbines, specifically in Seneca County. There are major issues that many today will likely cover that affect the quality of life of residents within the footprint of a wind turbine project. I wanted to address a concern of mine regarding wildlife, especially bats and birds.

According to the United States Geological Survey, dead bats are found beneath wind turbines all over the world. It's estimated that tens to hundreds of thousands die at wind turbines each year in North America alone. A single little brown bat, which has a body no bigger than an adult human's thumb, can eat 4 to 8 grams (the weight of about a grape or two) of insects each night. Although this may not sound like much, it adds up—the loss of the one million bats in the Northeast has probably resulted in between 660 and 1320 metric tons of insects no longer being eaten each year by bats. Imagine the increased insecticide costs for Seneca County farmers and the resulting increased food costs for consumers. This negative externality costs individuals who are not involved, similar to second hand smoke. Society as a whole will not benefit from the Seneca County wind project.

This is a complex issue that will affect the lives of citizens in Seneca County and all of Ohio. This is a property rights issue, a wildlife issue, and a health/safety issue. I hope that you will take into consideration the concerns of Seneca County and Ohio residents that have researched wind turbines thoroughly when reviewing this case. The benefits do not outweigh the costs. I hope that you don't force Seneca County to be the next guinea pig of wind energy.

Sincerely,

Katie (Heckerd) Wells

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