

THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
SENECA WIND FARM, LLC FOR A Case No. 18-488-EL-BGN
TO SITE WIND-POWERED ELECTRIC
GENERATION FACILITY IN SENECA
COUNTY, OHIO.

* * * * *

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, July 23, 2019

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Tiffin University Marion Center
235 Miami Street
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

REPORTER: KRISTIE L. BIRCH

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21

22 * * * * *

Tuesday Afternoon Session

July 23, 2019

3:11 p.m.

JUDGE SEE: Good day, all.

Can you hear me okay?

AUDIENCE: Yes.

JUDGE SEE: Okay. The Ohio Power Siting Board has scheduled a public hearing at this time and place, Case No. 18-488-EL-BGN, which is entitled in the Matter of Application of Seneca Wind, LLC, for Certificate to Site Wind-Powered Electric Generations facilities in Seneca County, Ohio.

My name is Greta See. Seated here to my immediate left is Lauren Augostini and we are the Administrative Law Judges assigned by the Board to hear this case. Joining us today is our Chairman, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission and Chairman of the Ohio Power Siting Board, Mr. Sam Randazzo.

Chairman Randazzo?

CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I want to thank you all for being here. This subject is

1 important to you regardless of which side
2 of the issue you may be on and because it's
3 important to you it's important to us. I
4 look forward to hearing your comments so
5 that we can move on to the next phase of
6 this process. Thank you very much.

7 JUDGE SEE: Also joining us
8 today are Representative Vitale and
9 Representative Stein. And seated to my
10 right is George McNab of the Department of
11 Agriculture, is a Board member with the
12 Ohio Power Siting Board. And seated on the
13 end to my left is Rachel Near, the designee
14 for Development Services.

15 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I just want to
16 mention that Representative Vitale is also
17 on the Board, he is a legislative member of
18 the Board, and Representative Stein is
19 backup member of the Board. So you've got
20 a pretty good turn out here today
21 relatively speaking. So thanks to the
22 Representatives for taking time out of
23 their day to be here, we know you've been
24 very busy.

25 JUDGE SEE: Thank you all. In

1 addition, there are several other Board
2 Staff members present, Matt Schilling, and
3 if there are any members of the media
4 present, please make sure you see Matt.
5 Also, there's Jay Agranoff, Amanda Weiss,
6 Jill Coker, and in the lobby Matt Butler.
7 So if you have a question about the Board's
8 process or how to access Seneca's
9 application on our docket, please see any
10 of these members and they'll help you.

11 Also, I'd like to note that there are
12 two pending wind applications that effect
13 Seneca County and I would ask that you make
14 sure that you're in the proper location,
15 that you're giving the testimony on the
16 case for which you wish to give testimony.
17 You can look at the maps out in the lobby
18 to be certain, and to help clarify that
19 we'll be asking you what township you live
20 in. Okay?

21 Prior to offering your testimony you
22 might want to make sure that you get any
23 questions asked about the application from
24 a representative of Seneca Wind as the
25 public testimony taken today is only as to

1 the Seneca Wind application. Seneca Wind
2 has representatives who are available to
3 answer your questions about the proposed
4 project. Their representatives are just
5 out in the hall and there may be some here
6 in the auditorium and when I take
7 appearances counselors for Seneca Wind can
8 point you to those representatives.

9 In addition to Board Staff I know that
10 there are a number of parties that have
11 intervened in this case. As of today there
12 are ten intervenors, including Seneca
13 County Commissioners, the Townships of
14 Eden, Venice, Reed and Scipio and Bloom,
15 Seneca East Local School District, Ohio
16 Farm Bureau Federation, Mr. Steve Shuff,
17 Black Swamp Bird Observatory and a group of
18 66 Seneca County residents who are
19 represented by counsel. Counsel for each
20 of the aforementioned parties will
21 represent the position of its clients or
22 constituents in the case before the Board.

23 As part of the Board's consideration
24 of Seneca Wind's application the Board will
25 hold two hearings, the first is this local

1 public hearing, Board members have access
2 to all the information on the docket which
3 includes the transcript of the testimony
4 offered today. As part of its review of
5 the record in this case the Board will
6 consider the issues and concerns raised in
7 the public testimony in its decision. The
8 Board will also conduct an evidentiary
9 hearing which currently is scheduled to
10 commence on August 26, 2019 at the Board's
11 offices in Columbus. At the evidentiary
12 hearing the parties in the case will offer
13 the testimony of their witnesses, present
14 evidence, and cross-examine the witnesses
15 of other parties.

16 The purpose of today's public hearing
17 is to receive comments from the public
18 regarding Seneca Wind's application to
19 construct wind-powered electric generation
20 facilities. We emphasize that this is your
21 opportunity to let the Board know your
22 opinion on Seneca Wind's application and
23 how you would be affected if the proposed
24 project is constructed. Any questions you
25 have about the project or Seneca Wind's

1 application should be addressed with a
2 Seneca Wind representatives prior to
3 offering your testimony.

4 To inform the Board in your own words
5 regarding your thoughts on the proposed
6 project the hearing is being transcribed by
7 a court reporter. So please speak clearly
8 and directly into the microphone so that
9 the court reporter can accurately reflect
10 your testimony. Also, if you have notes
11 that you're referring to, it would be
12 helpful if you left that, your notes or
13 your statement with us after you conclude
14 your testimony so that the court reporter
15 can refer to that and make sure that the
16 transcript is accurate.

17 Let me backup. If you're represented
18 by an attorney in this case your testimony
19 should be offered at the evidentiary
20 hearing, not at the public hearing. As
21 previously noted there are approximately
22 ten parties who have intervened in the
23 case, that's Seneca Wind's staff, Seneca
24 East Local School District, Eden Township,
25 Venice, Reed, Scipio Townships, Ohio Farm

1 Bureau Federation, Steve Shuff, Black Swamp
2 Bird Observatory and the Seneca County
3 Commissioners.

4 I would also request that if counsel
5 for any of the parties are present that you
6 come forward and sit in the front row so as
7 to make it easier for the court reporter to
8 transcribe the hearing. As I informed
9 counsel for the various intervenors, I will
10 make the one request whether there's cross
11 for a witness and I will expect the counsel
12 present to affirmatively acknowledge that
13 request as to whether they have any cross.

14 When you arrived today you were
15 offered the opportunity to sign up to
16 testify. Witnesses will be called forward
17 in the order listed on the sign-in sheet.
18 When your name is called, if you decide
19 that you do not want to testify you can
20 pass and we'll move to the next witness.
21 The presiding Administrative Law Judge will
22 ask each witness to come to the podium. To
23 maximum the number of witnesses that have
24 an opportunity to testify, we will call
25 people forward two at a time. One will be

1 at the podium, the second will we at the
2 other podium, to use a baseball analogy, on
3 deck, waiting so that immediately after
4 they can start their testimony. You may
5 take the seat reserved next to each podium
6 until you're ready to offer your testimony.

7 Before you present your testimony one
8 of the presiding Administrative Law
9 Judge's, Lauren or myself, will ask you to
10 take an oath to affirm that the testimony
11 you are about to give is true and accurate
12 based on your own personal knowledge. You
13 will be asked to state your and spell your
14 name and provide your address for the
15 record. We will also ask what township you
16 reside in. Your testimony will be
17 considered part of the record in this case
18 and is available to be reviewed by the
19 Board in consideration of its decision on
20 this application.

21 Additionally, counsel for Seneca Wind
22 and counsel for each of the intervening
23 parties who are present, Chairman Randazzo
24 and the presiding Administrative Law Judges
25 may ask you questions about your testimony.

1 Once you finish testifying or if you
2 are just here to observe you may leave at
3 any time. We ask that you leave quietly so
4 as not to disturb the witness and be
5 considerate of others offering testimony.

6 We ask everyone to keep their
7 statements to a reasonable period of time
8 so that as many people as possible have the
9 opportunity, that are interested in doing
10 so, can offer testimony.

11 Are there any questions about the
12 process for today's hearing?

13 Okay. With that we'll take
14 appearances on the parties for whom counsel
15 is present today. Let's start with the
16 Applicant, on behalf of Seneca Wind?

17 MR. BORCHERS: Thank you, Your
18 Honor. Good afternoon. On behalf of the
19 Applicant, Dylan Borchers and Devin Parram
20 with the law firm of Bricker & Eckler, 100
21 South Third Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

22 There are representatives from the
23 company present and I'll just allow them to
24 introduce themselves briefly --

25 JUDGE SEE: Yes.

1 MR. BORCHERS: -- for the group.

2 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Peter Pawlowski
3 with the wind project owned by sPower, Salt
4 Lake City, Utah.

5 MS. CANTE: Bridget Cante with
6 sPower.

7 JUDGE SEE: I'm sorry, I'm
8 sure the people in the back can't hear you.
9 Could you please speak up, please.

10 MS. CANTE: Bridget Cante also
11 with the project sPower, San Francisco,
12 California.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where was the
14 first guy from?

15 MR. BORCHERS: I'm sorry, sir?

16 MR. PAWLOWSKI: Salt Lake City,
17 Utah.

18 MR. NEIMAN: I'll come over to
19 the mic. Can you hear me? Perfect. My
20 name is Jeffery Neiman, I'm with the Seneca
21 Wind Farm and I work for sPower in Salt
22 Lake City.

23 MR. BORCHERS: And Your Honor, at
24 this time if, with your permission the
25 company has a brief statement it would like

1 to make.

2 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Go ahead.

3 MR. BORCHERS: Thank you, Your
4 Honor.

5 MR. SHUFF: Judge, can I
6 object? You had indicated at a pre-trial
7 that the parties were not going to make any
8 testimony or statements, pre-trial last
9 Wednesday, 9:15.

10 JUDGE SEE: When we discussed,
11 I did require counsel to be prepared to
12 answer questions, we're going to keep it
13 very brief, Mr --

14 MR. BORCHERS: Yes, Your Honor,
15 this will be a very brief statement.

16 JUDGE SEE: Because the
17 purpose of tonight's hearing is to give the
18 members of the public an opportunity to
19 give the Board their position on this
20 project, so --

21 MR. BORCHERS: Yes, Your Honor,
22 and this statement goes directly to that.

23 JUDGE SEE: Very briefly.

24 MR. BORCHERS: Thank you, Your
25 Honor.

1 Good afternoon. The purpose of the
2 local public hearing is to provide members
3 in the community and the project area an
4 opportunity to share their opinions about
5 the project. To everyone who has taken the
6 time to participate, thank you, the company
7 values your feedback. This is an
8 opportunity for the Board to hear a variety
9 of perspectives. Unfortunately, some
10 perspectives will not be heard. The
11 company has learned from some landowners
12 that they have received a variety of
13 threats concerning their participation in
14 the project and as a result do not feel --

15 MR. SHUFF: Your Honor, I
16 object to this.

17 MR. BORCHERS: -- comfortable
18 participating in --

19 MR. SHUFF: This is not
20 proper. Judge, this is not proper. I
21 object to this type of statement. This is
22 a public hearing set forth under the law,
23 the parameters under the law are clear as
24 to what's allowed. This is not allowed.

25 JUDGE SEE: And at this point,

1 Mr. Borchers, that's enough. That's
2 enough.

3 MR. BORCHERS: Yes, Your Honor.

4 JUDGE SEE: Thank you, very
5 much.

6 MR. BORCHERS: Thank you.

7 JUDGE SEE: Counsel -- Mr.
8 Shuff.

9 MR. SHUFF: I am here, Your
10 Honor, Steve Shuff, representing Steve
11 Shuff. And my address is 91 Golfview
12 Drive, Tiffin, Ohio.

13 JUDGE SEE: Sir?

14 MR. BLALOCK: Joseph Blalock,
15 Benesch, Fiedlander, Coplan & Aronoff,
16 address is 41 South High Street, Suite
17 2600, Columbus, Ohio, 43215. And I'm here
18 on behalf of the local resident
19 intervenors. There are a number of them
20 here, I'm not sure it's necessary to
21 introduce all of them, that would take up,
22 I think, too much of the Board's time so --
23 thank you.

24 JUDGE SEE: And I believe
25 that's counsel for the only parties that

1 are present. Is there any other counsel
2 present or representative for an
3 intervenor?

4 With that we'll move to the first
5 witness.

6 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: I apologize in
7 advance if I pronounce anybody's name
8 wrong.

9 First up on deck -- or first witness
10 is Michael Bertolone and on deck is Michael
11 Curran.

12 Would you raise your right hand,
13 please?

14 * * * * *

15 MICHAEL BERTOLONE

16 being of lawful age, was first duly
17 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
18 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
19 hereinafter certified, testified and
20 said as follows:

21 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
22 state and spell your name for the record
23 and your address and township.

24 MR. BERTOLONE: Okay. Michael
25 Bertolone, M-I-C-H-A-E-L,

1 B-E-R-T-O-L-O-N-E. I am a business
2 representative with the Operating Engineers
3 Local Union 18. Our headquarters address
4 is 3515 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio,
5 44115. So I don't necessarily live in one
6 of the townships, I'm here on behalf of the
7 operators that I represent.

8 MR. SHUFF: Judge, then I'm
9 going to object. You have made it clear
10 that it was limited to the people in the
11 Seneca Wind district and Seneca County.
12 This person does not live in our county or
13 in Seneca Wind.

14 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Is there a
15 response?

16 MR. BORCHERS: Yes, yes, Your
17 Honor. I believe your instruction was for
18 the witnesses to identify the township in
19 which they reside.

20 JUDGE SEE: And he has done
21 so. I would like to hear what his interest
22 in the project is.

23 MR. BERTOLONE: Thank you, Your
24 Honor.

25 On behalf of the 15,000 plus members

1 of the Operating Engineers Local Union 18,
2 I am here today to fully support the Seneca
3 Wind Farm project being proposed by Seneca
4 Wind, LLC.

5 If the Ohio Power Siting Board
6 approves the Seneca Wind Farm project this
7 will result in hundreds of jobs for the
8 members of Local 18. When our members are
9 working then our benefits programs continue
10 to thrive. The hundreds of retired
11 operators continue to receive pension
12 checks, our members and our families
13 continue to be covered by our health care
14 coverage and the training program continues
15 to teach our future operators.

16 Local 18 has been working with sPower
17 and Seneca Wind, LLC representatives since
18 the Seneca Wind project has been proposed.
19 The Operating Engineers who live not only
20 right in Seneca but the surrounding
21 counties will greatly benefit from working
22 on this project. The money earned by our
23 members in wages will in turn be spent in
24 Seneca County and will contribute to an
25 economic impact for the area.

1 The members of Local 18 are
2 responsible for building projects for all
3 of the energy-related industries to create
4 power for all the households in Ohio.
5 Energy needs to be created from more than
6 one source, such as nuclear, coal, natural
7 gas, solar and wind to provide enough power
8 for Ohio. We cannot rely on only one
9 source of power and need projects like
10 Seneca Wind Farm to contribute to our power
11 grid.

12 As you are all aware, energy projects
13 being proposed are required to obtain all
14 the necessary permits and follow a strict
15 approval process prior to being built.
16 SPower has been following this process as
17 required as well as going over and beyond
18 in Seneca County to be a good neighbor to
19 those who live here. This project will
20 create value to Seneca County as well as
21 being environmentally beneficial to the
22 State of Ohio.

23 We encourage the Ohio Power Siting
24 Board to join Local 18 in supporting the
25 Seneca Wind Farm project and approve their

1 application to build the Seneca Wind Farm.

2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

4 JUDGE SEE: Any, any
5 cross-examination for this witness? Mr.
6 Shuff?

7 Mr. Bertolone --

8 MR. BERTOLONE: Yes?

9 JUDGE SEE: -- I'm sorry, I
10 butchered your last name. There's some
11 cross for you.

12 MR. SHUFF: Would you like me
13 to stand or remain seated?

14 JUDGE SEE: I think it's
15 better if you stand so the people in the
16 back can hear you.

17 MR. SHUFF: I agree with you.
18 Thank you.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. SHUFF:

21 Q Sir?

22 A Yes.

23 Q You said there was Operating Engineers working
24 with sPower currently, is that correct? Did I hear that?

25 A We, we business representatives have been

1 working with sPower. Our members are the operators out in
2 the field working.

3 Q Okay. So it's not been the operating engineers,
4 it's been business managers?

5 A I am the operating engineers, I represent the
6 members so, yes, we have been working with them.

7 Q Okay. Who exactly has been working with them?

8 A Myself.

9 Q Just you?

10 A No, we have other business representatives and
11 organizers that have been working with them.

12 Q Any of them live in Seneca County?

13 A I don't know the answer to that.

14 Q You don't know whether any of the people working
15 with sPower from your union --

16 A I work --

17 Q -- is working -- lives in Seneca County?

18 A We, our membership, we represent the entire
19 State of Ohio, so, yeah, we have members that live right
20 in Seneca County.

21 Q Well, I'm asking request if any of those members
22 have been working with sPower?

23 A It's kind of a double sword there, I mean you've
24 got operators that are working out in the field on other
25 wind farm projects, this -- sPower doesn't currently

1 having one going on right now, so --

2 Q So the answer's no?

3 A Correct.

4 Q Okay. Do you know of anyone living in Seneca
5 County or in the Seneca Wind project area that are union
6 members of 18?

7 A Yes.

8 Q How many?

9 A We have 16,000 members, it would be hard for me
10 to give you an accurate answer.

11 Q How many in Seneca County?

12 A I can get back to you with the answer on that.

13 Q Thank you.

14 MR. SHUFF: Thank you, Judge.

15 JUDGE SEE: Any other cross
16 for this witness?

17 Thank you, sir.

18 MR. BERTOLONE: Thank you.

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Michael Curran and
20 on deck Paul Dvorak.

21 Please raise your right hand.

22 * * * * *

23 MICHAEL CURRAN

24 being of lawful age, was first duly

25 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the

1 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
2 hereinafter certified, testified and
3 said as follows:

4 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
5 state and spell your name for the record
6 and the township that you live in.

7 MR. CURRAN: Okay. My name is
8 Captain Michael Curran, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, T
9 for middle initial, C-U-R-R-A-N, U.S. Navy
10 Retired.

11 I would like -- can everyone hear me
12 all right? Okay.

13 JUDGE SEE: Could you state
14 your --

15 MR. CURRAN: Address or what do
16 you need?

17 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Address.

18 MR. CURRAN: Seneca, Seneca
19 Township in Seneca County.

20 JUDGE SEE: And your address,
21 please?

22 MR. CURRAN: 6026 County Road
23 47.

24 JUDGE SEE: Thank you. Go
25 ahead with your testimony.

1 MR. CURRAN: I would like to
2 thank the Ohio Power Siting Board for
3 allowing me to give my testimony this
4 afternoon concerning some of the potential
5 health effects which quite possibly could
6 be produced by the large sized and numerous
7 wind turbines being proposed for
8 construction in Seneca County.

9 My name is Captain Michael Curran.
10 I'm retired from the United States Navy.
11 While on active duty I was stationed at the
12 Bethesda Naval Hospital, directly across
13 the street from the National Institutes for
14 Health, that is NIH, which is home of the
15 online medical literature service called
16 Pub-Med.

17 The articles utilized by the wind
18 power companies to minimize concern for the
19 potential harmful effects of infrasound
20 generated by wind turbines on humans
21 referenced articles they said were found in
22 the Pub-Med database. The wind power
23 companies basically claimed that there was
24 no real research which clinically
25 documented harmful health effects of

1 infrasound on humans or on other living
2 creatures.

3 To my knowledge none of this research
4 presented by these companies cited
5 research, research performed by the Soviet
6 Union in the 1970s and the 1980s. The
7 Soviet research publications are not
8 available online through Pub-Med. To
9 obtain access to the Soviet research
10 articles an individual must be personally
11 on site at NIH's National Library of
12 Medicine and must have an identity card
13 issued for research at the library. I have
14 a National Library of Medicine research
15 card and have used it to investigate Soviet
16 research findings on site at the library.

17 In my research at the library I
18 discovered that there are, in fact, a very
19 significant collection of Soviet
20 investigations concerning the damaging
21 effects of infrasound on laboratory animals
22 and also on healthy human male subjects.
23 One particular area of concern was the
24 adverse effects of infrasound on cardiac
25 function. These effects included changes

1 of cardiac rate and rhythm, including
2 arrhythmias. Microscopic inspection of
3 sacrificed laboratory animals' heart tissue
4 showed multiple areas of pathological cell
5 changes. The heart was only one of the
6 many internal organs adversely affected by
7 infrasound studied by the Soviets. Soviet
8 research articles at the library are
9 written in Russian using the Cyrillic
10 alphabet. I have included three of those
11 articles which I have had translated into
12 English, with attached photographs of the
13 journal cover, which has the date stamp
14 when NIH acquired the journal. I have also
15 included photographs of the first page of
16 each article.

17 Today as I am speaking to you here in
18 Tiffin, Ohio, ongoing clinical research is
19 being performed by the Department of
20 Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery at the
21 University Hospital of Johannes Gutenberg
22 University in Mainz, Germany. After
23 watching a documentary concerning adverse
24 effects of infrasound generated by wind
25 turbines, produced by ZDF television in

1 Germany, I wanted to meet the researchers
2 at their hospital and ask them more
3 specific questions concerning their testing
4 techniques and their findings.

5 In January of this year, I flew direct
6 to Frankfurt, Germany and then made the
7 short drive across the Rhine River to
8 Mainz. Arriving at the office of Professor
9 Christian-Friedrich Vahl, I was introduced
10 to his main researcher on this subject, Dr.
11 Ryan Chaban, who is a cardiothoracic and
12 vascular surgeon on the staff with the
13 hospital. Over two days he enlightened me
14 as to his research materials and methods
15 and the finding of his investigations.

16 The University Hospital team used two
17 heart tissue samples harvested from human
18 patient undergoing cardiac surgery. One of
19 the samples was used as a control and the
20 other sample was exposed to infrasound.
21 Samples were exposed to infrasound of 16Hz
22 frequency, at decibel levels of 100, 110
23 and 120 decibels. No decibel weighting
24 waiting system, such as dB(A) was utilized,
25 since the dB(A) weighting system is used to

1 measure only sound levels which are audible
2 above 20 hertz frequency. The samples were
3 stimulated electrically with a rate of 75
4 beats per minute for 120 minutes. The
5 decrease in force of the infrasound exposed
6 cardiac tissue was found to measure almost
7 7 and a half percent for every 10 decibel
8 increase over the 100 decibel baseline,
9 resulting in an almost 15 percent decrease
10 in heart tissue contraction force at 120
11 decibels.

12 Besides the adverse effect on heart
13 function, I asked Dr. Chaban if there could
14 be any cognitive complications that could
15 affect an individual due to decreased heart
16 performance over time. He told me that
17 cardiac induced dementia could very
18 possibly result from the decrease in the
19 heart's ability to circulate an adequate
20 blood supply to the brain.

21 I questioned him that since the 7 and
22 a half percent force was seen as 110
23 decibels, would it be possible that
24 contraction force could be decreasing a
25 certain amount between 100 decibels and 110

1 decibels. He stated that result could
2 potentially occur, but that he could only
3 vouch for the changes demonstrated at his
4 testing points of 110 and 120 decibels.

5 I also asked Dr. Chaban if there could
6 be effects on heart tissue contractile
7 ability at levels of 100 decibels or less
8 if the exposure of infrasound is extended
9 over years and decades instead of only 120
10 minutes. He replied that even though it
11 was an interesting question, again he could
12 only confirm the results of his team's
13 testing at 110 and 120 decibel power level.

14 Prior to his training in medicine and
15 specialization in cardiothoracic and
16 vascular surgery, Dr. Chaban told me his
17 undergraduate education was heavily
18 involved in physics. He explained to me
19 the characteristics of infrasonic acoustic
20 energy where, because of its long,
21 wavelength, infrasound can travel long
22 distances without dissipating its energy
23 level and also has the ability to penetrate
24 into buildings. He also discussed the
25 phenomenon known as Hemholtz Resonance,

1 whereby infrasound energy can condensed in
2 a closed room, reaching energy levels 100
3 times greater than the energy level
4 measured outdoors.

5 I would think that the, I would think
6 that the potential health risks from
7 infrasound identified by the Soviet
8 research in the 20th century and confirmed
9 by the latest ongoing German research in
10 the 21st century would dispel forever the
11 notion of clean, safe, green energy
12 produced by wind turbines. Even the
13 research of the wind turbine companies,
14 that the wind turbine companies use in
15 their support, use to support their
16 construction plans state that most of the
17 sound energy produced by wind turbines is
18 in the low and infrasonic range and that
19 the larger the size of the wind turbines
20 the greater the amount of infrasonic energy
21 produced. The planned wind turbines, being
22 over 600 feet tall, are going to produce a
23 huge amount of infrasonic acoustic energy,
24 externally, unheard but, internally working
25 on internal human organs in a slow,

1 ongoing, insidious manner.

2 The Ohio Power Siting Board should
3 not, in good conscious, allow this to
4 happen to the population of Seneca County.

5 Thank you for the courtesy of allowing
6 me to testify to you publicly today on this
7 issue.

8 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Is there any
9 cross?

10 MR. BORCHERS: Your Honor, just
11 for the record, the company wishes to
12 preserve a hearsay objection to the extent
13 that third-party statements would be used
14 for briefs later after the hearing.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear him.

16 MR. CURRAN: I have, I have
17 copies of the articles and NIH, and I also
18 have the flyer that Dr. Chaban used to
19 present to the 135 Congress, 135th Congress
20 of Surgeons in Munich, Germany this past
21 March.

22 JUDGE SEE: And is that where
23 your testimony came from?

24 MR. CURRAN: Yes.

25 JUDGE SEE: Okay.

1 MR. BORCHERS: Your Honor, we're
2 just requesting, for the record, that the
3 company's not waiving any hearsay objection
4 for the point of briefing.

5 JUDGE SEE: Okay.

6 MR. CURRAN: Can I submit this?

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Yes, please.

8 MR. CURRAN: I also have a
9 separate comment what I believe about the
10 research performed by the wind turbine
11 companies.

12 JUDGE SEE: What you're
13 handing me, is that the study you were
14 referencing?

15 MR. CURRAN: This is, this is
16 my statement, these are the things I was
17 referencing here by Dr. Chaban and Dr.
18 Vahl, and then the rest, three copies of
19 the Russian research, and then this is my
20 opinion as far as the research that was
21 performed by the wind companies.

22 JUDGE SEE: Which one is your
23 notes of your testimony?

24 MR. CURRAN: Right here.

25 JUDGE SEE: Okay.

1 MR. CURRAN: And I would like
2 to submit this, too.

3 JUDGE SEE: Okay.

4 MR. CURRAN: The whole thing.

5 JUDGE SEE: Okay. This is
6 more of what you referenced?

7 MR. CURRAN: That's not the
8 main part, that's my comment on the wind
9 turbine company's research that they used
10 to support the health effects.

11 JUDGE SEE: Did you want this
12 to go into the comment file?

13 MR. CURRAN: Yes.

14 JUDGE SEE: Okay.

15 MR. CURRAN: I want everything
16 to go in the comment file.

17 JUDGE SEE: Well, this is from
18 your testimony, you're going to give this
19 to the court reporter so she has it to
20 reference so that your testimony here
21 tonight is accurate.

22 MR. CURRAN: Okay. Do I give
23 it to her now?

24 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Counsel,
25 was there any cross-examination other than

1 your objection?

2 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I do have a
3 question.

4 JUDGE SEE: Chairman Randazzo.

5 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Sir, if you would
6 go to the mic, please. Can folks hear me?

7 MR. CURRAN: Yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Captain, first of
9 all, thank you for your service.

10 MR. CURRAN: You're welcome.

11 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Can you give me,
12 you got into some pretty technical stuff,
13 if I can be brief about that, can you give
14 me a little bit of your education
15 background and that sort of thing so we can
16 better understand the frame of reference
17 here?

18 MR. CURRAN: Okay. Well, um,
19 start off, I grew up in Fairview Park,
20 Ohio, graduated from Cleveland State
21 University in 1974, graduated from Case
22 Western Reserve Dental School in 1978, went
23 to the Navy, six, after six years active
24 duty I did a fellowship in prosthodontics
25 at the Navy Hospital in San Diego, I was on

1 staff there two years after that, and two
2 years of a residency in prosthodontics at
3 the Navy Hospital Bethesda, then after that
4 I was at Great Lakes. In between I had
5 served on the U.S.S. Midway Aircraft
6 Carrier in Yokoso, Japan. And once the
7 Navy said they couldn't keep my wife and I
8 co-located, since she was also a Naval
9 officer, I left the active service after 12
10 years and went on staff at the Veterans
11 Administration Hospital in Washington,
12 D.C., as a staff prosthodontist and I was
13 there for, till 19, what, 1990 to 2003.

14 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Thank you.

15 JUDGE SEE: Thank you, sir.

16 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Next up is Paul
17 Dvorak and on deck is Patrick O'Connor.

18 Please raise your right hand.

19 * * * * *

20 PAUL DVORAK

21 being of lawful age, was first duly
22 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
23 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
24 hereinafter certified, testified and
25 said as follows:

1 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
2 state and spell your name for the record
3 and your address and township.

4 MR. DVORAK: I am Paul Dvorak,
5 that's P-A-U-L, D-V-O-R-A-K. I live at
6 20016 Wildwood Lane, Strongsville, Ohio. I
7 want to make three points in favor of the
8 Seneca Wind Farm.

9 First, of all, the wind is a
10 drought-free crop that is also immune to
11 excess rain. On a road trip across the
12 Midwest in June, we saw mile after mile of
13 wet fields that have not been planted.
14 However, in Illinois and Iowa we also saw
15 many wind farms producing profits for their
16 landowners. I would like to see a similar
17 situation in Ohio.

18 Second, as with many other communities
19 with wind farms, local school districts
20 will receive more than half the project
21 payments. And with that revenue school
22 districts could reduce or eliminate school
23 fees, fix the roofs, buy new textbooks, add
24 safety and security features, or even build
25 new facilities and without increasing

1 taxes.

2 And lastly, I want to be a customer.

3 I want to buy that wind-generated power.

4 Although FirstEnergy does allows me to do
5 that now, I'm sure the power is coming from
6 Indiana or Michigan. When FirstEnergy
7 closes its nuclear plants I'd like to know
8 that I'm buying power that creates jobs in
9 Ohio. Thank you.

10 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
11 cross?

12 MR. SHUFF: Yes.

13 CROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. SHUFF:

15 Q Are you a resident of Seneca County?

16 A I am not.

17 Q You don't live in Seneca County?

18 A I do not.

19 Q Excuse me?

20 A I do not.

21 Q Thank you.

22 MR. SHUFF: I have nothing
23 further.

24 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Would
25 you like to provide the court reporter with

1 your statement.

2 MR. DVORAK: Sure.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Next up is Patrick
4 O'Connor and on deck is Tom Schock.

5 Please raise your right hand.

6 * * * * *

7 PATRICK O'CONNOR

8 being of lawful age, was first duly
9 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
10 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
11 hereinafter certified, testified and
12 said as follows:

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
14 state and spell your name for the record
15 and the township and your address.

16 MR. O'CONNOR: My name is Patrick
17 J. O'Connor. O'Connor is spelled O
18 apostrophe C-O-N-N-O-R. My address is
19 19001 East Shoreland Avenue, Rocky River,
20 Ohio.

21 The local economy will benefit from
22 Seneca Wind. \$56 million in tax revenues
23 will go to schools, townships, Seneca
24 County and the State over the life span of
25 the project.

1 Farmers in Seneca County are hurting
2 because of the massive spring rainfall that
3 kept them from planting and because of high
4 tariffs from the trade dispute between the
5 United States and China. This project
6 offers an opportunity for a new revenue
7 source during a difficult time.

8 Three school districts will receive
9 more than half of the project payments.
10 With that new revenue they could reduce or
11 eliminate school fees, add safety and
12 security features or even build new
13 facilities.

14 Wind, wind energy is one of the
15 lowest-priced renewable energy technologies
16 available today and its costs continue to
17 decrease.

18 Wind energy is a clean fuel source
19 that doesn't pollute the air or contribute
20 to global warming.

21 We need to invest in clean, renewable
22 energy sources for the sake of our children
23 and future generations.

24 I'd like to quote from the recent
25 edition of the National Wildlife Magazine,

1 quote, Most conservationists agree that
2 climate change is the greatest long-term
3 threat to birds and other wildlife. Many
4 also view wind power as a, as one of the
5 key renewable energies that could replace
6 our fossil fuel-dominated energy systems.

7 My last quote is from Jim Murphy who
8 is a renewable energy specialist with the
9 National Wildlife Foundation and co-author
10 of a January 2019 report entitled
11 Responsible Wind Power and Wildlife.

12 Quote, we should not sacrifice wildlife to
13 poor implementation from wind power. We
14 can build out wind at the scale and pace we
15 need without causing undue harm, unquote.

16 I am confident that Seneca Wind will
17 fulfill these goals. And for this reason I
18 ask the Siting Board to grant their
19 application to build Seneca Wind. Thank
20 you.

21 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
22 cross?

23 MR. SHUFF: I hate to do this
24 but the pre-trial said that we were
25 supposed to go with Seneca County residents

1 or if they had a business in Seneca County.

2 CROSS-EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. SHUFF:

4 Q Do you have a business in Seneca County?

5 A Counselor, the invitation I received did not
6 stipulate that the --

7 Q I understand what you're saying.

8 A -- that the hearing, that the hearing would not
9 hear from --

10 Q And where did you receive that?

11 A I received it from the Siting Board.

12 Q Okay.

13 A I was on an e-mail list requesting information.

14 Q You received an e-mail?

15 A I believe it was an e-mail that announced the,
16 this hearing.

17 Q Are you a resident of Seneca County?

18 A I am not.

19 Q Do you have a business in Seneca County?

20 A I do not.

21 MR. SHUFF: Your Honor, at
22 this time I'm going to object and move to
23 strike, and here's why, I could bring in 30
24 to 50 people from all over the State of
25 Ohio, from Columbus, from Lima, from

1 Sandusky --

2 MR. O'CONNOR: This is an issue
3 that goes beyond the geography --

4 JUDGE SEE: Sir --

5 MR. O'CONNOR: -- of this
6 immediate area.

7 JUDGE SEE: Sir, sir, just a
8 minute. You've had your opportunity to
9 testify, let me hear counsel's objection.

10 MR. SHUFF: I could have
11 brought in many people to testify on the
12 adverse effects of wind turbines, but it
13 was clear at our pre-trial with counsel and
14 the intervening parties last Wednesday that
15 it was going to be limited to Seneca County
16 and Seneca Wind. Now we have people from
17 various places in Ohio, they're coming here
18 testify regarding Seneca Wind. I'm going
19 to object and move it be stricken. Thank
20 you.

21 JUDGE SEE: Any response?

22 MR. O'CONNOR: Yes, I have a
23 response.

24 JUDGE SEE: I'm sorry, sir,
25 I'm talking to counsel, hold on for just a

1 second.

2 MR. O'CONNOR: Okay.

3 MR. BORCHERS: Briefly, Your
4 Honor, counsel noted that on the record
5 that the witness is not a resident and that
6 issue can be addressed in brief.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just speak up,
8 they ain't going to recognize you.

9 JUDGE SEE: Counsel, counsel's
10 objection is noted and we will take the
11 issue up after the conclusion of the
12 hearing.

13 MS. BERG: May I ask a
14 question?

15 JUDGE SEE: Ma'am?

16 MS. BERG: May I ask a
17 question?

18 JUDGE SEE: Of whom?

19 MS. BERG: Of the speaker.

20 JUDGE SEE: That is reserved
21 for counsel representing various parties.
22 You certainly may approach the gentleman
23 after he walks down but --

24 MS. BERG: May I make a
25 statement to you then?

1 JUDGE SEE: Thank you, sir.

2 MR. O'CONNOR: You're welcome.

3 MS. BERG: May I make a
4 statement then?

5 JUDGE SEE: Are you signed up
6 to offer testimony?

7 MS. BERG: Yes.

8 JUDGE SEE: Can you reserve it
9 until that time, please?

10 MS. BERG: Well, this is the
11 opportune time, he misquoted something.

12 JUDGE SEE: I would ask that
13 you correct that when come forward and
14 refer to Mr. O'Connor's testimony --

15 MS. BERG: All right.

16 JUDGE SEE: -- please. Thank
17 you.

18 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Our next witness
19 is Tom Schock and on deck is Casey, and I
20 know I'm going to mispronounce the name
21 correctly, Didion.

22 MR. DIDION: Close enough.

23 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

24 JUDGE SEE: How is it
25 pronounced?

1 MR. DIDION: Didion.

2 JUDGE SEE: Didion, thank you.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please raise your
4 right hand.

5 * * * * *

6 TOM SCHOCK

7 being of lawful age, was first duly
8 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
9 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
10 hereinafter certified, testified and
11 said as follows:

12 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
13 state and spell your name for the record
14 and your address and township.

15 MR. SCHOCK: My name is Tom
16 Schock, last name is spelled S-C-H-O-C-K.
17 My address is 3941 Fielding Drive, North
18 Olmsted, Ohio, Cuyahoga County. I do not
19 live in Seneca County. I was born in
20 Seneca County many years ago then moved
21 away because my parents basically couldn't
22 get a job, couldn't make a living here
23 because of the economic conditions and
24 that's what my testimony is on.

25 I just wanted to say a few words about

1 the potential Seneca Wind has to generate
2 significant jobs for the community, both
3 direct jobs in the construction and
4 maintenance of the turbines and indirect
5 jobs in all the related components of a
6 wind farm. Ohio is lead the way in wind
7 technology, from the world's first wind
8 turbine that automatically generated
9 electricity built by Charles Brush in 1888,
10 to the development of wind turbine
11 technology by NASA in the 1970s and 80s.
12 Ohio has a strong wind resource which can
13 provide a lot of jobs, tax revenue and
14 lease payments to farmers. It's important
15 to take advantage of this resource.

16 Ohio's has more factories making parts
17 for the wind industry than any other
18 states. New jobs will be created in
19 manufacturing, construction, research and
20 maintenance. Currently, wind technician is
21 one of the fastest growing jobs in the
22 United States. These are all jobs that
23 cannot be outsourced and pay very well.

24 Technological advances have resulted
25 in two-thirds drop in wind production costs

1 since 2009 with economies of scale expected
2 to further lower costs. Unsubsidized wind
3 is one of the cheapest forms of energy to
4 produce. Companies are buying 100 percent
5 wind because it's affordable and reliable.
6 Companies like Amazon and General Motors
7 are making decisions on where to build
8 their data centers and manufacturing
9 facilities based upon where wind power is
10 available.

11 Finally, there is the issue of climate
12 change. Its is well documented that more
13 carbon holds the sun's energy close to the
14 earth. This added energy increases
15 evaporation on the Great Lakes, which
16 brings more rain and intense seat. For the
17 sake of our children and grandchildren we
18 must transition from fossil fuels to
19 renewable energy. Seneca Wind will help
20 make that change. Because of these facts I
21 am confident the wind energy will be a
22 driver for the economy in terms of
23 Seneca -- the wind energies will be a
24 driver in terms of jobs created and new
25 revenue for farmers, schools and local

1 government. Seneca Wind will help Ohio
2 gain a clean, renewable energy. Thank you.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Any questions?

4 JUDGE SEE: Does counsel have
5 cross?

6 MR. SHUFF: I'm just going to
7 object for the record and move to strike
8 for the same reasons as before.

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Duly noted. Thank
10 you.

11 Please provide your -- is there any
12 response?

13 MR. BORCHERS: Same response as
14 before, Your Honor.

15 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

16 Please provide your comments to the
17 court reporter.

18 MR. SCHOCK: Okay.

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

20 How do you pronounce your last name
21 again?

22 MR. DIDION: Didion.

23 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Didion. Thank
24 you. Casey Didion is up now and Jennine
25 Reinhart-Kramer is on deck.

1 Please raise your right hand.

2 * * * * *

3 CASEY DIDION

4 being of lawful age, was first duly
5 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
6 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
7 hereinafter certified, testified and
8 said as follows:

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
10 state your spell your name for the record
11 --

12 MR. DIDION: Casey, C-A-S-E-Y,
13 Didion, D-I-D-I-O-N.

14 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: And your address
15 and township?

16 MR. DIDION: 6040 County Line
17 Road 113, Bellevue, Ohio.

18 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. You
19 may proceed.

20 MR. DIDION: Okay. I'm here to
21 talk on these windmills being sited on
22 karst areas surrounding the Bellevue,
23 Seneca, Sandusky County area. I'm sure a
24 lot of people in this room are familiar
25 with Seneca Caverns, that is essentially a

big sinkhole. These areas are loaded with sinkholes and these sinkholes take the ground water that rolls into them and what is it is we have limestone and dolomite under, underground structure that supports the soil. Well, when they start drilling these big bases for these multiple, these 600-foot turbines they're going to be disturbing a lot of this ground rock. The problem with it being is they can, drill they can do soil borings 2, 3 foot away from these unknown karsts and that water will continue to run through that karst and dissolve that limestone, setting up a subsistence or a collapsing potential of these. That water is feeding my wells and a lot of those people that are in Seneca County, a lot of their well water could be contaminated. One turbine can have 500 to 600 gallons of oil, lubricating oil in it, that wouldn't take a whole lot to get into our water system if one of them does subside.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources was concerned about the future

1 planning for Ohio so their Ohio geological
2 survey produced a map during the fall of
3 2001 and all the way through 2013, they
4 went out and physically located these
5 karsts and so forth and identified them.
6 And I don't think the windmill and looking
7 at all of their charts and so both and
8 getting with it I can't find information
9 that detailed how these karsts are being
10 dealt with. The brochure that I will be
11 handing to the court reporter when I'm done
12 with this that I'm reading off of is
13 produced actually by the Ohio Department of
14 Natural Resources and it shows in there
15 identified karsts today, probably karsts
16 and so forth, and it goes on and I included
17 all of it because this homework's already
18 been done by other own Ohio Department of
19 Resources and it's produced by them
20 because, for future planning of building
21 such structures and so forth.

22 The potential for catastrophic
23 collapse on these things is huge and the
24 cap that's leaking oil and stuff right to
25 my groundwater and destroying that flow of

1 that groundwater to the lake as far as
2 that's concerned.

3 Sinkholes can form in a matter of
4 months. This one on the cover page here
5 talks about how it formed in eight months,
6 it opened up. These things can develop and
7 they can be as big as a tree or they can be
8 as big as a, a city. The back page of this
9 brochure I got, I wish I could do a
10 presentation of it, it shows one that took
11 seven city blocks down in Florida and they
12 had all kinds of businesses built on top of
13 it and geological designs and so forth.

14 I have been in contact with the OS,
15 OPSB and voiced these concerns
16 approximately a year ago. My reply from
17 them is that the applicant must describe
18 the suitability of the site geology and the
19 plans to remedy any inadequacies. I don't
20 know how you're going to remedy any
21 inadequacies of a, essentially a limestone
22 sponge that every time we get these rains,
23 and we've had a slew of them this spring
24 and so forth, that water makes its way to
25 the Great Lakes from Seneca County through

1 these, they dissolve that dolomite and that
2 limestone making the sponge less and less
3 supportive. Again, you could drill right
4 beside that, a foot away from it with the
5 soil boring and not know that that is in
6 existence there.

7 The biggest and most feared karsts
8 hazard is a sinkhole. It goes without
9 saying. The Ohio Department of Natural
10 Resources does the homework on it and warns
11 about all these catastrophic things.

12 The red circles on this indicate where
13 these karsts are located at. I wish I
14 could put this on a screen and I wish
15 everybody could see it. There's hundreds
16 and hundreds of these karsts that are
17 located and by our own Department of
18 Natural Resources. That they would allow
19 this to happen would be just catastrophic.
20 I would like to present this copy that I'm
21 reading from to the court reporter after
22 I'm done here.

23 Turbines should not be built anywhere
24 here these karsts areas. It's just not
25 acceptable. Thank you for your --

1 listening.

2 JUDGE SEE: Any

3 cross-examination for this witness?

4 MR. BORCHERS: Your Honor, just a
5 clarification question.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. BORCHERS:

8 Q Sir, I'm sorry, I missed your address, could you
9 repeat that for me?

10 A 6040 County Line Road. It's a Seneca Sandusky
11 County Line Road I live on.

12 MR. BORCHERS: Thank you.

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Ms.
14 Reinhart-Kramer and on deck is Dennis
15 Schreiner.

16 Please raise your right hand.

17 * * * * *

18 JENNINE REINHART-KRAMER

19 being of lawful age, was first duly
20 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
21 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
22 hereinafter certified, testified and
23 said as follows:

24 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
25 state and spell your name for the record

1 and your address and township.

2 MS. REINHART-KRAMER: Jennine
3 Reinhart-Kramer, J-E-N-N-I-N-E,
4 R-E-I-N-H-A-R-T hyphen K-R-A-M-E-R. I
5 believe 55 Spring Lane, Tiffin, Ohio.

6 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: And what township?

7 MS. REINHART-KRAMER: Well, it's in
8 City of Tiffin.

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Okay. Thank you.
10 Please proceed.

11 MS. REINHART-KRAMER: My name is
12 Jennine Kramer and I am a lifelong resident
13 of Seneca County. I lived in rural Seneca
14 County for the first 32 years of my life
15 and in the City of Tiffin for the last 28
16 years. I recently retired after a 37-year
17 career in education. The first five of
18 those years was as a music educator and the
19 last 32 have been teaching children with
20 developmental delays with the majority of
21 my students on the autism spectrum. Though
22 I could give you a long list of why Seneca
23 County is not a good fit for wind turbines,
24 I am going to stick to my area of
25 expertise, the autism population.

1 Fifty years ago my little sister,
2 Kelly, was born and it was almost
3 immediately known that she had Down's
4 Syndrome. What we didn't know at the time
5 was that her primary disability was autism.
6 I had never even heard of autism until many
7 years later so as she was growing up I had
8 no ideas that the issues she was dealing
9 with were actually sensory issues. I
10 remember the days of trying to take her
11 through a mall and having to carry her with
12 her head buried into my chest and her ears
13 covered, trying to take her to a sporting
14 events which would totally overwhelm her,
15 attending a circus as a student which would
16 become a traumatic experience, the number
17 of times I felt her trembling in my arms
18 and at the time not knowing what she was
19 actually experiencing was severe sensory
20 issues from environmental input that I
21 didn't even realize existed.

22 In 2018 the CDC, Centers for Disease
23 Control, determined that approximately 1 in
24 59 children is diagnosed with an autism
25 spectrum disorder. Sensory issues and

1 noise sensitivity have always been a part
2 of the experience of autism, but only
3 became a recognized part of the diagnosis
4 with the fifth edition of the Diagnostic
5 and Statistical Manual, the DSM, of the
6 American Psychiatric Association in 2013.
7 The DSM-5 identifies hyper- or
8 hypo-reactivity to sensory input unusual
9 interest in sensory aspects of the
10 environment, including indifference
11 sensory-seeking and adversary responses to
12 specific sounds, textures, smells and
13 lights or movement. People with autism can
14 be both over-sensitive and under-sensitive,
15 as well as either seeking out or avoiding
16 sensory stimulation.

17 Children who experience noise and
18 unpleasant sensation, or even as physical
19 pain, develop defensive reactions, such as
20 covering their ears and avoidant reactions,
21 seeking only activities and places without
22 excessive noise. People with autism
23 frequently mention a dislike because of
24 percussive sounds, changing or unexpected
25 sounds and specific, intense frequencies

1 such as strip lighting or the hum in
2 computer fans and refrigerators.

3 I come before you today to beg you to
4 protect my sister, my grandchildren, which
5 two of them are also on the autism
6 spectrum, my entire family, my former
7 students, the entire autism population and
8 my community. I have lived my life
9 supporting and advocating for individuals
10 with autism. I have watched children
11 literally bang their heads wide open, bite
12 their hands until they bleed, become
13 extremely physically aggressive, retreat
14 into isolation to attempt to block out
15 everything to block out -- I'm sorry,
16 everything out, and many more extremely
17 negative reactions to sensory input. Often
18 it's difficult to figure out what the
19 triggers are and until you do, and if you
20 do, the negative impact on it, it has on
21 children is horrendous. As a teacher we
22 work to teach them coping skills and try to
23 desensitize the intense effects of the
24 input they are receiving. Though you may
25 have success with this, the frequency and

1 duration of the exposure is often very
2 limited.

3 How anyone could not have done their
4 homework to understand these effects on
5 this population and propose we erect wind
6 turbines outside of their homes is beyond
7 me. In my career, I was a mandated
8 reporter when it came to any knowledge of
9 neglect and abuse. Well, I'm reporting
10 that to you here today that this is neglect
11 and abuse to anyone who will experience
12 adverse effects to anything connected to
13 the wind turbines, including light flicker,
14 flashing lights, infrasound and many more.
15 I will hold anyone who promotes and
16 approves the wind turbines personally
17 responsible for any health effects
18 experienced by these individuals. From my
19 experience and expertise in this field I
20 can stand here and tell you it is not a
21 question as to whether there will be a
22 negative effect, it is a question of how
23 many and how severe the effects will be,
24 making the approval of wind turbines both
25 neglectful and abusive.

1 I would like to thank you now for
2 stopping this catastrophe from happening
3 and keeping Seneca County a safe and
4 healthy place to live. Thank you.

5 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
6 any cross?

7 MR. BORCHERS: No cross, Your
8 Honor, but just to reiterate our objection
9 to the extent that third-party statements
10 are used for briefing after the
11 adjudicatory hearing, for efficiency we'll
12 go ahead and just make that a standing
13 objection so I'm not making the objection
14 after every speaker.

15 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Duly
16 noted.

17 Is there a response?

18 MR. SHUFF: (Indicating.)

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Mr. Schreiner is
20 up next and on deck is Jeanette Cope.

21 Please raise your right hand.

22 * * * * *

23 DENNIS SCHREINER

24 being of lawful age, was first duly
25 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the

1 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
2 hereinafter certified, testified and
3 said as follows:

4 JUDGE AUGOSTINI:

5 State and spell your name for the
6 record and your address and township.

7 MR. SCHREINER: Yes. My name is
8 Dennis Schreiner. My address is 8403 State
9 Route 99, Sandusky, Ohio. I am a resident
10 of Groton Township in Erie County.

11 I grew up in Seneca County and that's
12 why I'm here to provide some testimony.
13 I'm also within the cumulative viewshed
14 analysis of the Seneca Wind project. When
15 the issue to report, I am in viewing
16 distance of turbines that will be sited
17 down here.

18 My comments will primarily address
19 reduction in margins of safety. Due to a
20 lack of local control under current Ohio
21 law, I'm going to offer testimony showing
22 the need for the Ohio Power Siting Board to
23 place public safety of immediately affected
24 residents as a top priority when
25 considering projects such as these. It

1 should be incumbent upon the wind developer
2 to prove their equipment is safe, it isn't
3 up to me to prove that it's unsafe.

4 The Ohio Power Siting Board is charged
5 in part with promulgating regulations to
6 insure safety of all Ohioans.

7 One of the reductions in safety is a
8 personal safety due to accidents and it
9 will be called a reduction in the margin of
10 safety due to setbacks. Setbacks should be
11 established so as to minimize any increased
12 risk in an undesirable event due to the
13 proposed industrial generating facilities.
14 For example, there have been actual three
15 blade separation events here in Ohio, they
16 started as early as 2012 and have gone
17 through 2018. We have had fragments
18 separate from turbines here in Ohio that
19 exceeded the setback distances, and in one
20 case which occurred in Paulding County, the
21 wind developer in their application said,
22 even though they didn't have an analysis
23 showing what the blade shear or the throw
24 distance from a blade shear event would be,
25 they were absolutely certain that the

1 setbacks of 505 feet and I think it was
2 400, 420 feet, would provide adequate
3 protection. And in the, in the accident
4 that occurred there they had particles that
5 were thrown 764 feet, 1158 feet and
6 1561 feet. Those are documented in their
7 accident reports.

8 Since then they've kind of learned a
9 lesson, the event that occurred in Hog
10 Creek speculation on high wind, there
11 wasn't a report issued because in the words
12 of the developer, reporting is not required
13 in the state. And then in August 26, 2018,
14 a 10-foot long section broke and traveled
15 825 feet. Safety systems failed, the
16 turbine continued to rotate for ten minutes
17 until it actually separated with the
18 centrifugal force.

19 It is a matter of public safety and
20 property rights that industrial wind
21 turbines be no closer than a manufacturer
22 required 500 meters or 1640 feet or the
23 calculated distance from a credible blade
24 throw analysis. Don't let Ohio become the
25 laughing stock of the nation and the world

1 because virtually everybody is increasing
2 their setbacks now because of the effects
3 of blade shear and noise, especially the
4 low frequency noise, setback distances of a
5 mile or more are now the norm. I know in
6 the last year no one that I'm aware of, and
7 I am aware of a lot of information, no one
8 is reducing their setbacks.

9 The second reduction is the margin of
10 safety in our ecology. The extreme
11 disruption of the subsoil, as specified by
12 the gentleman earlier, in and around the
13 karsts features alone should give one
14 reason to pause and ask what controls are
15 going to be in place to predict the Seneca
16 County drinking party. There is also a
17 concern with the dissolution of carbonate
18 rock, as he explained, we have slightly
19 acidic water here and when it goes through
20 that carbonate rock is dissolves it making
21 it very, very fragile and easy to fracture.
22 They've had dye penetrant tests done where
23 they interject a dye significantly far
24 south of here and it showed up at Kelley's
25 Island, so the karsts features here do

1 transport water for long distances, long
2 distances in the State of Ohio. This is a
3 karsts area that's unlike any other in the
4 United States, yet the wind developers
5 think that our karst area here is just like
6 everyplace else.

7 Also in your Staff report, by the way,
8 I commend you for the Ohio Power Siting
9 Board's Staff report, I did read through
10 it, and in that Staff report there are
11 numerous that developer should, the
12 applicant would do certain activities to
13 protect this environment. It put a lot of
14 onerous on them doing that without any
15 really rules or regulations. So I would
16 urge that if you assign an independent
17 third party review to be conducted by
18 persons agreeable to both the State of Ohio
19 and the development if you do so choose to
20 move this project forward.

21 There will also be a reduction in the
22 level of safety provided to preserve and
23 protect our wildlife. The Seneca Wind
24 project is within the range of the federal
25 and state endangered Indiana bat and

1 federal and state threatened northern
2 long-eared bat. In order to shorten it up,
3 it was specified in your report, the Staff
4 says the controls that sPower plants put
5 with respect to protection of our wildlife
6 are inadequate and need additional
7 attention. I believe you should provide
8 some kind of enforcement if they exceed
9 their bat kills or wildlife impact because
10 right now it just looks like that's just a
11 slap on the wrist.

12 One of the other things is we have a
13 reduction in the margin of political
14 sustainability. Ohio law removed local
15 control over the siting of green energy
16 projects in land that is zoned primarily
17 for residential and agriculture use by
18 bypassing local zoning procedures for
19 facilities that would be under your
20 control, the Ohio Power Siting Board. The
21 short sightedness of preventing local
22 control has divided our communities. The
23 Ohio Chamber of Commerce states that local
24 referendum, which means the local people
25 having a voice, sets a dangerous

1 precedence. In this age of information
2 continually telling people that their
3 opinions do not matter, they do not deserve
4 a seat at the decision-making table will be
5 politically unsustainable. Politicians are
6 elected to serve the people. The elections
7 and referendum will allow people to, a
8 voice with their vote.

9 Other things that I, I wanted to talk
10 about but didn't want to take up so much
11 time, other reductions in margin of safety,
12 the intermittent wind generation disrupts
13 the entire electrical grid. And I know
14 you're familiar with the study done by MIT
15 that shows at certain market penetrations
16 wind power becomes a disruptive source to
17 the grid. Hazards exist with industrial
18 wind turbines such as the 450-plus gallons
19 of lubricating oil that's in the unit that
20 often leaks. With the current setbacks
21 this generates a road safety issue in Ohio.
22 The margin of safety is reduced for
23 Emergency Medical Services and other
24 emergency services because these wind
25 turbines interfere with Life Flight,

1 weather radar and the reception of
2 emergency broadcasts and other radio
3 signals. Lacking industrial wind turbine
4 incident reporting criteria in rule making
5 is also something that exposes the public
6 to incidences and accidents that occur with
7 wind turbines. Turbine failures are not
8 rare occurrences, each turbine fails on the
9 average of once per year. Let that sink
10 in. One turbine failure per year. A
11 failure is when the turbine has to stop or
12 is stopped and can't be restarted until
13 they work on it. So these things don't
14 just endlessly operate without any problem.
15 The other things, there have been 3800
16 blade failures in recent history. And
17 generally if you take a look at that, one
18 in 20 turbines will have a blade throw
19 event in its lifetime.

20 I think that the responsible siting of
21 wind turbines would preclude Seneca County
22 being a host county. Therefore, I
23 recommend denial of this project for the
24 reasons I've stated above. Thank you.

25 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have

1 any cross?

2 MR. BORCHERS: (Indicating.)

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Can
4 you please provide your comments to the
5 court reporter?

6 MR. SCHREINER: You bet.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Ms.
8 Cope is up next and on deck is Jim
9 Schumacher.

10 Please raise your right hand.

11 * * * * *

12 JEANETTE COPE

13 being of lawful age, was first duly
14 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
15 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
16 hereinafter certified, testified and
17 said as follows:

18 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Can
19 you please state and spell your name for
20 the record and your address and township?

21 MS. COPE: It's Jeanette
22 Cope, J-E-A-N-E-T-T-E, C-O-P-E. And I own
23 a farm in Scipio in Seneca County. I no
24 longer live there but I did reside there.
25 My husband and I now travel between three

1 states to babysit our grandchildren. My
2 current address is next door in Wyandot
3 County.

4 I am here because I have children and
5 grandchildren who will be alive 50 to 55
6 years from now when from all experts'
7 opinions we will run out of oil. So we
8 need to begin now using alternate energy
9 sources, including wind, solar geothermal.

10 I am not here to preach because I believe
11 that I lead by example. Our 1870's home is
12 heated with geothermal and we use solar
13 cells for your backup generator. We are
14 currently in the process of fixing our old
15 windmill, our old wind turbine, to pump
16 water to our barns, our home and our
17 business as it did for many years in
18 previous generations.

19 I believe that one person can make a
20 difference in the world and that is why I
21 am here, hopefully to make a difference
22 that will allow the wind turbines to be
23 installed to assist with our energy
24 consumption. I believe in wind energy. On
25 our travels we have witnessed it and seen

1 many wind turbines in industrialized
2 countries, such as Germany and Israel.
3 It's if good enough for them, it certainly
4 ought to be good enough for us. Other
5 items such as the benefits to the schools,
6 to the local economy are just what I
7 consider pluses.

8 I believe that the wind energy will
9 help us for now and for future generations
10 to come. Thank you.

11 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
12 any cross?

13 MR. SHUFF: (Indicating.)

14 Can you please provide your comments
15 to the court reporter?

16 MS. COPE: My what?

17 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Your comments.

18 MS. COPE: Oh, I just
19 scribbled on a sheet that I actually have
20 to have for the doctor.

21 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: That's okay.
22 Thank you.

23 Mr. Schumacher is next and on deck we
24 have Paul Jones.

25 Please raise your right hand.

* * * * *

JAMES SCHUMACHER

being of lawful age, was first duly
sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
hereinafter certified, testified and
said as follows:

JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
state and spell your name and address and
township.

MR. SCHUMACHER: My name is James
Schumacher, S-C-H-U-M-A-C-H-E-R. I live at
16094 East Township Road 104, Venice
Township, Seneca County.

JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
proceed.

MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. My
name is Jim Schumacher. I'm a resident of
Venice Township and within the proposed
Seneca Wind project. My family has been a
member of this community for over 57 years.
I have been involved in farming all my
life. I strongly support the Seneca Wind
project.

The project will help provide economic

1 boost to our area, especially our schools.
2 Our schools will get much-needed funding to
3 continually improve the education for our
4 students. These students are our future.
5 We should give them what is needed for them
6 to excel in the world today. This economic
7 boost to our schools will also help relieve
8 the financial burden that the property
9 owners are asked to bear. This is a win
10 win for everyone.

11 This project will provide clean energy
12 and diversify our electric energy needs.
13 We cannot just depend on energy sources of
14 the past. We have a natural resource of
15 abundant wind in this area and we should
16 use this resource for help in our electric
17 energy needs for the future.

18 Many people in the area will benefit
19 with jobs during construction and operation
20 of the Seneca Wind project. These are jobs
21 that will help many families and
22 businesses.

23 This project will produce clean energy
24 that does not pollute the air or contribute
25 to global warming. We need all -- we all

1 need to protect the environment for the
2 future generations. Thank you.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

4 Does counsel have cross?

5 MR. SHUFF: Cross.

6 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Go ahead.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. SHUFF:

9 Q Are you a lease holder, Mr. Schumacher?

10 A Yes, I am.

11 Q Thank you.

12 MR. SHUFF: That's all I have.

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Will you please
14 provide your comments to the court
15 reporter?

16 Paul Jones is next and on deck, Jim
17 Feasel.

18 Please raise your right hand.

19 * * * * *

20 PAUL JONES

21 being of lawful age, was first duly
22 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
23 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
24 hereinafter certified, testified and
25 said as follows:

1 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
2 state and spell your name for the record
3 and your address and township.

4 MR. JONES: My name is Paul
5 Jones, P-A-U-L, middle initial E,
6 J-O-N-E-S. I live in Scipio Township in
7 the Village of Republic just outside.
8 Okay?

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
10 proceed.

11 MR. JONES: Yes. I first have
12 to apologize, I read the newspaper and
13 being a retired English teacher I thought
14 the meeting was from 3:00 to 8:00 and I was
15 the only speaker, so I have overprepared
16 for this. And I just want you to know,
17 ladies and gentlemen, that I do appreciate
18 the opportunity to speak here today, but I
19 must preface anything I say with these
20 facts, I am not an expert on wind turbines,
21 solar energy, fossil fuel, nor nuclear
22 energy; however, I am the luckiest man
23 alive. Later I will answer questions as to
24 why I consider myself so lucky, but I will
25 plead the 5th on any science-related

1 questions.

2 My knowledges comes from my ability to
3 google. I can google and tell you the
4 color of Joy Behar's blouse on July the
5 4th, 2018. God help the individual who
6 would ever need to know that. I am a
7 simple man who shops at Dollar General and
8 eats sausage gravy and biscuits at
9 McDonald's.

10 I do have some major concerns about
11 issues that brings us together here today.
12 My concerns are forged with common sense
13 and experience and compassion for those who
14 live in my neighborhood. I understand the
15 positive elements that wind energy brings
16 to our neighborhood, but I believe the
17 negatives far outweigh those positives. I
18 would -- common sense has taught me that
19 when somebody offers me something for
20 nothing, he or she gets the something and I
21 get the nothing. 75 years of experience
22 has proven that to me.

23 My base for my attitude and beliefs
24 were forged about two years ago. I was
25 speaking to a history class of junior high

1 students. After the class ended an
2 articulate young man asked me the
3 following: What is your take on wind
4 energy? I thought renewable energy,
5 domestic source, no pollution. I think
6 it's very good. On my way home I realized
7 I responded without knowing or. Googling.
8 My mistake.

9 My first step toward understanding
10 what my community was battling for took me
11 to a County Commissioner's meeting. I was
12 taken aback by the credentials of a young
13 man who graduated from Yale Law School. I
14 was impressed by the way he dressed, by his
15 manner and by his speaking knowledge. I
16 thought there must be big bucks involved
17 bringing this guy to Seneca County. I just
18 did not realize the level that I spoke.

19 I want to talk to you about Van Wert
20 school system, and I got this from Google,
21 it's online. I haven't been to Van Wert in
22 a few years. Van Wert, the largest
23 taxpayer in their county is a wind farm.
24 That's correct. In a sense. Iberdrola,
25 owner of the industrial wind turbine site

1 that stretches across two counties does not
2 pay taxes. The \$400,000 is payment in lieu
3 of taxes. Iberdrola receives \$170 million
4 in taxpayer dollars for that one project in
5 Van Wert County. They are a Spanish-owned
6 company and they claim title to the largest
7 recipient of federal grants and our tax
8 credits at over \$2 billion. Yes, you heard
9 me correctly, over \$2 billion. Now, the
10 above figures total, \$2,342,641,752. And
11 Van Wert gets 400,000 a year. I think that
12 approximately 5,856 years the taxpayers and
13 citizens of Ohio will break even.

14 Let me tell you about another school
15 system, a smaller school system in
16 Northwest Ohio, they installed a wind
17 turbine 120 feet tall, now ours are going
18 to be three times that high, and it cost
19 \$1.1 million. They named it for the
20 superintendent who initiated the Federal
21 grants and the tax dollars and secured them
22 to their school. They estimated that it
23 saved them 40 percent on their monthly
24 electric bill. Now, let's assume, they're
25 a small school system, that they pay \$800,

1 and that's a very high estimate in my
2 opinion. Again, I state I'm only a google
3 expert. Now, if that is the case and it
4 saves them \$320 a month, then it's only
5 going to take 286 and a half years to
6 recover the tax investment that taxpayers
7 and Federal grants secured. Why not, why
8 not just give them the, the \$102 million?
9 I have no idea. Again, I want to make sure
10 that you understand, I'm not a
11 mathematician, I was an English teacher,
12 but I did use a calculator when I brought
13 that article up on Google.

14 An earlier speaker spoke about an
15 autistic child. You substituted a few
16 years ago and I had this young autistic
17 lady, this little girl, in class and,
18 indeed, the flickering did cause her to
19 have a seizure. Now, her attendant calmed
20 her down in a little bit. And I'm
21 recalling this with a friend of mine who is
22 a hard-working farmer, but is he,
23 obviously, would have a yes sign right
24 there where I have my no, and over a cup of
25 coffee I explained this to him and he

1 replied, all she has to do is pull down her
2 window shade. Now, that's not a path that
3 I choose to take. I will not walk that
4 path. So I responded to him, I'm looking
5 out my window at my neighbors' house,
6 they're on vacation and I see somebody
7 breaking in. Do I just pull my window
8 shade down? That's the path that you
9 suggested. We have not had a cup of coffee
10 since that morning.

11 I have a list of rhetorical questions,
12 that means my questions I don't know the
13 answers. And it goes like this: Where
14 will my neighbor drink when her well runs
15 dry? How far will the blasting of bedrock
16 be heard and felt? Where will the pigeons
17 roost when they have no home? Will the
18 warblers choose another migratory route?
19 Will Magee Marsh still be a bird sanctuary?
20 Will people come from afar to photograph
21 swarms of gnats? How many tons of cement
22 to build one base? Who will pay for the
23 roads to carry cement trucks? Who sweeps
24 owl and bat carcasses from the cold cement?
25 Will the farmer's grandchildren develop

1 health issues? Who will cover the eyes and
2 ears of autistic children? Where will the
3 diary farmer move his herd? Will the
4 science teach still experiment with no
5 studies? What happens to the blades when
6 they no longer turn? Will a 660-foot steel
7 structure be high enough? Will the small
8 homeowner see his life investment
9 depreciate? These questions will be
10 answered in the future, for time has them
11 locked in the vault and the key will open
12 our grandchildren's future. We do not know
13 those answers.

14 I will close with something that I
15 wrote after I had someone come to my door a
16 few years ago and I call it they had a big
17 business plan, and it goes like this. A
18 big business plan. Yesterday I had a visit
19 from a man with a big business plan to
20 harvest the wind my neighbor's land. He
21 was armed with a promise to bring to my
22 hand great wealth and happiness so stated
23 the man with the big business plan. He
24 carried documents that stated no Eagles did
25 fly where his turbine structures would

1 reach to the sky. Today I search for the
2 butterfly that my children used to chase in
3 the shadow of a 400-foot base. I look for
4 the field where corn used to grow and
5 listen for the noisy caw of the crow. I
6 hear instead the hum of the turbine brought
7 to my neighbor's land by the man with the
8 big business plan. Tomorrow, I will search
9 for the man who invaded my land with a big
10 business plan. Alas, he cannot be found
11 for he lives not where he sold his plan. I
12 remember my neighbor and how happy we were
13 before the man with the big business plan
14 arrived at my door. If we listen to the
15 man and we harvest the wind we will never
16 restore before.

17 I close with this: Wind energy is not
18 considered to be reliable, it's a
19 fluctuating source of energy. It does have
20 it's good points, it's not polluting, it's
21 renewable. I simply feel that more
22 scientific research should be done before
23 we start erecting these 300, 660-foot
24 statutes.

25 Now my experience, and I'd like to

1 end by telling you why I am the luckiest
2 man alive. My father was a coal miner, he
3 was killed when I six months old. I do not
4 remember him. My best friend's father died
5 of black lung at the age of 41 when we were
6 in ninth grade. My neighbor, a good man,
7 died from DDT usage when I was a sophomore
8 in high school. It was, indeed, a silent
9 spring. A close military friend named
10 Macintosh died from spraying Agent Orange
11 developed my Monsanto. Another friend
12 named Reflo who lives in Georgia suffers
13 greatly from cancer and is close to death
14 thanks again to Monsanto. I have
15 Parkinson's, it is related from Agent
16 Orange and I cannot eat peas with a spoon.
17 But I don't like peas. So that's why I am
18 the luckiest man alive.

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
20 cross?

21 MR. BORCHERS: No questions.

22 MR. JONES: Remember, no
23 science-related questions.

24 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Can
25 you please provide your testimony to the

1 court reporter. Thank you.

2 MR. JONES: Thank you.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Mr.

4 Feasel is next and on deck is Gail Moyer.

5 Please raise your right hand.

6 * * * * *

7 JIM FEASEL

8 being of lawful age, was first duly
9 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
10 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
11 hereinafter certified, testified and
12 said as follows:

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
14 spell your name for the record and your
15 address and township.

16 MR. FEASEL: Name is Jim
17 Feasel, last name is spelled F-E-A-S-E-L.
18 I reside at 1121 East County Road 16,
19 Tiffin, Ohio, and that's in Eden Township.

20 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
21 proceed.

22 MR. FEASEL: I knew I was in
23 trouble when I signed in behind Mr. Jones.

24 Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, my
25 name is Jim Feasel. I am a resident of

1 Seneca County and a joint owner of several
2 hundred acres inside the footprint of
3 Seneca Wind project.

4 I object to the wind project because
5 of the lack of input allowed by local
6 citizens in the planning process. Many
7 problems exist with the locations of the
8 turbines in relation to structures and
9 areas important to our county and to the
10 people who reside here. Although the Power
11 Siting Board process provides channels for
12 public input, and much input has been
13 given, at no point did any of that input
14 seem to change any important detail in the
15 plans.

16 We have dozens of turbines surrounding
17 our newest and largest K through 12 school
18 at distances far too close for the comfort
19 of the children. You have documented
20 evidence in your office of blade throws
21 from turbines in Ohio that would throw
22 chunks of shrapnel as heavy as bricks,
23 landing in the middle of the school's
24 soccer field, if it happened to one of the
25 nearby turbines. Many local citizens

1 objected to your board about this, but you
2 haven't even acknowledged the issue.

3 And speaking of setbacks distances,
4 now that the Siting Board has evidence that
5 wind turbines in Ohio have thrown several
6 pound blade fragments hundreds of feet
7 farther than our current setbacks, why are
8 the turbines in this or any new project not
9 being moved back to allow for that? Is
10 public safety not a concern of Ohio's wind
11 siting process? Why isn't this new
12 information begin incorporated into the
13 regulations? We know these turbines are
14 too close. You know these turbines are too
15 close. Why does this agency even exist if
16 not to protect public safety as its number
17 one priority?

18 In Seneca County we also have several
19 turbines that, in the opinion of our long
20 time airport manager, he's a lifelong
21 pilot, will degrade the usefulness of our
22 county airport that the taxpayers have
23 invested nearly \$15 million in. This
24 airport was built and is maintained
25 specifically for its economic benefits to

1 our area. Now those benefits will be
2 lessened. Many local citizens objected to
3 your board, but at this point it appears
4 nothing will be done.

5 The taxpayers of Seneca County have
6 also invested substantial sums of money,
7 and countless volunteer hours, in local
8 parks and nature preserves located in the
9 area of the project. These are to protect
10 the land in its natural state and provide
11 habitats for wildlife native to our area.
12 Many of the 600-foot tall machines are to
13 be located at distances way too close to
14 these areas for them to ever be considered
15 natural habitats again, either by wildlife
16 or by visitors. Many complaints were
17 presented to the OPSB, but you did not
18 listen. In fact, you threw the parks out
19 of the intervention process and all of
20 their concerns have been ignored.

21 Many of the leases held by landowners
22 expired last year in this project and they
23 chose not to be a part of the project any
24 longer, whereupon they were promptly sued
25 by Seneca Wind. This process remains

1 unsettled in the courts, yet the Siting
2 Board moves forward with the permitting
3 process with no certain for the
4 consternation this has caused in our area.
5 Again, the local people are completely and
6 totally ignored by the Siting Board
7 process.

8 As you may be aware, Seneca Wind is
9 but one of six projects at some stage of
10 development in this immediate area. The
11 cumulative effect of this will be to
12 transfer 250 contiguous square miles of
13 land into a heavy industrial zone. That is
14 160,000 acres. The net power produced in
15 intermittently by all of these projects
16 combined will be less than the reliable
17 output of the gas plant at nearby Fremont,
18 Ohio that sits on 67 acres. There can be
19 no comparison allowed between such
20 traditional generated facilities and wind
21 energy projects when it comes to the
22 footprint and the sheer number of people
23 that are affected. Sited in a rural area
24 near the gas plant near Fremont affects a
25 hundred or so people living nearby.

1 Covering 250 square miles with hundreds of
2 600-foot actual machines operating at over
3 4000 horsepower each, these wind projects
4 will affect tens of thousands of people.

5 I'd like to point out to the Board
6 that the people you see here in the yellow
7 shirts commenting before you today in
8 opposition are but a small fraction of
9 those who have issues with this project.
10 As intervenors, 56 of the strongest
11 opposing voices in the Seneca Wind project
12 cannot be heard here in this forum because
13 the process does not allow it. Though
14 starting out as non-experts I can assure
15 you that the amount of time, research,
16 effort and money they have spent on this
17 project over the past year and a half
18 dwarfs the time and effort this Board will
19 invest. They are now the experts on Seneca
20 County. The issues they have with this
21 project are real and many. They, along
22 with thousands of others, will be forced to
23 live with the change this project brings,
24 many for the rest of their lives, or else
25 gather their belongings and leave the place

1 that most of them have called home their
2 entire life.

3 The process of approving wind projects
4 in Ohio that the Board administers is
5 fundamentally flawed. It railroads
6 projects into areas with no concern for the
7 long-term planning in the community
8 identity that lifelong citizens have spent
9 their lives building here. Any purported
10 benefits can be, and in this case are,
11 severely overshadowed by negative issues.
12 And why? Because the process allows no
13 meaningful input by the only people who
14 know what is right for this area. And that
15 is the local residents.

16 With all due respect, your jobs may be
17 to administer this process as you see the
18 law instructing you. You have the
19 authority to okay this project and watch
20 over its construction in an area where
21 thousands of local citizens have told you
22 it does not belong. You can watch as the
23 blood of these citizens boils because their
24 voices have been ignored at every step of
25 the way and they have to sit by and watch

1 as the community they spent their lives
2 building is transformed into a heavy
3 industrial zone right in front of their
4 eyes.

5 As the body in charge of this process,
6 you hold the future of this community in
7 your hands. Perhaps you should read over
8 those laws that you administer again, where
9 I am sure you can find many ways to
10 actually allow for meaningful input by Ohio
11 residents. And I'm also sure you can find
12 existing law that allows you to move the
13 turbines further back to protect public
14 safety. You work for the citizens of Ohio,
15 not for outside corporations bent on
16 exploiting Ohio. Development can be a good
17 thing, but overdevelopment in the wrong
18 areas is never a good thing. We are all
19 here hoping for a wonderful future for
20 Ohio. But the road this process is taking
21 us down has no hope of ever arriving.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Cross?

24 MR. BORCHERS: (Indicating.)

25 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Mr. Chairman, do

1 you have any questions?

2 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Couple questions.
3 Would you go up to the podium? Thank you
4 for your testimony.

5 MR. FEASEL: You're welcome.

6 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: I have a couple
7 questions. From your testimony it sounds
8 like you are what I would call a
9 non-participating property owner?

10 MR. FEASEL: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: That means that
12 you've got other owners of property
13 adjoining your property that have leased
14 their property for the erection of wind
15 turbines, is that correct?

16 MR. FEASEL: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Are any of the
18 wind turbines, if you know, are any of the
19 wind turbines on the adjoining property
20 adjacent to your property --

21 MR. FEASEL: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: -- do any of them
23 violate, as proposed violate the minimum
24 setback requirements?

25 MR. FEASEL: Ah, current

1 minimum setbacks in law, no, they do not.
2 They are very close to right at the
3 minimum.

4 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay. Do you
5 have -- you mentioned the concerns about
6 the wind turbines that are proximate to the
7 school?

8 MR. FEASEL: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: What is the
10 distance from the base of those wind
11 turbines to the school property, do you
12 know?

13 MR. FEASEL: One of the
14 turbines is about 1300 feet from the soccer
15 field, which is right adjacent to the
16 school.

17 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: And that, that
18 distance is from the base of the turbine or
19 from the blade extended?

20 MR. FEASEL: From the base.

21 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay.

22 MR. FEASEL: It barely meets
23 the setback.

24 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay.

25 MR. FEASEL: And there are also

1 I think 16 other turbines within a mile and
2 a half of that school.

3 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Okay. Thank you
4 very much.

5 MR. SHUFF: I, I do have cross
6 now because -- if I may?

7 JUDGE SEE: Chairman?

8 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: You have cross on
9 my questions?

10 MR. SHUFF: Yes.

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. SHUFF:

13 Q Have you read the Staff report?

14 A Yes.

15 MR. SHUFF: Can I refresh his
16 memory?

17 Q Bottom of 31, top of 32.

18 A Just read the paragraph?

19 Q Yeah.

20 A Can I read it out load?

21 Q Sure.

22 A Staff reviews, Staff reviewed Revised Table 0-1
23 and found that turbines 56 and 58, 61, 71 and 72 are at
24 distances less than the minimum setback. Staff notes that
25 turbines 58, 61, 71 and 72 would need setback waivers

1 prior to construction. Staff reviewed the Seneca response
2 to Interrogatory 10 spreadsheet and found that turbines
3 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84,
4 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96 are at
5 distances less than the minimum setback and would need
6 setback waivers prior to construction.

7 MR. SHUFF: No further
8 questions.

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Ms. Moyer is up
10 next and on deck is Anne Fry.

11 Please raise your right.

12 * * * * *

13 GAIL MOYER

14 being of lawful age, was first duly
15 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
16 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
17 hereinafter certified, testified and
18 said as follows:

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
20 spell your name for the record and your
21 address and township.

22 MS. MOYER: Okay. My name is
23 Gail Moyer, G-A-I-L, M-O-Y-E-R. And I
24 reside at 3040 South State Route 67,
25 Tiffin, Ohio, 44883. And I've lived there

1 since 1981. I am located in Bloom
2 Township. And I am in the footprint of the
3 proposed Seneca Wind Farm.

4 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
5 proceed.

6 MS. MOYER: Okay. I would
7 like to state that I am opposed to the
8 proposed Seneca Wind Farm for many reasons,
9 including excessive noise levels, shadow
10 flicker, harmful effects from infrasound,
11 negative impact to our local airports, Life
12 Flight service, property values, nature
13 preserves, local Bald Eagles and other
14 wildlife, the proposed siting of 16
15 industrial wind turbines within two miles
16 of Seneca East Local Schools, and the
17 overall improper siting of the 453 to
18 593-foot tall industrial wind turbines.

19 However today I will focus my remarks
20 on Ohio Administrative Code 4906-4-08,
21 health and safety, land use and ecological
22 information, Section 4, Land Use Plans Part
23 D which states, asses the compatibility of
24 the proposed facility and the anticipated
25 development resultant regional development

1 with current regional plans. I am basing
2 my remarks on the Seneca County
3 Comprehensive Plan Update in 2001. I have
4 submitted a written copy of excerpts from
5 this document, as well as my statements
6 concerning these excerpts, I have them here
7 to give to the court reporter.

8 In order to promote positive economic
9 growth countywide, there should be a
10 cooperative understanding between all
11 agencies, citizens and public officials so
12 that all parties can be involved in new
13 industry point proposals.

14 Economic development must be
15 considered within the land use framework in
16 order to have maximum benefit on the
17 regional and local economies while having
18 minimum negative impacts on the
19 environment, service capacity, and charter
20 of the area. Furthermore, the use of
21 economic development agreements through
22 intergovernmental coordination should be
23 promoted.

24 Seneca County provides an exam of the
25 value of open space and natural resources

1 to its residents. Throughout the County's
2 past the natural environment has played an
3 important role in defining Seneca's
4 identity. Seneca County prides itself on
5 it's rural character and agricultural
6 resources. Citizens want to maintain the
7 rural character of farmland and other
8 natural features.

9 To protect the County's rural
10 character, growth management techniques
11 need to be used to encourage compact
12 development in existing urban areas, plan
13 ahead for growth, and prevent further
14 environmental degradation of the land. We
15 need to encourage growth that builds upon
16 existing municipalities and supports new
17 residential, commercial and industrial
18 growth only within identified urban growth
19 boundaries where public infrastructure is
20 available.

21 We need to preserve prime farmland
22 recognizing agricultural as a viable
23 economic resource. We need to develop and
24 implement an aggressive program to preserve
25 agricultural uses in those areas identified

1 for permanent agricultural preservations.
2 Citizens and officials alike acknowledge
3 that the encroachment of development on
4 farmland is a critical county issue.

5 We need to protect sensitive
6 environmental areas such as wetlands,
7 woodlands, steep slopes, endangered species
8 habitats, native species habitats, and
9 flora and fauna from the impacts of
10 developments. We need to restrict
11 development in critical resource areas such
12 as in the 100 year flood plain and
13 perennial stream buffers. We need to
14 maintain and preserve natural open space
15 corridors that are important to wildlife
16 and plant life habitats.

17 Again, these ideas are not my original
18 thoughts. They are all part of the
19 document that was accepted as a guide for
20 the Seneca County Regional Planning
21 Commission and it can be found on their
22 website. The Seneca County Comprehensive
23 Plan was created by elected officials on
24 actions relevant to growth and change.

25 Again, referencing back to part 4

1 where there's supposed to be compatibility
2 between the proposed facility and the
3 anticipated result in regional development
4 in our current regional plan, I request
5 that the Ohio Power Siting Board reject the
6 application for license to erect an
7 industrial wind farm submitted by Seneca
8 Wind, LLC, as it is not compatible with the
9 current Seneca County Regional Plan and
10 will negatively impact our farmland and
11 decimate our rural open spaces and
12 sensitive environmental areas. Thank you.

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

14 Counsel have cross?

15 Ms. Fry is up next and on deck Jan
16 Sampson.

17 Please raise your right hand.

18 * * * * *

19 ANNE FRY

20 being of lawful age, was first duly
21 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
22 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
23 hereinafter certified, testified and
24 said as follows:

25 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Can you state and

1 spell your name for the record, your
2 address and township?

3 MS. FRY: Anne Fry, A-N-N-E,
4 F-R-Y. 3836 South County Road 43,
5 Bloomville, Ohio. And I reside in Bloom
6 Township.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. You
8 may proceed.

9 MS. FRY: I would like to
10 enthusiastically endorse the construction
11 of the Seneca Wind project in Seneca
12 County, and especially in Bloom Township.

13 I retired in 2015 after 35 years
14 teaching art and technology for the Seneca
15 East Local School District. I was able to
16 do a lot of wonderful projects with my
17 students, but over the years there were
18 things we could not afford because our
19 school did not have the budget for it. I
20 remember feeling jealous of my friends who
21 worked for districts like Oak Harbor and
22 Marysville that were anchored by major
23 economic development projects.

24 From 1980 until 2007 when I was a
25 secondary art specialist for the Seneca

1 East School system, my junior high
2 classroom was not handicap accessible.
3 There were at least two
4 physically-challenged students who were not
5 able to attend class in the art room. In
6 Attica, Ohio, where the Seneca East High
7 School was located, my high school art
8 classroom did not have a water source. The
9 high school students needed to travel a
10 distance to retrieve water for their art
11 projects. A community member generously
12 donated a pottery kiln for student use,
13 however, the school district could not
14 afford to run a 220-volt power line to the
15 art room necessary for the operation of the
16 pottery kiln. Consequently, the pottery
17 kiln sat idle in another room covered with
18 a tablecloth.

19 In 2008, the new Seneca East K12
20 School opened thanks to the Ohio School
21 Facilities, which financed 68 percent of
22 the total cost of the campus. But a new
23 school building is not a substitute for
24 sufficient funds to operate the school
25 system. Rural school systems cannot

1 financially operate with only local
2 funding, that is why the funds received
3 from the Seneca Wind project will be needed
4 and welcome.

5 We now have the chance to improve
6 school funding with the prospect of wind
7 energy projects bringing hundreds of
8 thousands of dollars to our district each
9 year. Living as we do in a rural area, we
10 do not have the advantages urban centers
11 have with large businesses or factories,
12 but we can strengthen and diversify our
13 economy by attracting renewable energy
14 developments. When I see a large energy
15 tower, as I often did growing up near
16 Niagara Falls, I don't view it as an
17 eyesore; I see economic opportunity.

18 I am thrilled that the Seneca East
19 School District and Buckeye Central School
20 District may be able to reap the financial
21 benefits of the Seneca Wind project.

22 There are approximately five school
23 districts that have wind turbines adjacent
24 to their school buildings, Bellevue School
25 District, Wynford School District, Huron

1 School District, Ontario School District,
2 and Margaretta School District. These wind
3 turbines are providing clean, renewable
4 energy to their school buildings.

5 There has been very little economic
6 growth in this area of Seneca County. Our
7 Bloom Township employees no longer have
8 health insurance with the Township due to
9 lack of funds. With the construction of
10 the wind turbines our country will benefit
11 from clean, renewable energy, our schools,
12 townships and libraries will greatly
13 benefit from the revenue generated by this
14 great project.

15 We are fortunate to have the acreage
16 available in our area to construct wind
17 turbines. Yet even in populated areas
18 these turbines gracefully nestle in with
19 the landscape.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're delusional.

21 MS. FRY: A wonderful
22 example is the North Findlay Wind campus in
23 Findlay, Ohio. Six wind turbines cover 30
24 percent of the Whirlpool and Ball
25 corporations. These turbines are located

1 near the center of town and a middle
2 school.

3 Since the field of education was not a
4 professional with high pay, I have always
5 looked for ways to supplement our family
6 income. Signing a land agreement with
7 Seneca Wind offered a chance to do that.
8 As of today, it looks like our property may
9 not qualify for a turbine after all. That
10 would be just -- Your Honor.

11 JUDGE SEE: Please, please be
12 respectful of the people that are offering
13 testimony.

14 Go ahead, please.

15 MS. FRY: As of today, it
16 looks like our property may not qualify for
17 a turbine after all. That would be
18 disappointing, but I support Seneca Wind
19 and other local wind projects all the same.
20 I want my rights as a property owner in an
21 unzoned township to be protected too.

22 Let me finish by using an example from
23 the novel Don Quixote written in the 1600s
24 by Cervantes. One of the most famous
25 stories in the novel was Don Quixote's

1 battle with a giant, however, in reality,
2 the giant was only a windmill. Some
3 scholars believe that Cervantes used this
4 adventure to illustrate that Don Quixote
5 was a relic and that the windmills
6 represented technology.

7 I am not a relic and I embrace
8 technology. I look forward to the
9 construction of the wind turbines that will
10 provide clean, renewable energy and
11 economic growth for me and my neighbors.

12 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
13 cross?

14 MR. SHUFF: (Indicating.)

15 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Can
16 you please provide your comments?

17 Ms. Sampson is up next and on deck is
18 William Seaman.

19 Please raise your right hand.

20 * * * * *

21 JAN SAMPSON

22 being of lawful age, was first duly
23 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
24 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
25 hereinafter certified, testified and

1 said as follows:

2 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
3 spell your name and your address and
4 township.

5 MS. SAMPSON: My name is Jan
6 Sampson, J-A-N, S-A-M-P-S-O-N. My address
7 is 6305 South Township Road 151, Tiffin,
8 Ohio.

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Township?

10 MS. SAMPSON: Township, I'm
11 officer, Eden Township. Short memory.

12 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
13 proceed.

14 MS. SAMPSON: My name is Jan
15 Sampson. My husband and I have lived at
16 6305 South Township Road 151 in rural Eden
17 Township, Seneca County, Ohio, for 35
18 years. We attended the open house hosted
19 by the developer of Seneca Wind Farm over a
20 year ago. Since then, I have researched
21 similar wind projects constructed in Ohio
22 and other nearby states and their impact on
23 rural areas. The more I researched, the
24 greater my concerns became.

25 A year ago, when the Seneca County

1 Commissioners thought tax revenue from the
2 PILOT plan would be good for the County,
3 many residents raised concerns about safe
4 setback distances, various health issues,
5 and property values to name a few. We were
6 told our only recourse is to contact the
7 Ohio Power Siting Board. I vehemently
8 oppose Seneca Wind Farm Case No.
9 18-488-EL-BGN.

10 As local residents we have had no
11 voice in this project that impacts our
12 properties and our way of life, because the
13 law in Ohio extends full authority to the
14 Ohio Power Siting Board to approve or deny
15 Seneca Wind Farm. Installations of massive
16 industrial-sized turbines with high-speed
17 spinning blades reaching approximately 600
18 feet into the sky are not farms. This
19 project is an outdoor industrial factory
20 sprawling over nearly 25,000 acres. People
21 who don't live anywhere remotely near the
22 project are making the decision that will
23 have a lasting impact on the people forced
24 to live within the wind, the footprint.
25 The Ohio Power Siting Board's flowchart

1 states that the public hearing for projects
2 is scheduled 15 days after the Staff
3 recommendation. This delay of public
4 input, combined with the fact that the
5 State law overrides local zoning laws,
6 makes me think that the Ohio Power Siting
7 Board has very little regard for local
8 public input to the process.

9 Per sPower's website, three turbines
10 are to be constructed near our home, one
11 approximately .33 miles or 1742 feet from
12 our house. If Seneca Wind is approved, our
13 viewshed will be destroyed, noise and
14 shadow flicker will be an ongoing
15 occurrence, short- and long-term impacts of
16 infrasound will be a concern and a likely
17 health risk, and our property value will be
18 reduced according to the research I've seen
19 from real estate appraisers. Safety
20 issues, blade failure, ice throw, concern
21 me for a turbine that is to be 1742 feet
22 from our house.

23 This spring at a workshop, documented
24 evidence was given to the Ohio Power Siting
25 Board of blade throws hurling pieces

1 weighing several pounds for a distance of
2 several hundred feet farther than the
3 setbacks used in the design for Seneca Wind
4 Farm. Siting turbines in this manner is a
5 direct threat to the safety of the general
6 public. Seneca East School near Attica,
7 Ohio is surrounded by multiple turbines.
8 These same safety concerns apply to our
9 recreational parks and preserves, to our
10 airport and local air travel, and to many
11 residential dwellings. Although, they may
12 meet the minimum setback requirements
13 required by Ohio law, the Seneca Wind
14 turbine locations are designed with unsafe
15 setback distances.

16 Members of the Ohio Power Siting
17 Board, you have the control. The minimal
18 generating capacity Seneca Wind can add to
19 the electrical grid is not worth the safety
20 risks to the public. Don't inflict these
21 risks on Seneca County. Exercise your
22 control and deny approval of the Seneca
23 Wind Farm. Thank you.

24 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
25 cross?

1 MR. BORCHERS: (Indicating.)

2 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: William Seaman is
3 up next and on deck is Walt Poffenbaugh.

4 MR. SEAMAN: Pretty good.

5 MR. POFFENBAUGH: Close. That's
6 close.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please raise your
8 right hand.

9 * * * * *

10 WILLIAM SEAMAN
11 being of lawful age, was first duly
12 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
13 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
14 hereinafter certified, testified and
15 said as follows:

16 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
17 state and spell your name for the record
18 and address and township.

19 MR. SEAMAN: My name is William
20 Seaman, W-I-L-L-I-A-M, last name
21 S-E-A-M-A-N. My address is 4584 State
22 Route 547, Bellevue, Ohio. I'm a resident
23 of the Lyme Township and I am in the
24 viewshed of multiple wind projects, even
25 the Seneca Wind project.

1 To repeat, my name is William Seaman.
2 I am a homeowner in Lyme Township in Huron
3 County and a farm owner in Lyme Township in
4 Oxford Township, and by the way, those are
5 both zoned townships. What happens in
6 Seneca County just to the west of my home
7 place matters to me and many of my fellow
8 citizens of Erie and Huron County. I'm
9 here to state my unequivocal opposition to
10 the construction of the Seneca Wind
11 project.

12 There are myriad reasons to oppose
13 industrial wind turbine projects,
14 especially in comparatively densely
15 populated rural areas, such as Seneca
16 County. I could testify for a very long
17 time on the environmental hazards, health
18 hazards, property devaluations, electrical
19 generation inefficiency and expense, et
20 cetera, ad nauseam. All are legitimate
21 reasons to oppose the construction of
22 industrial wind turbines in our rural
23 landscapes in this part of Ohio. What I
24 will concentrate on, however, are two
25 safety-related issues which are not being

1 transparently discussed by the wind
2 developers and promoters.

3 First, the height of the turbines
4 proposed in the Seneca Wind Farm will be
5 among the tallest in the United States.
6 According to the Ohio Power Siting Board
7 Staff investigation of the Seneca County
8 Wind Farm the tallest wind turbines would
9 measure 584 feet. 584 feet.

10 This height would make the industrial
11 wind turbines in Seneca County the sixth
12 tallest structure in the entire State of
13 Ohio. Only three skyscrapers in Cleveland,
14 and one skyscraper respectively in Columbus
15 and Cincinnati or -- Columbus and
16 Cincinnati are taller. To repeat, these
17 wind turbines in Seneca County would be the
18 sixth tallest structures in all of Ohio.

19 Inevitably, a structure this tall and
20 powerful when the wind's blowing, needs a
21 safety buffer. A reasonable person would
22 believe that something that is 584 feet
23 tall should not be particularly close to
24 highways, houses, barns, schools, livestock
25 and people. People who might actually be

1 outside, for example farming.

2 If my figures are correct, the current
3 setback distances are 1225 feet from the
4 property line of a non-participating
5 landowner. And for full disclosure, I'm a
6 non-participating land owner.

7 Two Danish, gentlemen, and I have a
8 copy of this research study for the Ohio
9 Power Siting Board, and Denmark is a
10 country which has a long and extensive
11 experience with industrial wind turbines,
12 Hamid Sarlak and Jens Sorensen, from the
13 Technical University of Denmark, published
14 a paper in February 2015 about the
15 distances fragments from wind turbines can
16 be thrown, in addition to ice throws.

17 For a five megawatt turbine, at normal
18 turbine speeds throws can be up to
19 20953 feet. At extreme turbine speeds
20 throws can be up to 4921 feet.

21 To a reasonable person, a setback of
22 1225 feet is not an adequate safety buffer
23 for machines that can send fragments of
24 themselves and/or ice these distances.

25 A reasonable person would also want a

1 transparent wind company to fully disclose
2 what the manufacturer's operating manual
3 says about the appropriate distance one
4 should have for a safety buffer around an
5 industrial wind turbine.

6 However, this safety information is
7 not publicly released by the wind
8 developer. It's proprietary information.
9 This lack of basic safety information,
10 which should be available to every citizen
11 in or near the footprint of the Seneca Wind
12 Farm, is absurd. The omission of this
13 information by the developers of the Seneca
14 Wind project tells you all you need to
15 know.

16 So to conclude, we have large
17 structures proposed to be in the midst of
18 our rural communities without adequate
19 setback distances. I urge the Ohio Power
20 Siting Board to deny the certificate of
21 operation for the Seneca Wind Farm. Thank
22 you for listening.

23 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
24 cross?

25 MR. SHUFF: Yes.

1 CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. SHUFF:

3 Q Thank you for your testimony. Would it surprise
4 you that the FAA says there's 656 feet above ground level?

5 MR. BORCHERS: Objection, Your
6 Honor, this is friendly cross-examination.

7 MR. SHUFF: It's cross. I'm
8 just asking if it surprises him. That's a
9 proper cross-examination question.

10 JUDGE SEE: We --

11 MR. SHUFF: Okay. I'll
12 rephrase.

13 JUDGE SEE: No, I didn't say
14 that.

15 MR. SHUFF: Okay. I'll wait
16 on a ruling.

17 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Please do.

18 MR. SHUFF: Thank you.

19 JUDGE SEE: It is friendly
20 cross but let's not prolong testimony. If
21 there's a point that you want to clear up
22 you may do it --

23 Q Would you agree that --

24 JUDGE SEE: -- you may do it
25 as part of one of your witnesses' testimony

1 or as yours at the evidentiary hearing.

2 MR. SHUFF: Not today?

3 JUDGE SEE: Not today. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. SHUFF: I'll withdraw the
6 question.

7 JUDGE SEE: Thank you.

8 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
9 provide your thoughts.

10 MR. SEAMAN: I'll give you my
11 shortened edited version and then here's
12 the study from the two Danish gentlemen.

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: I'm going to ask
14 you how to pronounce your last name?

15 MR. POFFENBAUGH: Poffenbaugh.

16 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Poffenbaugh is on
17 right now and up next is Linda Coffman.

18 Please raise your right hand.

19 * * * * *

20 WALTER POFFENBAUGH

21 being of lawful age, was first duly
22 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
23 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
24 hereinafter certified, testified and
25 said as follows:

1 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
2 spell your name for the record, your
3 address and township.

4 MR. POFFENBAUGH: Okay. My name is
5 Walter, W-A-L-T-E-R, E, Poffenbaugh,
6 P-O-F-F-E-N-B-A-U-G-H. I live at 5094
7 North Greenfield Road, Willard, Ohio, which
8 is in Norwich Township, Huron County.

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please proceed.

10 MR. POFFENBAUGH: Thank you. Good
11 afternoon. My name wife and I, and my name
12 is Walt Poffenbaugh as I just told you, my
13 wife and I resided at the North Greenfield
14 address for the last 21 years. Our home is
15 located within the Seneca East School
16 District, which is located within the
17 project area that we're talking about
18 today. Our residence is in the footprint
19 of the Emerson Creek industrial wind
20 turbine project in Huron County. I believe
21 my comments today meet the criteria of Ohio
22 Administrative code 4906.10, Subsections 2,
23 3, 6 and 7. My comments will primarily
24 address these areas.

25 The cumulative impact of the Seneca

1 Wind, Republic Wind and Emerson Wind, or
2 Emerson Creek Wind projects, that are
3 currently under consideration by this Board
4 as well as three potential future projects
5 that have not been applied for yet. The
6 insertion of an industrial-sized electric
7 generated facility into an area which is
8 currently designated primarily as an
9 agriculture residential area. And the
10 second point is that the lack of local
11 control under Ohio law provide evidence for
12 the need for the Power Siting Board to
13 place public safety of immediately affected
14 residents as a top priority when
15 considering projects such as this one.

16 I see in front of me a very nice map
17 that has one wind project on it. Seneca
18 Wind which is what this hearing is for.
19 With your permission, Your Honor, I would
20 like to bring forward a visual aid for each
21 of you because it directly leads to my
22 testimony and it may help you.

23 JUDGE SEE: Okay.

24 MR. POFFENBAUGH: Thank you.

25 JUDGE SEE: Mr. Poffenbaugh,

1 how many copies do you have with you?

2 MR. POFFENBAUGH: Five or six,
3 ma'am, I think I have enough for everybody,
4 I didn't know how many people were going to
5 be here today so I didn't know exactly how
6 many to run.

7 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: She's the most
8 important one, so --

9 MR. POFFENBAUGH: Very good. For
10 those of you who are in the audience if
11 you'd like to see exactly the same thing
12 folks up here are looking at it's displayed
13 out on the entryway coming in today.

14 I'm here to discuss Seneca Wind.
15 However, it's my opinion that it's
16 impossible to discuss Seneca Wind, without
17 also taking into account the impact of two
18 other current and pending projects,
19 Republic Wind and Emerson Creek Wind.
20 These two projects abut Seneca Wind as you
21 can see on the map that you have in front
22 of you. Seneca Wind are the yellow dots,
23 Republic Wind are the red dots and Emerson
24 Creek Wind are the blue dots. The brown
25 dots down on the bottom is for a project

1 that has not even been applied for yet.
2 We're only going to talk about the three
3 that they have applications on file with
4 your Board at present, which is Republic,
5 Seneca Wind and Emerson Creek.

6 Okay. In these comments, these three
7 projects combined encompass 130,378 acres
8 in portions of four adjacent counties in
9 Northwest Ohio.

10 Now, this information was garnered
11 from the applications on file with your
12 Board for those projects. 130,378 acres
13 translates to 203 square miles. I know
14 it's difficult to gain a perspective of
15 just how big an area this is, so if you'll
16 provide, allow me to I'm going to try to
17 provide a perspective that I think you will
18 all understand. The City of Columbus,
19 which I imagine all of you are pretty
20 familiar with, covers 212 square miles.
21 This sprawling city, which contains our
22 State Capitol, is just nine square miles
23 larger than the area which will be used for
24 these three projects. This does not
25 include the three additional projects that

1 are potentially going to be filed for in,
2 that will abut up against these. They're
3 known as Honey Creek, Emerson Creek West
4 and Buck Springs. Imagine an industrial
5 wind turbine area, containing turbines
6 which are 650-some odd feet tall in an area
7 the size of the City of Columbus covering a
8 portion of four counties. This is just the
9 area the wind developers need now for the
10 three proposed projects. Additional
11 projects will obviously encroach even more
12 on the agricultural/residential property of
13 our area.

14 The turbine placements within these
15 three projects currently in the application
16 phase, and this information comes from the
17 actual applications that are on file with
18 your agency, Seneca Wind has 56,900 total
19 acres, which is 88.9 square miles. They
20 wish to put up 77 turbines with a nameplate
21 generating capacity of 212 megawatts. That
22 comes down to 1.15 turbines per square
23 mile. Republic Wind has 32,478 acres.
24 That's 50.74 square miles. They want to
25 put up 50 turbines, 200 generating,

1 megawatt generating capacity, that turbine
2 per square mile area is 1.01. In the
3 Emerson Creek Wind project it makes up
4 41,000 acres. 64.06 square miles. Their
5 latest addendum to their application
6 indicated that they were going to install
7 62 turbines, 297 megawatts nameplate
8 capacity, the turbines per square mile in
9 that area is 1.03.

10 So when you do the math, over this
11 span of this entire area, the city the size
12 of almost the size of the City of Columbus,
13 you're going to have a turbine on every
14 640 acres.

15 The wind developers have consistently
16 referred to our area as lightly populated
17 and primarily rural. The figures compiled
18 by the Ohio Developmental Services Agency
19 and used in the wind developers own
20 applications show this, Seneca County has
21 55, as of 2017, Seneca County has 55,243
22 residents and the population density is
23 101.1 people per square mile. In Sandusky
24 County they have 59,195 in 2017, their
25 population density is 251.5 people per

1 square mile. Huron County has 58,494,
2 their population density is 119.4 people
3 per square mile. And in Erie County you
4 have 74,817 people with a population
5 density of 297.5 people per square mile.
6 These aren't my figures, these are the wind
7 turbine company's figures and they came
8 from their application. This table that I
9 will provide to you is directly from their
10 application. Technology's a wonderful
11 thing. Okay.

12 Now, those figures that I just quoted
13 to you mean absolutely nothing until you
14 compare them with areas of the state that
15 have operational wind farms right now. And
16 those three counties, the three counties
17 that I picked out are Hardin, Paulding and
18 Van Wert. They've been brought up here
19 today by other speakers. In comparison
20 with our area that is lightly populated and
21 primarily rural, in Hardin County in 2017
22 there was 31,364 people, that's a
23 population density of 66.59 people per
24 square mile. In Paulding County they have
25 18,8445 people in the whole county, the

1 population density there is 44.9 people per
2 square mile. And Van Wert County they have
3 28,217 people, population density is 68.82
4 people per square mile.

5 The three listed counties in Ohio with
6 industrial wind turbines currently
7 operating have a combined population of
8 80,706 and an average population density of
9 60 people per square mile. The three
10 counties with the majority of turbine
11 placements in the Seneca Wind, Republic
12 Wind and Emerson Creek Wind; projects have
13 a combined population of 188,554 people
14 which makes an average population density
15 of 172 people per square mile. There are
16 over twice as many people, and nearly
17 triple the population density in Seneca,
18 Erie and Huron County when you compare them
19 to Hardin, Van Wert and Paulding County.

20 I attended the blade shear workshop
21 that's been alluded to here by other
22 speakers at the end of April in Columbus.
23 Testimony was provided at this workshop
24 about blade failure incidents in Ohio
25 during the past years. Three documented

1 incidents in Hardin, Van Wert and Paulding
2 County, where debris from defective wind
3 turbines was thrown up to 1561 feet were
4 reported, as you heard other speakers
5 testify about. These incidents occurred at
6 existing industrial wind turbine sites
7 located in areas with less than half the
8 population and one-third the population
9 density of the project you're talking, your
10 taking testimony about today.

11 They also happened at turbine sites
12 where the turbines are approximately
13 470-feet tall. Since there are no 665-foot
14 wind turbines in Ohio that I'm aware of,
15 all estimates of potential ice throw and
16 blade shear are just that, estimates. I
17 commend the Ohio Power Siting Board, by the
18 way, for proposing rules regarding the wind
19 turbine blade shear and I'm looking forward
20 to their eventual passage and
21 implementation.

22 Since we, the residents, that live in
23 the area have no local control in matters
24 like this, no local zoning applies in
25 projects of this magnitude, our only

1 ability to provide information for
2 consideration is through venues like this.
3 I believe it is imperative for this Board
4 to look out for the safety of all people
5 and property in the project area.

6 We've heard much over the last couple
7 of months about the wind developers wanting
8 to reduce the current setbacks to pre-2014
9 levels. The incidents documented at the
10 blade shear workshop prove that current
11 setbacks are not sufficient to protect the
12 authority and to -- or to protect the
13 people and the residents from potential
14 damage. As I understand it, the Ohio Power
15 Siting Board has the authority to place
16 conditions on applications, since the
17 manufacturers of the wind turbines
18 recommend a 500 meter or 1640 feet safe
19 zone around the turbines, why would a
20 minimum setback of any distance less than
21 1640 feet from a property line be
22 acceptable to the Board?

23 This is why I mentioned at the
24 beginning of my testimony that when you're
25 considering the merits of Seneca Wind you

1 have to connect it to the cumulative effect
2 of the two sister projects being proposed
3 in this area. And the potential of three
4 more like-sized projects abutting these
5 three, which are in the early stages of
6 development.

7 The developers of these projects are
8 attempting to insert an industrial electric
9 generating plant nearly the size of the
10 City of Columbus into an area which is home
11 to many Ohioans. I doubt any other
12 industry could propose locating a facility
13 in any area of Ohio which was as big as
14 Columbus and not have people question and
15 be a little bit resistant to the idea.
16 This area of Ohio is densely populated when
17 compared with the areas where smaller and
18 fewer turbines are currently operating.

19 There are many other areas of concern,
20 I could talk about the karsts, the impact
21 of the projects on migratory birds, several
22 other areas I feel this Board needs to pay
23 attention to, but it's already been
24 addresses and I'll let the other good folks
25 in this room bring those matters up.

1 I greatly appreciate the opportunity
2 to speak to you today. My wife and I and
3 several hundred of our like-minded
4 neighbors urge you to deny this
5 application. Thank you.

6 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
7 cross?

8 MR. BORCHERS: (Indicating.)

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Ms. Coffman is up
10 next and on deck is Robert Berg.

11 Please raise your right hand.

12 * * * * *

13 LINDA COFFMAN

14 being of lawful age, was first duly
15 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
16 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
17 hereinafter certified, testified and
18 said as follows:

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
20 spell your name for the record, your
21 address and township.

22 MS. COFFMAN: My name is Linda
23 Coffman, t's C-O-F-F-M-A-N. I live at 6851
24 South State Road 231, Tiffin in Eden
25 Township. And what else did you want?

1 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: That's it, you
2 nailed it.

3 MS. COFFMAN: That's it?

4 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
5 proceed.

6 MS. COFFMAN: Okay. There is a
7 predictable, almost identical story that
8 has been playing repeatedly for more than a
9 decade.

10 A handshake deal is made. Local
11 officials decide a big corporation would
12 come, bring a lot of money to benefit their
13 community. And since they weren't sure
14 everyone would be on board, little to no
15 information is made public. By the time
16 most residents realize a wind turbine
17 project is coming to their area, signed
18 leases and many other foundational plans
19 are already in place. As residents slowly
20 begin to learn about the project, some fear
21 that their property values will drop. Many
22 don't like the thought of the natural
23 beauty of their land being under threat or
24 the thought of losing the right to have
25 peace and quiet. Opposition groups begin

1 to form. With added information, safety to
2 people and the environment become the
3 primary focus and cause resistance to
4 escalate. But, it comes too late. The
5 wind companies have their way because
6 secrecy allowed them to have such a
7 substantial head start. And, they had all
8 the legal advantages. They had rendered
9 meaningless any local ordinances; subsidies
10 and tax breaks gave them huge financial
11 benefits and incentives; they had many
12 local government officials already in their
13 camp, some even being lease holders who
14 voted on behalf of self interest, and they
15 were backed by state mandates which
16 required the development and use of
17 renewable energy statewide. Residents in
18 support and opposition of the projects were
19 given an opportunity to speak at an
20 official meeting like this, but once their
21 voices had faded, that was the end of it.
22 It had been a formality and a foregone
23 conclusion. Wind won.

24 Now, this was a, just a story, it was
25 based on all the stories that I have read

1 and everything in here had a common factor
2 to those, those incidents, but now the
3 story is changing. We are not starting
4 from zero, anymore. We know too much.
5 People across our nation, from California
6 to New York, are sharing stories of what
7 happened to their communities and telling
8 about what it is like to live among wind
9 turbines. With shared information and
10 combined experience to draw upon, a new
11 trend to reject wind turbine projects is
12 emerging. Most importantly, we are
13 learning there is massive and mounting
14 evidence that wind energy is not green,
15 does not help the planet or climate, it is
16 not good for the environment, is not good
17 for animals, both land and air, is not good
18 for the people who live close to them, and
19 because wind energy is insufficient and
20 intermittent, it necessitates two power
21 sources, wind and a back up for wind, which
22 is usually natural gas. This not only
23 drives up the cost for consumers but adds
24 to fossil fuel usage instead of lowering
25 it. Green. Clean. Free. Industrial wind

1 turbines are none of these. They harm
2 people and the environment without giving
3 back even commensurate at benefits.

4 It's hard to give up an idea when you
5 so much want it to work. But the time is
6 now, and Seneca County is the place to
7 stop. Here, we still have a chance to be
8 smart and to be forward thinking. We have
9 a chance to look at current evidence and
10 trends, both in the United States and in
11 Europe. We have a chance to examine
12 results and question, question things like
13 why are electric rates higher where
14 turbines are the most prevalent and why is
15 there such an expanding opposition to
16 industrial wind turbine projects? We have
17 a chance to protect our environment and to
18 protect the people who live here. Right
19 now, the Ohio Power Siting Board has the
20 opportunity to deny application for
21 industrial wind turbines to be sited in
22 Seneca County and it also has the chance to
23 take a stand and say we in Ohio are
24 reexamining our State's present course when
25 it comes to renewables.

1 What the Board decides about this
2 project will determine the fate of Seneca
3 County now and for future generations. My
4 hope is that the Board will make the hard
5 decision to break away from the dream we
6 all wish was true, and see it for what it
7 really is, a scheme for some to amass
8 untold wealth no matter what the cost to
9 people and our planet. Thank for your --

10 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
11 cross?

12 MR. BORCHERS: No.

13 Q Tore think bird?

14 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please raise your
15 right hand.

16 * * * * *

17 ROBERT BERG

18 being of lawful age, was first duly
19 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
20 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
21 hereinafter certified, testified and
22 said as follows:

23 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
24 state and spell your name for the record,
25 your address and township.

1 MR. BERG: My name is Robert
2 Berg. I live at 800 East Township Road,
3 Tiffin, Ohio, 44883. That is in Eden
4 Township.

5 I'm Emeritus Professor of German at
6 Heidelberg University in this city and I'm
7 now a part-time archivist there. I would
8 like to offer information and evidence that
9 infrasound produced by wind turbines is
10 harmful o our health.

11 Unlike Dr. Mike Curran who spoke
12 before me about infrasound, I'm not a
13 scientist, I speak to you as a professor
14 and as a translator.

15 What is infrasound? This is sometimes
16 referred to as low frequency sound. It is
17 sound lower than 20 hertz or cycles, is
18 that below the normal range of human
19 hearing. You can't hear it.

20 My primary source of information is a
21 broadcast from November 1st, 2018 by ZDF,
22 German television entitled Unerhörter Lärm,
23 Unheard and Unheard of Noise. It contains
24 interviews with several German and American
25 physicians and scientists. Their

1 conclusion: Infrasound has negative
2 effects on the strength of heart tissue, on
3 the brain and on the auditory system. I
4 was able to view the broadcast online
5 several times, to translate parts of it and
6 to summarize parts of it. Here are a few
7 of the main points.

8 The principal focus of the broadcast
9 is the research of Dr. Christian-Frederic
10 Vahl, a cardiac surgeon at the University's
11 clinic at Mainz, Germany. Excuse me. His
12 team has exposed various sized pieces of
13 live human heart tissue, as well as single
14 heart cells from human hearts to infrasound
15 and laboratory conditions. His results
16 have been replicated and show in measurable
17 terms that there's prove in reduction in
18 the strength of the tissues of the human
19 heart when they're exposed to the
20 infrasound signals.

21 When asked whether other scientists
22 are doing related research, Dr. Vahl cited
23 the work of a time of researchers at the
24 Institute of Physiology and the University
25 of Hamburg, Germany, which has shown

1 similar results when working with live rat
2 subjects. He also cites the finding of
3 research team on the vessels on the human
4 heart by scientists at the University of
5 Rostock in Germany, and they show similar
6 results.

7 Asked about his stance on wind energy,
8 he said he thinks we need to continue to
9 support wind energy production, but that
10 wind installations must be kept at great
11 enough distances from human habitation and
12 human gathering places to ensure that we do
13 endanger people's health.

14 Other researchers presented in the
15 same broadcast indicate negative effects
16 from infrasound. Several I would like to
17 summarize here.

18 One of them, Professor Simone Kuhn of
19 the University Clinic of Hamburg-Eppendorf,
20 Germany had conducted research on the
21 effects of infrasound on the brain. Her
22 team found that the sounds below the limit
23 of human hearing activate areas of the
24 brain that deal with stress and conflict.
25 Kuhn's team has developed the hypothesis

1 that annoying sounds we can hear we can
2 perhaps better block out or deal with, for
3 example, by moving away from the source of
4 the sound, or by using protective devices
5 for our ears. But sounds which we can't
6 here, infrasound, we don't recognize. We
7 are not aware of them sometimes, so we
8 can't dismiss them or deal with them. That
9 may cause stress. The team has also begun
10 studying the exposure to infrasound as a
11 cause of sleep disturbances by people who
12 live close to wind parks.

13 In Germany and around the world,
14 various countries have conducted research
15 on the use of infrasound as a non-lethal
16 weapon, especially during the Cold War.
17 Colonel Johh B. Alexander, U.S. Army
18 Retired, says that research on infrasound
19 as a weapon has been given up in most
20 places now due to technical issues and
21 inconsistent test results. The U.S.
22 military now has little interest in
23 research in the area of sonic attack except
24 for determining the causes of the baffling
25 complaints of the employees in the U.S.

1 Embassy in Cuba in 2017 and the U.S.

2 Embassy in Moscow in the 1980s. Both
3 instances are still puzzling.

4 Dr. Lars Ceranna of the German Federal
5 Bureau for Geoscience and Raw Materials was
6 also interviewed. His team has been
7 monitoring vibrations and infrasound for
8 many years, originally as a part of a
9 program to ensure compliance with the
10 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. He
11 reports that they have found that there are
12 been no measurements norm for frequencies
13 below 20 hertz for wind energy
14 installations in Germany, indeed those
15 sounds have been left out of traditional
16 measurements, and those below 8 hertz
17 totally neglected. His team is correcting
18 these measurements and the inaccuracies and
19 now recording clear infrasound signals from
20 wind turbines at various distance. In
21 order to get an accurate measurement, the
22 Bureau for Geoscience and Raw Materials
23 maintains that there must be a distance of
24 9 miles between the measuring site and the
25 wind farm.

1 Dr. Alex Salt of the medical school at
2 Washington University in St. Louis is an
3 expert in the maladies of the inner ear.
4 His research team has shown that the inner
5 ear reacts to infrasound signals, even very
6 low signals of 5 hertz and lower. The
7 reason is due to the anatomy of the inner
8 ear which has two types of hair cells that
9 react to sound. The infrasound stimulates
10 only the outer cells, not the inner cells,
11 but it does produce an electric reactions
12 in the ear which is not audible to us.
13 This may be related to symptoms such as
14 headaches, nausea, sleep interruptions and
15 lack of ability to concentrate. His team
16 has had complaints from wind energy
17 companies denying his results, but he
18 insists that his results have been repeated
19 in laboratory conditions.

20 Since viewing this broadcast and
21 discussing it with others, several
22 colleagues have sent me additional
23 documentation or scientific evidence on the
24 dangers to health posed by infrasound.

25 Some of these are by Dr. Vahl himself, who

1 I talked about just a minute ago, his team
2 published a paper in 2018 entitled Are
3 There Harmful Effects Caused by the Silent
4 Noise of Infrasound Produced by Wind Parks.
5 The conclusion, infrasound can have direct
6 negative effects on the human myocardium,
7 the heart muscle, in experimental settings.
8 This needs additional investigation as the
9 number of wind turbines in Germany
10 increases and exposes more and more people
11 to the potential harm from infrasound.

12 Professor Louisinha, Ana and her team
13 in an article entitled Infrasound induces
14 coronary perivascular fibrosis in rats at
15 the University of Porto in Portugal. Her
16 conclusion, the cardiovascular system is
17 sensitive to infrasound. Infrasound
18 exposure induces coronary perivascular
19 fibrosis, which is scar tissue, in
20 experiments in rats.

21 Mr. Alksieyev from the Sanitary and
22 Hygienic Medical Institute in Leningrad in
23 1985 published an article under the title
24 Reactions of Liver Cells to the Impact of
25 Infrasound. The conclusion, the studies

1 showed that infrasound has a damaging
2 impact on liver cells at a frequency of 8
3 hertz and an intensity of 120 decibels,
4 causing changes to both nucleus and the
5 cytoplasm in the cells.

6 Dr. Gordeldze and his team in 1985
7 published an article under the title
8 Experimental Myocardial Ischemia Caused by
9 Infrasound, also at the Sanitary and
10 Hygienic Medical Institute, Leningrad. His
11 conclusion, infrasound with a frequency of
12 8 hertz and an intensity of 120 decibels
13 has a damaging effect of the structure of
14 myocardium, the heart muscle. The size of
15 damage increases with increasing duration
16 of impact.

17 Dr. Karpova and his team at the
18 University -- at the Sanitary and Hygiene
19 Medical Institute in Leningrad in 1978
20 published an article entitled Early
21 Reaction of the Organisms to the
22 Low-Frequency Acoustic Oscillations.
23 Infrasound he says, has -- conclusion,
24 infrasound oscillations have adverse
25 effects over the entire human organism.

1 The central nervus system, cardiovascular
2 and respiratory systems, as well as the
3 auditory analyzer.

4 Dr. Jerry Punch, Professor Emeritus of
5 Michigan State University and a certified
6 audiologist, has submitted a detailed brief
7 on behalf of a resident of Scipio Township
8 who has been diagnosed with chronic
9 vertigo. In Dr. Punch's opinion this man
10 can be expected to experience worsened
11 health, excuse me, symptoms if forced to
12 live in close proximity to one of the
13 turbines. Dr. Punch includes important
14 information as well as a bibliography of
15 recent research on the subject of symptoms
16 caused by infrasound. These include
17 headaches, dizziness, nausea and motion
18 sickness. These symptoms have been
19 observed even before the more recent
20 research of Dr. Vahl's studied above.

21 I have brought with me the documents
22 that I have just cited and I'll give them
23 to you in a few minutes that support the
24 research that I have summarized. And I
25 wish to have them included in your record

1 as of, as the hearing today. I sincerely
2 hope that the Ohio Power Siting Board will
3 give them serious consideration and will
4 take action to protect the wellbeing of the
5 residents of our area for Northwestern
6 Ohio.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
8 cross?

9 MR. BORCHERS: (Indicating.)

10 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Ms. Berg is up
11 next and after her we will take a five
12 minute recess.

13 Please raise your right hand.

14 * * * * *

15 DOROTHY BERG

16 being of lawful age, was first duly
17 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
18 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
19 hereinafter certified, testified and
20 said as follows:

21 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
22 spell your name for the record, your
23 address and your township.

24 MS. BERG: All right. I am
25 Dorothy E. Berg, D-O-R-O-T-H-Y, E, B-E-R-G.

1 I live at 800 East Township Road 58, Tiffin
2 Ohio, this is in Eden Township, Seneca
3 County.

4 Good afternoon. I am Dorothy E. Berg,
5 a retired high school and college teacher
6 now working as an archivist for Heidelberg
7 University in Tiffin. I'm am a native-born
8 Ohioan who is lived in Eden Township for
9 over 32 years. I am here today to let you
10 know that I am opposed to the Seneca Wind
11 project for the reason that it endangers my
12 right to life, liberty and the pursuit of
13 happiness as guaranteed by the Declaration
14 of Independence.

15 It diminishes life of the proven
16 medical conditions wind turbines cause,
17 hearing loss, heart, brain and liver
18 malfunction and neurological disorders. In
19 addition, it could impact the travel of air
20 ambulances in life-threatening situations.

21 It diminishes liberty because it does
22 not allow for a local referendum to
23 determine whether or not the township
24 inhabitants want the creation of huge
25 turbines. Although I do appreciate the

1 opportunity speak here today, you will need
2 to act on my behalf and reject the Seneca
3 Wind project.

4 It diminishes the pursuit of happiness
5 because it will hamper the good will that
6 Eden Township neighbors have had by pitting
7 neighbor against neighbor. It threatens
8 our landscape, our wildlife and our peace
9 of mind.

10 Our beautiful agriculture and
11 residential township deserves your respect.
12 Thank you for rejecting the Seneca Wind
13 project.

14 I would also like to clarify an issue,
15 I'm sorry I interrupted before, I believe
16 it was Mr. O'Connor speaking, he was
17 quoting the National Wildlife Federation
18 Magazines, which I just received two days
19 ago at my house. He did not include all of
20 the wind turbine damage to Eagles and bats,
21 huge article about that, so I would like to
22 add that to the story. Thank you so much.

23 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Does counsel have
24 cross?

25 MR. BORCHERS: (Indicating.)

1 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Before we proceed
2 with the next witness I would like to
3 announce that there are going to be sign-up
4 sheets at the table with Board Staff in
5 front for individuals who, if you did not
6 want to offer testimony but would like to
7 inform the Board on your position regarding
8 the Seneca Wind project, whether you
9 support or oppose the project, feel free to
10 sign up on those lists.

11 JUDGE SEE: And they'll be
12 outside at the table. For now we'll take a
13 five minute recess.

14 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Five minute break.
15 (WHEREUPON, a break was taken at
16 5:53 and the hearing resumed at
17 6:04 p.m.)

18 JUDGE SEE: Next witness
19 Marilyn Hornett and on deck is Linda
20 Mosher. Ma'am, you are please?

21 MS. HORNETT: I am Marilyn
22 Hornet, M-A-R-I-L-Y-N --

23 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Just a
24 minute, Ms. Hornett. Is Linda Mosher here?
25 Okay.

1 Ms. Hornett, could you please raise
2 your right hand?

3 * * * * *

4 MARILYN HORNETT

5 being of lawful age, was first duly
6 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
7 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
8 hereinafter certified, testified and
9 said as follows:

10 JUDGE SEE: Please state and
11 spell your name for the record, provide us
12 your address and your township you live in.

13 MS. HORNETT: Okay. Marilyn,
14 M-A-R-I-L-Y-N, Hornett, H-O-R-N-E-T-T. I'm
15 at 17284 East Township Road 104, Attica,
16 that is in Venice township.

17 JUDGE SEE: Thank you. Go
18 ahead with your testimony.

19 MS. HORNETT: I own my own home
20 and I live in eastern Venice Township. I
21 am on the Seneca-Huron County line. I will
22 be sandwiched between both Seneca Wind and
23 Emerson Creek projects. I would like to
24 know why Seneca County, Ohio, why are the
25 turbines so big? Why are there so many?

1 Why can't I have a vote? How will this
2 project benefit me? You might ask am I
3 opposed? Yes, I am. I have read nothing,
4 I repeat, I have head nothing that convince
5 me that this is a good thing. This seems
6 to be about money, power and greed and that
7 is never a good thing. Thank you.

8 JUDGE SEE: Your statements,
9 if you have your notes and you would like
10 for us to be able to refer to them you can
11 give them up here, please.

12 And ladies and gentlemen, we have lots
13 of witnesses to get through, if you could
14 refrain from clapping between each one, we
15 want to get as much of the public's
16 testimony as we can get today. Okay?

17 Next, on deck is Deb Heckerd. Next is
18 Linda Morsher.

19 Ms. Morscher?

20 MS. MORSHER: Morsher.

21 JUDGE SEE: Oh, I butchered
22 it, I'm sorry.

23 MS. MORSHER: That's okay.

24 JUDGE SEE: Could you please
25 raise your right hand?

* * * * *

LINDA MORSHER

being of lawful age, was by me first duly sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as hereinafter certified, was examined and said as follows:

JUDGE SEE: Thanks. State and spell your name for the record, provides us your address and the township you live in.

MS. MORSHER: My name is Linda, L-I-N-D-A, Morsher, M-O-R-S-H-E-R. I live at 7355 Township Road 81 and that is in Bellevue but it's in Seneca County.

JUDGE SEE: Okay. Go ahead with your testimony.

MS. MORSHER: Ready? Like I said, my name is Linda Morsher. My husband and I Chuck reside in Seneca County, Ohio. I appreciate the Board's willingness to be here and the opportunity to speak.

To be clear, we have are interveners in the Republic Wind project. So you might ask well, why are you here today speaking about the Seneca Wind project? Well, we,

1 like a lot of the people here, are speaking
2 against the Seneca Wind project and how it
3 will, how we will be effected by the wind
4 turbines. We purchased our home over 20
5 years ago so that we could reside out of
6 the city and be in the country. We knew
7 then that living out in the country
8 surrounded by agriculture would mean having
9 farm equipment up and down the roads,
10 farmers working the land day and late into
11 the night, as well as the lovely aroma of
12 livestock and nature. We knew that then
13 and didn't mind and we still don't mind.
14 That is farming, not industrial use. I
15 find it ironic that in the 2019 Super Bowl
16 commercials there was one from Budweiser
17 featuring the Clydesdale. It had Bob Dylan
18 singing Blowing in the Wind, presumably
19 highlighting the benefits of the wind
20 turbines. Anybody see that commercial?
21 Raise your hand. Okay. Here's the
22 question, in that commercial how many homes
23 did you see with those wind turbines?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: None.

25 MS. MORSHER: I'm sorry?

1 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Zero. None.

2 MS. MORSHER: Zero. There was
3 none. Not a single one. Yet Seneca Wind
4 has proposed to have 16 wind turbines
5 within 2 miles of Seneca East School
6 District. That alone should concern
7 everyone in this room. Given the
8 possibility of what we've heard today about
9 the shadow flicker, noise, ice throws,
10 mechanical failures and Light Fight not
11 being able to land should the need arrive.

12 Those who choose to live within the
13 cities would not allow farmers to plow
14 their yards, plant crops and bring
15 livestock into their city property, would
16 they? No. That's not what cities are
17 about. Cities would not allow any company
18 to put an industrial complex within a
19 residential area. The citizens, AKA, the
20 voters, would not stand for it.

21 These vast wind industrial companies
22 choose to insert their large towering
23 windmills possibly over 580 feet tall. I'm
24 a woman, I like things that I can relate
25 to. 580 feet tall, the Statue of Liberty

1 is only 305 feet tall. The Washington
2 Monument is 555 feet tall. Think of that.
3 Think of that. Why did they bring them
4 into the rural neighborhood? Why is that?
5 Maybe because none of us thought that we
6 would need to have zoning to prohibit them.
7 Common sense, right? Thing back, who
8 expected anyone to build a barn over
9 580 feet tall? If your neighbor saw a need
10 for a structure they certainly would not
11 have placed it where it could endanger you,
12 your family or your property. We have
13 never sought to limit any neighbor on the
14 agricultural use of their own or leased
15 property, but commercial industrial wind
16 power is not agriculture. It's not it
17 farming. Even if the wind companies call
18 them wind farms.

19 If wind-generated electricity were
20 economically viable, how many of the local
21 farmers have installed their own windmills?
22 Most have sizable barns and outbuildings.
23 Do you see any of the local farmers with
24 solar panels?

25 Does it ever concern the Ohio Power

1 Siting Board that these wind projects find
2 most of their support from those that will
3 never have a turbine near their home or
4 have their lives and property values
5 impacted by them or that the state
6 representatives that constantly proposed
7 reduction to setback laws already prohibits
8 industrial wind projects in their area?

9 In closing, I do not pretend to be an
10 expert in wind turbines, rather just a
11 citizen of Seneca County trying to protect
12 my home, my livelihood and my property.
13 Every thing comes at a price. The price of
14 these monstrosities in our health, safety,
15 environment property values and the
16 conserving of our precious land isn't worth
17 it. Remember, everything that glitters is
18 not gold. Thank you.

19 JUDGE SEE: Ms. Heckerd is up
20 next. Gene Thompson.

21 Ms. Heckerd, if you could raise your
22 right hand.

23 * * * * *

24 DEB HECKERD

25 being of lawful age, was first duly

1 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
2 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
3 hereinafter certified, testified and
4 said as follows:

5 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
6 spell your name for the record and your
7 township.

8 MS. HECKERD: Deb Heckerd,
9 D-E-B, Heckerd is H-E-C-K-E-R-D, and I
10 reside in Seneca County and I'm in Scipio
11 Township.

12 JUDGE SEE: Go ahead with your
13 testimony.

14 MS. HECKERD: I am in the
15 footpath of the proposed Seneca Wind
16 turbine project. I live on our family farm
17 which has been home to five generations in
18 my family.

19 I strongly oppose the wind turbine
20 project for so many reasons. I simply do
21 not feel 600-foot turbines have a place in
22 our rural community with our beautiful
23 sunsets rolling acres and we simply have
24 too many homes, schools and parks.

25 I looked up the definition of a farm

1 in the Merriam Webster dictionary, please
2 listen to this definition. An area of land
3 and its buildings used for growing crops,
4 rearing animals and typically under the
5 control of one owner or manager.

6 I do not think the proposed wind farms
7 should be referred to as a farm. It is
8 simply an area of land with clusters of
9 wind turbines for driving electrical
10 generators. These are wind power plants,
11 not farms.

12 Also, a very personal concern of mine
13 is the impact of 16 possible turbines
14 within 2 miles of Seneca East School
15 District. I personally am a proud graduate
16 of Seneca East. I have had three daughters
17 graduate from Seneca East and I currently
18 have three grandchildren attending Seneca
19 East School. I do not want to jeopardize
20 their safety with these turbines.

21 Thank you for your time and please
22 realize I do not feel Seneca County is a
23 good fit for an electrical power plant of
24 this magnitude. I urge you to deny this
25 application. Thank you. Thank you.

1 JUDGE SEE: Any cross for this
2 witness?

3 Dr. Roy Zinn? I think that's correct.

4 MR. ZINN: Correct.

5 JUDGE SEE: Mr. Thompson, if
6 you could raise your right hand?

7 * * * * *

8 GENE THOMPSON

9 being of lawful age, was first duly
10 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
11 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
12 hereinafter certified, testified and
13 said as follows:

14 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
15 your name for the record, provide us your
16 address and the township that you live in.

17 MR. THOMPSON: Gene Thompson, 265
18 East County Road 16, Tiffin. G-E-N-E,
19 T-H-O-M-P-S-O-N.

20 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Go ahead
21 with your testimony.

22 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Well, I'm
23 here in opposition of the project. My
24 position on the proposed Seneca County wind
25 farm is as follows:

1 First, the proposed wind farm will
2 host some of the tallest structures in
3 Ohio. Proposed 650-foot tall turbines are
4 perceived by myself and many others as
5 excessively tall, to the point that they
6 overwhelm the natural landscape. The
7 townships involved with suffer losses to
8 their aesthetic values. And whether or not
9 the loss of property value is considered a
10 legitimate argument, my personal choice is
11 never to be forced to live next door to a
12 monstrous tower that was forced on me by
13 some distant entity.

14 As for risk in other areas, as a
15 former licensed pilot, I see the structure
16 as a hazard to general aviation, as well as
17 emergency medivac flights.

18 As a follower of turbine development,
19 I see a real risk of the structural failure
20 in existing wind turbine blades. It is
21 known that these failures are already
22 easily capable of throwing their own debris
23 over 1500 feet. This becomes a safety
24 issue for anyone in the vicinity. Blade
25 failure then becomes an issue that cannot

1 be ignored. Existing setbacks of 1200 feet
2 do not correlate with 1500 blade throws.
3 Current setbacks are simply too short and
4 our area is too densely populated for this
5 project.

6 As an advocate for wildlife, I see
7 risk to migratory birds that travel back
8 and forth from Sandusky Bay to point south.
9 This same issue was presented as a lawsuit
10 against the Camp Perry turbine project and
11 subsequently the project was denied in June
12 of 2017. The Seneca Wind project is in the
13 same major portion of the North American
14 flyway.

15 As a taxpayer, I see the project as
16 artificially supported with funds that were
17 intended to give Ohioans the best bang for
18 their energy buck. As of today I do not
19 believe that we can say with any certainty
20 that wind turbines are the best investment.

21 Lastly, I can say with certainty that
22 in terms of innovation and power generation
23 that wind turbines are absolutely not the
24 last good idea. The problem as I see it is
25 wind farms have become a 20 to 30 year

1 commitment. Ongoing research into other
2 safe, efficient and clean power sources
3 tell us better sources are on the way and.
4 If that's concept seems like a stretch or
5 hard to understand, consider that how lucky
6 we are that nobody signed a 30 year lease
7 on the first cell phone. So my fear is
8 that if this isn't denied the things will
9 be built and somewhere in the next five to
10 ten years they're going to make a lot less
11 sense, they don't make any sense today,
12 they're going to make a lot less sense in a
13 few years. That's it.

14 JUDGE SEE: Any
15 cross-examination for this witness?

16 MR. BORCHERS: No.

17 JUDGE SEE: Thank you, sir.

18 Joyce Ziegler.

19 Mr. Zinn, if you'd raise your right
20 hand.

21 * * * * *

22 ROY ZINN

23 being of lawful age, was first duly
24 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
25 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as

1 hereinafter certified, testified and
2 said as follows:

3 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
4 your name for the record, give us your
5 address and the township that you live in.

6 MR. ZINN: Dr. Roy Zinn.
7 4766 South State Route 231, Tiffin, Ohio.
8 Eden Township. That's R-O-Y, middle
9 initial S as in Scott, Zinn, Z-I-N-N.

10 Thank you, your Honors and OS -- OPSB
11 Board, thank you for listening to us in
12 Seneca County.

13 I think that you are finding that an
14 overwhelming majority of my fellow citizens
15 in this county object to the industrial
16 wind turbines being placed here, proposed o
17 be placed here, from multiplicity of
18 reasons.

19 Just for reference, our property, my
20 wife and my property, is contiguous to the
21 footprint of the proposed Seneca Wind
22 project.

23 I would like to talk to you this
24 afternoon about the governmental support
25 that we taxpayers must burden ourselves

1 with for these projects. That's not under
2 your purveyance, and so I will only say,
3 that let's call a spade a spade. Seneca
4 Wind would not be here today in front of
5 you but for these huge gifts all on the
6 back of we taxpayers. And by the way,
7 Europe is building both wind and soldier --
8 solar projects at this point in time
9 without any subsidies. Just a thought.
10 And I know that's not your purveyance but I
11 have to give it.

12 I'd like to talk to you this afternoon
13 about three subjects and it might take
14 about six minutes.

15 First of all, you've heard a lot of
16 objections to the interaction between
17 proposed Seneca Wind project and we humans.
18 The key to that is the population density
19 of this county which has been stated
20 already as 101 and a fraction per square
21 mile. All of the human-oriented objections
22 that you have heard today to this project
23 stem from the relatively close proximity of
24 our area population to the structures and
25 their resultant dangers or alterations,

1 potential, potential alterations to our
2 immediate environment. That's the bottom
3 line.

4 One example, this project was designed
5 and it's been stated already this afternoon
6 with the setbacks safety distances that are
7 hundreds of feet shorter than the
8 documented blade throw reports that you in
9 your OPSB files have on record.

10 The legitimate concerns go on and on,
11 harmful infrasound sound, and by the way, I
12 too, have researched some of that data on
13 infrastructure sounds, and Dr. Berg and Dr.
14 Curran are, I hope you take seriously, not
15 necessarily what they say, but take
16 seriously the research that they have cited
17 to you.

18 The significant in decreased property
19 values probably haven't been brought to the
20 front as much today as they should have
21 been in my opinion. The harmful shadow
22 flicker. The objections go on almost ad
23 nauseam.

24 I'm not against wind energy but please
25 place industrial wind turbines where

1 there's a minimal interference with, or
2 danger to, human inhabitants. West Texas,
3 the panhandle of West Texas, where the
4 human population density is one to two
5 people per square mile, not 101 per square
6 mile. Yes, that's not in our state, but I
7 would submit to you that it totally makes
8 more sense to place our U.S. wind energy
9 there than here or other highly populated
10 areas. Let's use common sense in the
11 placement of our wind energy policies.

12 Second subject, parks, preserves and
13 natural areas. Natural areas are near and
14 dear to my heart. I served for 15 years as
15 a commissioner of the Seneca County Park
16 District. Being part of tens of thousands
17 of volunteer hours invested in the first 18
18 years of our park district, now voters in
19 the county have passed a ten year levy
20 providing for further development of our
21 ten parks. Our local citizens obviously
22 highly value natural areas.

23 Our nature preserves are resources in
24 and of themselves. They provide
25 preservation of plants, wildlife and they

1 geologic phenomenon. They provide areas
2 for we humans to recreate in and with
3 nature.

4 There are many studies delineating the
5 harmful effects of wind turbines on birds
6 and bats in particular, some have been
7 cited here today. I would cite for you,
8 for instance, the reference of U.S. Fish &
9 Wildlife Service, quote, Indiana Bat
10 Section 7 and Section 10 Guidance for Wind
11 Energy Project, end quote, and that was
12 revised 26 October 2011.

13 Wildlife do not stay in park property
14 districts or lines of boundary. Human
15 sight lines are limited to park boundaries.
16 Seneca County Park District in the
17 January 10, 2019 letter to the OPSB
18 requested a 2.5 mile radius turbine free
19 buffer zone be placed around our parks.
20 Bowen, Garlo and Forrest Nature Preserves
21 are particularly crowded by the currently
22 proposed turbine locations.

23 This request was not honored in the
24 OPSB Staff recommendations published three
25 weeks ago. I urge you to thoughtfully

1 consider this request in your final
2 deliberations.

3 Third and final issue, we have no
4 ultimate local determination, this is a
5 subject you've heard many times this
6 afternoon, also, and I know it's not up to
7 you, but I assure you that I and my fellow
8 Eden Township and Seneca County neighbors
9 are overwhelmingly opposed to industrial
10 wind installations here.

11 Under current law we cannot have a
12 local referendum on our balance ballot.
13 You, the appointed Ohio Power Siting Board
14 is omnipotent. We can't even vote you out
15 of office. Given this, I strongly suggest
16 that this Board needs to have more local
17 citizen input that it be much more
18 meaningful in the process. I ask you
19 Judges, how meaningful is it that this,
20 quote, public hearing, end quote, is being
21 held three weeks after the OPSB Staff
22 report was published on this application?

23 I've tried to stay big picture with my
24 testimony today, but it is not big picture
25 for my fellow citizens of this populated

1 county, it's our home. Do you wish to have
2 wind turbines next to or surrounding your
3 home? Hear us. Thank you.

4 JUDGE SEE: Any cross? Any
5 cross for this witness?

6 Thank you, sir.

7 Gary Lescallett?

8 Ms. Ziegler?

9 MS. ZIEGLER: Joyce Ziegler.

10 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Would you raise
11 your right hand?

12 * * * * *

13 JOYCE ZIEGLER

14 being of lawful age, was first duly
15 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
16 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
17 hereinafter certified, testified and
18 said as follows:

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: State and spell
20 your name for the record, give us your
21 address and township.

22 MS. ZIEGLER: Joyce Ziegler,
23 J-O-Y-C-E, Z-I-E-G-L-E-R. 7551 South
24 Township Road 171, Bloomville, Ohio, Bloom
25 Township.

1 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Go ahead with your
2 testimony.

3 MS. ZIEGLER: Okay. My
4 neighbors and family members are very
5 concerned about the industrial turbines
6 towering over our homes. As of how we were
7 sitting in the middle of 18 within a mile
8 and a half of my home. To the east we have
9 three which will shadow flicker my home in
10 the morning. I love to go outside and
11 watch the bird and have my morning coffee
12 and enjoy the sunrise. This is a luxury I
13 may have to give up. I get migraines, that
14 shadow flicker will set me off. I have an
15 autistic grandson with epilepsy, I don't
16 want to take them down to the basement when
17 the sun's coming up and when the sun's on
18 the other side of my house. Okay. And on,
19 um, the west side of my house there are six
20 proposed turbines, I can't imagine watching
21 the sunset with 18 spinning blades around
22 my home. My home is receptor 76, we are
23 listed as the number one non-participating
24 household with the most shadow flicker of
25 60 plus hours annually while the Ohio Power

1 Siting Board's maximum threshold is
2 supposed to be 30 hours per year, that's
3 twice as much as I am supposed to be, to
4 have. I object to the idea of having to
5 install blinds in my home to accommodate
6 this.

7 Wind noise above 45 decibels is
8 associated with adverse side effects.
9 Hearing loss, headaches, dizziness,
10 inability to sleep are just a few. Our
11 home is in the 50 to 55 decibel range,
12 again, that is too high. Studies are
13 coming out with stronger evidence of
14 cardiovascular and metabolic effects of
15 noise on the human body. But why put
16 people at risk for a project that cannot
17 support itself?

18 There are a lot of nice houses around
19 the proposed industrial turbines built by
20 hard working people with a dream of living
21 in a quiet country setting, little did we
22 know that some day we would be fighting for
23 what we worked so hard to acquire. With
24 infrasound, shadow flicker and the health
25 effects, some may be forced to sell their

1 home to save their health at a great value
2 of loss.

3 Another consider thing is karst, my
4 well water. You heard about that tonight.
5 And I read where Seneca County is at high
6 risk of contamination from well water. To
7 protect myself I will take samples to be
8 tested before and after if this comes
9 about.

10 I believe these huge industrial
11 turbines are not a good fit for the area.
12 They, they're too big, they pose a health
13 risk, take down property value and may hurt
14 my drinking water. Turbines of this size
15 should not be around people. The setbacks
16 are too close for the size of them. It has
17 been documented that blade throws have gone
18 as far as 1800 feet. Setbacks from our
19 properties are only like 1330. This does
20 not make sense to me. It's putting a
21 safety of the public at risk. People need
22 to be protected. This is a safety hazard
23 and should not be allowed.

24 On August 2, 2018, a wind turbine
25 caught fire in Arlington, Oregon. It

1 burned 2000 acres of brush and grass land,
2 took out two railroad bridges before it was
3 put out. The part that amazed me was
4 nobody was evacuated. These were placed in
5 open fields away from people. Can you
6 imagine 2000 acres here burning. That
7 would be a lot of homes lost.

8 I have seen videos of turbines on
9 fire, blades breaking, throwing debris in
10 the air and just plain falling over. They
11 cannot support themselves without any
12 taxpayers money. They do not improve the
13 planet, and have no enviromental impact
14 from them. Thank you.

15 JUDGE SEE: Any cross?

16 Ma'am, if you can give us your
17 statement so that the court reporter can
18 refer to. If we could have a copy of your
19 notes so the court reporter could refer to
20 it?

21 MS. ZIEGLER: Sure.

22 JUDGE SEE: Thank you. Julie
23 Meyer. Ms. Meyer?

24 Mr. Lescallett, could raise your right
25 hand?

* * * * *

GARY LESCALLETT

being of lawful age, was first duly
sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
hereinafter certified, testified and
said as follows:

JUDGE SEE: State and spell
your name for the record --

MR. LESCALLETT: My name is Gary --

JUDGE SEE: -- give your
address and your township. Sorry about
that.

MR. LESCALLETT: Gary Lescallett,
G-A-R-Y, L-E-S-C-A-L-L-E-T-T. I live at
3544 East County Road 6, Tiffin, Ohio in
Eden Township.

I've lived in Eden Township, Seneca
County since 1974. I'm speaking in
opposition to the construction of an
industrial wind farm by Seneca Wind.
Property values, health and safety of our
residents, quality of our well water being
damaged, loss of wildlife, loss of living
in a quiet rural community are equally

1 important and threatened by this project.

2 In Eden Township we voted in zoning
3 with laws and rules in order to avoid these
4 problems. Seneca Wind should abide by
5 these laws and rules also. I think that a
6 project of this magnitude and impact on a
7 community should be voted on by the
8 residents of that township as they are
9 directly affected.

10 Seneca Wind has disputed many of these
11 items I've stated through newspaper and
12 radio, articles and statements. If this
13 project is so beneficial to our county and
14 our concerns have no substance and factual
15 backing, why does Seneca Wind need good
16 neighbor contracts, which once are signed
17 by residents bordering easement holders,
18 they give up legal recourse against Seneca
19 Wind of mentioned health and safety issues
20 and the safe setbacks distance from their
21 home or property, property line, to me a
22 real red flag to this project.

23 All of these concerns and facts should
24 have been brought forth and answered to the
25 residents and elected officials before

1 easements were signed, good neighbor
2 contracts were signed, and decisions were
3 made by elected officials.

4 I urge the Ohio Siting Board to stop
5 Seneca Wind project and set up better
6 guidelines for the projects to provide
7 information, safety and honesty to the
8 residents and their elected officials of
9 future projects of this type. Thanks.

10 JUDGE SEE: Any cross? Any
11 cross for this witness?

12 MR. BORCHERS: No, Your Honor.

13 JUDGE SEE: Victoria Ziegler.
14 Victoria Ziegler.

15 Ms. Meyer, if you'd raise your right
16 hand?

17 * * * * *

18 JULIE MEYER

19 being of lawful age, was first duly
20 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
21 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
22 hereinafter certified, testified and
23 said as follows:

24 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
25 your name for the record --

1 MR. LESCALLETT: My name is --

2 JUDGE SEE: -- give us your
3 address and state your township.

4 MS. MEYER: Okay. My name is
5 Julie Meyer, J-U-L-I-E, M-E-Y-E-R. I live
6 at 142 Crestview Lane in Tiffin, which is
7 in Clinton Township technically.

8 JUDGE SEE: I'm sorry, repeat
9 that, please?

10 MS. MEYER: I live in Clinton
11 Township, I don't live in the City of
12 Tiffin.

13 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Go ahead
14 with your testimony.

15 MS. MEYER: I have no horses
16 in this race. I don't have any property
17 that's inside the impact zone. I do want
18 to thank everyone for their very thoughtful
19 and kind and heartfelt testimony this
20 evening, it means a lot.

21 Um, I do believe the future is in
22 wind. These gentlemen wouldn't be here if
23 it wasn't cost effective for them because
24 this is a capitalistic country. Nobody
25 gets anything free. Okay? Nobody does.

1 So they're not going to come here. The
2 wind is free but to capture it and use it
3 is not and we're all going to pay.

4 Right now we have oil, we have coal
5 and we have nuclear. Okay? Unless we can
6 figure out fusion, no one's going to go
7 with nuclear because we know what fission
8 does. Okay? Coal, in this country
9 90 percent of the coal used in this country
10 is bituminous. Okay? That is soft coal.
11 It is dirty coal. And anthracite is very
12 rare. It's in parts of Pennsylvania and
13 out west. They have to put coal -- they
14 have to put scrubbers on the plants that
15 operate along the Ohio River. Okay? They
16 did not do that by choice or to be
17 altruistic, they were forced to by
18 government. Okay?

19 There's no, nobody gets anything free.
20 And there are downfalls to wind, but it's
21 the best option because obviously Ohio
22 doesn't fall under sunshine too often,
23 there must be enough wind for them to be
24 interested or they would not come. That's
25 all I'm saying. I'm not saying I disagree

1 with everything that the opposition has to
2 say. I just think that wind is a viable
3 choice and we should take a good, hard look
4 at it.

5 As far as your land prices going down,
6 the people that live in Southeastern Ohio
7 and West Virginia, okay, they moved there,
8 the people have been there for hundreds of
9 years and they wanted to live by these
10 beautiful mountains. Guess what the coal
11 companies did? They blew the tops off the
12 mountains so they could strip mine. All
13 right? And they left them that way until
14 under government pressure they were forced
15 to cover them.

16 Nothing comes in this country free and
17 without a cost. You have to decide which
18 is more important, our future, okay, and a
19 lot of us are going to be under the ground
20 here, it's not going to be us that have to
21 pay the price, it's going to be our future
22 generations, but we make the decisions now.
23 That's all I have to say.

24 JUDGE SEE: Any cross for this
25 witness?

1 MR. SHUFF: No.

2 JUDGE SEE: Thank you very
3 much.

4 Mike Ziegler?

5 Victoria Ziegler, if you could raise
6 your right hand?

7 * * * * *

8 VICTORIA ZIEGLER

9 being of lawful age, was first duly
10 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
11 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
12 hereinafter certified, testified and
13 said as follows:

14 JUDGE SEE: I'm going to need
15 you to speak up and state and spell your
16 name for the record, provide us your
17 address and then state your township.

18 MS. ZIEGLER: My name is
19 Victoria Ziegler. I live at 120 Crestview
20 Drive, Tiffin, Ohio, Clinton Township.
21 V-I-C-K -- or V-I-C-T-O-R-I-A,
22 Z-I-E-G-L-E-R. I go by Vicki usually so
23 sorry about that.

24 I am here in, I propose that this is a
25 great opportunity for our community for

1 many reasons and I'm for this for many
2 reasons.

3 For 25 years I worked for a major
4 agriculture company and I had the
5 opportunity to travel all over the United
6 States, places that I never thought I would
7 go. And in the nineties I started to see
8 wind turbine farms. I saw them in Texas,
9 California, which is highly populated, I
10 saw them in Hawaii, Wyoming, and just
11 recently I got a phone call from a friend
12 of mine that lives in Denver and there was
13 a wind turbine project put up in Denver and
14 is now producing clean energy and their
15 electric bill went half price because of
16 this wind turbine project.

17 For us in this community I think the
18 economic benefits that will come from this
19 project are just so much and all the
20 residents of this county will be able to
21 benefit from it, not only our schools to
22 help with the education of our children,
23 but also the townships that need money to
24 repair roads that quite a few of us travel
25 every day, but our county hopefully will

1 receive money, also, and our county
2 officials will wisely invest that money so
3 that all residents in this county will
4 benefit.

5 I recently went over to Van Wert
6 County and I just drove up and down the
7 roads and I stopped, if somebody was out in
8 their yard I'd stop, and I had a friend
9 with me and we just asked, what's the pros
10 and cons of what you went through for the
11 wind turbine project that came through
12 here? We talked to a dairy farmer, we
13 talked to a truck driving company where the
14 truck drivers were out moving semis and
15 moving rigs around, we talked to their
16 numerous drivers, we talked to their
17 coordinator, we talked to just an
18 individual who was out mowing their yard,
19 and never once did we get a negative
20 comment. They were all informed. They
21 were all for it. They all said how
22 wonderful it was. And one individual said,
23 look at this road, our township was able to
24 widen this road so now that when there's a
25 piece of farm equipment going down this

1 one-lane road it's now twice as wide and we
2 don't have to get down in the ditch to
3 avoid a collision. They also informed me
4 that in their county they were in need of
5 the law enforcement, the deputies needing
6 new equipment and they were all able to
7 upgrade their equipment.

8 So for me, I'm, I am for this because
9 I want to see the economic growth that this
10 project can bring to this county. Thank
11 you.

12 JUDGE SEE: Any cross for this
13 witness?

14 Thank you. Do you have a witness
15 statement?

16 MS. ZIEGLER: No.

17 JUDGE SEE: Becky Wilhelm. Is
18 there a Ms. Wilhelm here?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think she left.

20 JUDGE SEE: I'm sorry?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think she left.

22 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Thank you.
23 Christina Popa, Popa, Popa?

24 MS. POPA: Yeah, I'm here.

25 JUDGE SEE: You're next at

1 this podium then.

2 Mr. Ziegler?

3 MR. ZIEGLER: My name is --

4 JUDGE SEE: Mr. Ziegler, if
5 you could raise your right hand.

6 * * * * *

7 MIKE ZIEGLER

8 being of lawful age, was first duly
9 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
10 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
11 hereinafter certified, testified and
12 said as follows:

13 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
14 your name for the record, give us your
15 address and state the township you live in.

16 MR. ZIEGLER: My name is Mike
17 Ziegler, M-I-K-E, Z-I-E-G-L-E-R. I live at
18 8240 South Township Road 171, Bloomville,
19 Ohio, 44818.

20 JUDGE SEE: And the township,
21 sir?

22 MR. ZIEGLER: Eden Township,
23 Seneca County.

24 JUDGE SEE: Thank you. Go
25 ahead with your testimony.

1 MR. ZIEGLER: I proudly live in
2 Seneca County, Eden Township on my family
3 farm. There are seven residents within our
4 square mile of that farm. My father lived
5 there, his father lived there. I heartily
6 support sPower with respect to the Seneca
7 Wind project. The wind turbine project
8 will bring dollars to Seneca County, tax
9 dollars. The wind farm will bring much
10 needed revenue to the oppressed farm
11 sector, but almost more important Seneca
12 Wind will produce clean and renewable
13 energy.

14 I urge the Board to review the facts
15 and grant the appropriate permits to
16 construct and operate this Seneca Wind
17 Farm. Thank you.

18 JUDGE SEE: Thank you.

19 Any cross for this witness?

20 Sir, would you have a copy of your
21 statement that you wish like to leave with
22 us?

23 David Becker -- 1336 East Township
24 Road. I think it's David A. Beckerman?

25 MR. BECKER: Becker.

1 JUDGE SEE: Spell your last
2 name, sir.

3 MR. BECKER: B-E-C-K-E-R.

4 JUDGE SEE: Okay, couldn't get
5 the writing.

6 Ms. Popa, if you'd raise your right
7 hand.

8 * * * * *

9 CHRISTINA POPA

10 being of lawful age, was first duly
11 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
12 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
13 hereinafter certified, testified and
14 said as follows:

15 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
16 your name for the record, tell us your
17 address and township you live in.

18 MS. POPA: My name is
19 Christina Popa, C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A, last
20 name is P-O-P-A. I live at 3336 Willoughly
21 Road, that's in Willard, Ohio, it's in
22 Richmond Township Huron County, but I am on
23 the Huron-Seneca County line.

24 My husband and I have lived in our
25 home since 1988. We have had people visit

1 and spend the night at our a arise in the
2 morning and comment on how quiet and dark
3 it is where we live. We are not lease
4 holders and we have not signed a good
5 neighbors agreement with any wind company.
6 We have received a letter from an attorney
7 from sPower informing us that we will be in
8 the footprint of this Seneca Wind project
9 and from another attorney stating that we
10 would also be in the footprint of Apex's
11 Emerson Creek project.

12 We are opposed to these wind projects
13 being built for many reasons. The effects
14 of these wind turbines will negatively
15 impact our quality of life and our ability
16 to enjoy our property as we currently do.

17 The nighttime darkness will be
18 disturbed by the turbine lighting required
19 by the FAA. The red flashing lights from
20 the turbines could have negative effect on
21 residents who currently experience dark
22 skies at night.

23 Health concerns include shadow flicker
24 which can cause headache, nausea, vertigo,
25 impaired cognition and stress. Audible

1 noise is another concern. The gearbox is a
2 source of noise which has been described as
3 high pitched, whining sound compared to a
4 jet engine taking off. Turbulence on the
5 moving turbine blades creates a whooshing
6 noise that keeps changing in pitch and
7 loudness. Noise from a turbine can be
8 broadcasted outward, depending upon
9 variable conditions. Noise could be
10 troublesome at night when the air on the
11 ground is still and the air at the hub
12 height is in motion.

13 Wind turbines produce low frequency
14 and infrasound which cannot be heard. At
15 infrasound frequencies, pressure waves
16 exist and may be detected by the body and
17 brain as pressure sensations via a
18 different mechanism than the perception of
19 audible noise. Infrasound can be compared
20 to ultraviolet light. You cannot see
21 ultraviolet light but we know it is there
22 and can cause problems. The same is true
23 of infrasound. Although we cannot hear it,
24 it can cause multiple health concerns for
25 some people. One concern is the inability

1 to sleep and sleep deprivation can cause
2 health problems. Other health issues
3 related to infrasound are headaches,
4 dizziness, nausea, vertigo, blurred vision,
5 and unsteady movement. Long-terms effects
6 of infrasound include changes in heart and
7 lung tissue. The only thing that can
8 protect the homeowner is a greater distance
9 from the wind turbines.

10 Although the wind industry would like
11 to classify all of these as an annoyance.
12 I believe that non-participating residents
13 should not have to be exposed to the shadow
14 flicker, the noise and infrasound.

15 We are opposed to the Seneca Wind Farm
16 being constructed.

17 And then I've not as smart as some of
18 some these people that spoke ahead of me on
19 infrasound and they did great research, but
20 I've done a lot of reading in the last year
21 and if you'd like I'll give you my
22 bibliography.

23 JUDGE SEE: Any cross for this
24 witness?

25 Thank you.

1 MR. BORCHERS: (Indicating.)
2 JUDGE SEE: Dale Eberhart.
3 Dale Eberhart? Karen Poppenber? Karen
4 Poppenberg? Matt, Kom -- hum,
5 K-O-M-Y-E-R -- E-H maybe? County Road 12.

6 Holly Motive? Come forward to the
7 podium.

8 Mr. Becker?

9 MR. BECKER: Yes.

10 JUDGE SEE: If you could raise
11 your right hand.

12 * * * * *

13 DAVID BECKER

14 being of lawful age, was first duly
15 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
16 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
17 hereinafter certified, testified and
18 said as follows:

19 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
20 your name for the record, give us your
21 address and the township you live in.

22 MR. BECKER: It's David Becker,
23 D-A-V-I-D, B-E-C-K-E-R. 13365 East
24 Township Road 8, Republic, Ohio, 44867.

25 JUDGE SEE: And the township

1 you live in, sir?

2 MR. BECKER: Pardon?

3 JUDGE SEE: What township do
4 you live in?

5 MR. BECKER: Reed Township.

6 JUDGE SEE: Thank you. Go
7 ahead with your testimony. Go ahead.

8 MR. BECKER: First of all,
9 welcome OPS Board to Tiffin and Seneca
10 County. On your travel in you must have
11 noticed many No Wind Turbines signs in
12 Seneca County. I hope you also noticed the
13 lovely view.

14 A majority of Seneca County residents
15 do not want wind turbines. Study has been
16 taken in Germany, Canada and most recently
17 Maine, Michigan and Indiana as to the
18 effect of infrasound and light flicker.
19 All have different methods of research, but
20 all came to the same conclusion, both are
21 harmful to humans, livestock and wildlife.

22 Many wind turbine contract holders
23 were told there were no harmful effects and
24 turbines would be 300-foot tall. Well, now
25 wind companies are saying 600 to 650. And

1 what else have they got to lie about?

2 In my trip out west and seeing large
3 wind turbine farms I saw no buildings, and
4 as somebody has mentioned in commercials.
5 I talked to locals who said yes, wind
6 companies replaced roads, bridges,
7 everything, however, between three and five
8 years after they did that the State had to
9 come in and redo them all because of shoddy
10 construction.

11 Now many land contract owners don't
12 live anywhere near their turbine cites,
13 which is very disturbing to many in the
14 area.

15 The people of Seneca County want a say
16 in the decision for or against wind
17 turbines.

18 You may have seen many advisements on
19 TV for different products, but if you look
20 in the background you will see wind
21 turbines, however, you don't see human
22 residents, you see barns or other
23 structures.

24 Whereas there's a copy of your
25 guidelines, excuse me, also, there's a copy

1 of your guidelines that certify
2 applicants -- oops, sorry. Page extra.

3 On the island of Hawaii there's wind
4 turbines on the south shore area, which
5 were a, which were a 20-year project but
6 lasted less than ten. Now, they are giant
7 rusted monuments lining the shores.

8 Some western states with large
9 turbines have a population of two persons
10 per square mile. Here in Seneca County we
11 have 100 plus as dictated before.

12 If you travel to Maine, Michigan or
13 western New York you will see wind
14 turbines, however they were mostly located
15 in density wooded areas and on top of
16 mountains. If you find roads to one you
17 will find fences with warning and danger
18 signs posted on them. The word warning is
19 just that, it's a warning, but the danger
20 sign is frightful.

21 Board members, I have statements in
22 print with concerns, facts, figures and
23 statement results. Please go over these
24 papers. I have underlined what I think are
25 important facts and pictures.

1 Also, there's a copy of your
2 guidelines to certify applicants which
3 states local citizen concerns.

4 I'm told it takes 1700 wind turbines
5 to produce the same energy as one nuclear
6 power plant. Those turbines will produce
7 more CO2s than that power plant. With the
8 newfound efficiency technology of nuclear
9 power waste has been reduced to 1 to 2
10 percent and is safely destroyed on site.

11 One last big question remains, what
12 provision in writing has been made to
13 remove these structures when disabled or
14 run their course? And I will gladly pay
15 that extra dollar a month for a nuclear
16 source of electricity. Thank you.

17 JUDGE SEE: Thank you. Any
18 cross for this witness?

19 Thank you, sir. If we can have your
20 statement up here.

21 Robert Manz. Is Mr. Manz, Robert
22 Manz? Thank you, sir, to the podium to my
23 right.

24 Ms. Motil?

25 MS. MOTIL: Yes, thank you.

1 JUDGE SEE: Raise your right
2 hand.

3 MS. MOTIL: Oh sorry.

4 * * * * *

5 HOLLY MOTIL

6 being of lawful age, was first duly
7 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
8 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
9 hereinafter certified, testified and
10 said as follows:

11 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
12 your name for the record and tell us what
13 township you live in and give us your home
14 address.

15 MS. MOTIL: Holly, H-O-L-L-Y,
16 Motil, M-O-T-I-L. My address is 7545
17 Knauss, that's spelled K-N-A-U-S-S, Road,
18 that's Bloomville, Ohio, 44818. I live in
19 Lykens Township, which is actually just
20 past the, um, Seneca-Crawford County line,
21 so I'm in Crawford County, but I am in the
22 shadow of this footprint, and I'm in the
23 middle of the Honey Creek project that is
24 proposed as well.

25 JUDGE SEE: Okay.

1 MS. MOTIL: Okay. To be
2 honest, I have so many notes and I know
3 what I was going to say but so many people
4 have already said it so much better than me
5 and so I feel like, um, my purpose for
6 being here today is just, in some many of
7 these types of projects I think we forget
8 the human element and we forget that their
9 are people involved. And so that's why I'm
10 here is to be a face and a representative
11 for my community so you can see how this
12 will drastically affect me and my husband
13 and our six children every single day. And
14 our community.

15 My husband is a mechanical engineer by
16 degree. Is he plant manager at this point.
17 And we have purposely chosen to live here
18 instead of in Cleveland where his family is
19 from, which is a significant pay
20 difference, but because we love the peace
21 and tranquility of the country, and that's
22 where we are where we were.

23 As a matter of know we have our
24 Christmas, Motil Christmas every year at
25 our house and his family loves it, they

1 adore coming down here because they love
2 their Christmas in the country, Why?
3 Because it's peaceful. Because it's quiet.
4 Because they have uninterrupted views all
5 around them. The sunsets and the sunrises
6 rival sunsets and sunrises I've seen almost
7 anywhere in our country and I've been to 35
8 of the states. It is such an opportunity
9 to be able to have that. And there are
10 many things that we give up in order to do
11 that. Our closest gas station is 8 miles
12 away. We pay more for our homeowners
13 insurance because our, we have volunteer
14 firefighters, they aren't as close to us.
15 There are all kinds of things. When we had
16 to call an ambulance for my son a couple
17 years ago it takes longer to get those kind
18 of things there. So those a compromises
19 that we make so that we can have the
20 privilege of living in the country, of
21 having that peaceful solitude that living
22 in the country offers us.

23 Where I am at just in between my house
24 and my mother's house that is in Melbourne
25 we will have nine industrial wind turbines

1 in between us that are at least 600feet
2 tall, but possibly 652, I'm not sure in
3 those exact locations how tall they'll be.
4 It's a 3-mile drive and we will have nine
5 of them in between us higher than most of
6 the skyscrapers that were from the city
7 that my husband is from. And, um, we will
8 be surrounded. If the Honey Creek project
9 goes through we will have them also on our
10 east, west and our south sides as well.

11 And so I'm coming to you as a, as a
12 citizen of our country, of our state,
13 somebody who has a long history in this
14 community. My family has been here for
15 well over 100 years, um, and on this land.

16 And I'm so concerned for the damage to
17 our roads when they're just installing
18 them, just trying to get things of that
19 size, I've heard so many stories about when
20 they have installed other things and I know
21 what happened to our roads when the
22 pipeline was installed, and I know of roads
23 that were never repaired because they
24 didn't think they were heavily traveled
25 enough so they weren't significant enough

1 to repair. That's a concern for me.

2 I wonder if my family will no longer
3 have the chance of sighting Bald Eagles a
4 couple times each month, because we do
5 right now just with our, our naked eyes
6 driving around or taking walks we get to
7 see Bald Eagles on a regular basis.

8 I wonder if I'll have to install
9 blinds and/or curtains to block flickering
10 lights and shadow flicker in my house and
11 then steal the view of the beautiful
12 landscape that is normally enjoyed every
13 day.

14 I wonder if my husband and my
15 children, several of which are prone to
16 very extreme motion sickness and also
17 vertigo-type symptoms, is this going to
18 affect their health, their quality of life?
19 And if it does will we be able to sell our
20 house and even relocate because of being in
21 the middle of such a massive wind farm and
22 if we can, how much of a loss are we going
23 to have to take on the house just so that
24 we can relocate for their health?

25 And so these are just a lot of my

1 concerns. But, again, I just wanted to be
2 another face for you guys to consider as
3 you're deciding this and I appreciate so
4 much your willingness to let us be here and
5 to voice our concerns.

6 JUDGE SEE: Any cross for this
7 witness?

8 Ms. Motil, did you make a statement
9 that you'd be willing to leave?

10 MS. MOTIL: I don't think it
11 would be helpful at this point because it's
12 all messed up. Thank you, though.

13 JUDGE SEE: Okay. Thank. You
14 no problem.

15 Miranda Zerger?

16 Brad Zerger?

17 Dennis Galt?

18 MR. ALT: Alt, A-L-T?

19 JUDGE SEE: State Route 4?

20 MR. ALT: Yes.

21 JUDGE SEE: Come forward.

22 Yeah, A-L-T, is that what --

23 MR. ALT: Yes.

24 JUDGE SEE: Mr. Manz.

25 * * * * *

1 ROBERT MANZ

2 being of lawful age, was first duly
3 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
4 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
5 hereinafter certified, testified and
6 said as follows:

7 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
8 your name, give us your address and your
9 township you live in.

10 MR. MANZ: I am Robert Manz,
11 it's M-A-N-Z. I live at 225 East Township
12 Road 42, Tiffin, Eden Township.

13 I'm a lifelong resident of Seneca
14 County. Carolyn, my wife and I, have been
15 residents of Eden Township for 44 years.
16 I'm the current and long-time chairperson
17 of the Eden Township Board of Zoning
18 Appeals. I am absolutely appalled at the
19 thought of industrial wind turbines being
20 placed anywhere near our homes.

21 Local zoning is for the protection of
22 those living within a designated area.
23 They move into our area knowing what the
24 possibility are, we happen to be totally
25 agriculture. Yet, the proposed IWFs

1 violate the entire purpose of zoning rules.
2 Undoubtedly, Section 49506.13 of the Ohio
3 Revised Code, which provides the wind
4 entities the ability to construct and
5 operate wind farms without adhering or
6 answering to local jurisdiction,
7 undoubtedly came about because of the
8 lobbying arms of big wind. Consequently,
9 those of us most directly affected by these
10 so-called farms are left with little to no
11 say in these matters that can drastically
12 change our lives.

13 As a member or representative of the
14 Ohio Power Siting Board, you have a
15 responsibility to the citizens of Ohio.
16 Not to local investors whose only interest
17 in Ohio and Seneca County is to try to make
18 money. One thing these big wind companies
19 have learned about our county is that we
20 have very protective of and passionate
21 about maintaining our rural lifestyle.

22 Hopefully, the Siting Board members
23 will take time to visit our area. Ask
24 yourself, would I want to destroy this
25 scenic county with machines taller than any

1 building in Columbus?

2 The OPSB much determine need for such
3 projects as Seneca Wind. This need
4 criterion goes beyond the so-called need
5 for more power and has a different
6 definition for the residents in the
7 proximity of the massive machines which are
8 proposed. We do not need to have not only
9 our county but surrounding counties'
10 viewshed destroyed, possibly forever, by
11 monestrous 600-plus tall structures.
12 Remember, what's being proposed is among
13 the tallest in the nation.

14 According to the website of the
15 controlling entity in this case, sPower,
16 the operate only two wind farms, which are
17 located in Utah and Wyoming. Those
18 projects are in areas with population
19 densities of 1.87 persons per square mile
20 in 2014 for Utah, and 3.24 persons per
21 square mile, again 2014, for the Wyoming
22 project. You have heard numerous times the
23 Seneca County population density of over
24 100 persons per square mile.

25 Obviously, sPower has no experience in

1 dealing with construction, logistics or
2 anything else which requires alteration in
3 magnitude as proposed by the intended
4 turbines within such populated area as
5 Seneca County. We do not need to be
6 someone's experimental ground.

7 The application filed by Seneca Wind
8 contains studies of some of the common
9 hazards associated with turbines. Portions
10 of such studies exceed the standards of
11 flicker, which the OPSB Board says 30 hours
12 a year, which should be zero for
13 non-participating properties, let alone the
14 aviary study and probable loss of eagles
15 and other wildlife.

16 Per the applicants owns studies, the
17 noise produced by the proposed turbines, in
18 numerous situations, exceeds the recent
19 World Health Organization standard of below
20 45 decibels.

21 I doubt that sPower, due to the
22 inexperience in populated areas, has had to
23 deal with roadway construction and after
24 effects caused by hauling thousands of
25 loads of materials, 75,000 to 80,000 pounds

1 each, in vehicles exceeding 200 feet in
2 lengths over such frequently traveled
3 roadways.

4 We do not need, and should not be
5 subjected, to any of the hazards attributed
6 to and those to be discovered in such wind
7 projects.

8 If these proposed wind farms are to be
9 so great for our community, why is it that
10 the industrial wind farm entities are
11 opposed to the Reineke Referendum? Could
12 it be a fear that the residents of the
13 effected townships simply do not want these
14 projects?

15 Seneca and neighboring counties are
16 not the location for any of these
17 industrial wind farms.

18 Thank you for your time.

19 JUDGE SEE: Mr. Manz, hold up
20 for just a second. Any cross for Mr. Manz?

21 Hearing no cross for the witness.

22 Thank you very much.

23 Jim Donaldson. Jim Donaldson?

24 Jason Smith? Jason Smith?

25 Mr. Alt, if you could raise your right

1 hand.

2 * * * * *

3 DENNIS ALT

4 being of lawful age, was first duly
5 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
6 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
7 hereinafter certified, testified and
8 said as follows:

9 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
10 your name for the record, provide us your
11 address and the township.

12 MR. ALT: Name's Dennis J.
13 Alt, D-E-N-N-I-S, J, Alt, A-L-T. Live at
14 1448 State Route 4, Bellevue, Ohio. That's
15 in Sherman Township. I, unfortunately, am
16 in the viewshed of this Seneca Wind and I
17 also am impacted by Emerson Creek Wind.

18 Going back to an article advertised in
19 The Tribune back in February put in there
20 by pro wind people, I am lucky enough to be
21 close enough to an area that I'll be able
22 to county 200 of these wonderful machines
23 at one time if everything goes the way they
24 are proposed and I am not very happy about
25 that.

1 I would like to thank the Ohio Power
2 Siting Board members present here today for
3 the opportunity to address my concerns for
4 the Seneca Wind project.

5 My concerns are about the children and
6 visitors to the Seneca East School complex
7 located outside Attica Ohio on State Route
8 224. Seneca East School complex is a newer
9 facility built and opened during the
10 2007-2008 school year. It was built with
11 great pride and community input and if you
12 visit it today you will see that it is
13 still flourishing.

14 The Seneca Wind project has 16
15 turbines located within 2-mile circle of
16 it, it will be surrounded, an island. The
17 biggest concern is Turbine Number 20
18 located roughly 1400 feet the from the
19 property line of the Seneca East Schools
20 and almost due north of it. It is closest
21 to the buildings and elementary playground,
22 bus loading and unloading, parking lot,
23 junior high football and soccer field.
24 This is a public facility for all of the
25 people of the community to use and enjoy.

1 My concern is the public safety and blade
2 throw.

3 The blade on a proposed turbine could
4 be between 225 feet to 265 feet long and
5 weighing between 30 and 70 tons per
6 manufacturer. They are huge, and the speed
7 of the tip of the blade is moving between
8 the average speed of around 157 miles per
9 hour to the extreme of 330-plus mile per
10 hour. The blade throw of a 2 to 3-megawatt
11 turbine moving at an average speed of
12 around 157 miles per hour would be
13 1640 feet, and an over 5-megawatt turbine
14 2953 feet. At the extreme speed of 2 -- at
15 the extreme speed of 2 to 3-megawatt
16 turbine blade throw would be 2655 feet, and
17 a 5-megawatt turbine 4521 feet. The
18 proposed setbacks are inadequate to protect
19 the children and the citizens at that
20 school.

21 In testimony given before the PUCO on
22 April 30, 2019, you were given information
23 and documents on blade throw in Ohio that
24 has happened. The distance pieces were
25 thrown from the reports range from 700 to

1 1500 feet and sizes of bricks to others
2 weighing over 6 pounds. That puts the
3 playground, junior high football and soccer
4 field, parking lot, bus loading and
5 unloading, in danger.

6 You could ask how do you measure that
7 distance of Turbine 20, you use the
8 information given by Seneca Wind in their
9 application, and Google Maps. The sad part
10 is none of the reported incidents were from
11 turbines that are going to be built around
12 Seneca East Schools.

13 Safety should be -- the procedure
14 outlined in the standard industrial wind
15 turbines mishaps is to move 1600 feet back
16 from the turbine and watch it do whatever
17 it's going to do. Most manufacturers
18 recommend at least a 1.1 times the height
19 of the turbine, and some even suggest 2.1
20 times the height of the turbines considered
21 safe. At with what point do we stop
22 sending our children to a public place, as
23 school, a safe haven, as to not put them in
24 harms way?

25 Safety should be the utmost concern

1 when around machines and especially
2 something as big as these proposed
3 industrial turbines of which we are unknown
4 to most of us around here.

5 Children are our future the ones we
6 work so hard to protect and provide every
7 opportunity for their education. They will
8 become our legacy. Let's make sure they
9 are safe.

10 In closing the agency's number one
11 priority has to be public safety. But it
12 is clear to everyone that public safety has
13 not been sufficiently addressed in the
14 design of this project. Please make it
15 your higher priority in your final
16 decision. Thank you.

17 JUDGE SEE: Any
18 cross-examination for this witness? Sir,
19 hold for just a second, please.

20 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: You mentioned the
21 turbine manufacturer manual that had 2.1 --

22 MR. MANZ: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: -- setback
24 requirement. Can you give us the name of
25 the manufacturer, by any chance?

1 MR. MANZ: No, I can not, I

2 --

3 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: If it occurs to
4 you or in your research, would you be kind
5 enough to send it to us?

6 MR. MANZ: Yes, I would.

7 I'll do that.

8 JUDGE SEE: Thank you.

9 MR. MANZ: Thank you.

10 JUDGE SEE: Any cross other
11 than Chairman Randazzo? Thank you. Thank
12 you, sir.

13 Mr. Smith?

14 MR. SMITH: Yes.

15 JUDGE SEE: Marylou Borgner.

16 Marylou Borgner?

17 Kathy Yost?

18 MS. YOST: Here.

19 JUDGE SEE: Thank you.

20 Mr. Smith, if could you raise your
21 right hand.

22 * * * * *

23 JASON SMITH

24 being of lawful age, was first duly

25 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the

1 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
2 hereinafter certified, testified and
3 said as follows:

4 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
5 your name for the record, provide us your
6 address and the township you live in.

7 MR. SMITH: Name is Jason
8 Smith, J-A-S-O-N, S-M-I-T-H. And --

9 JUDGE SEE: Address?

10 MR. SMITH: -- address is 5514
11 East Township Road 130, Republic, Ohio.

12 JUDGE SEE: Township you live
13 in?

14 MR. SMITH: Scipio Township.
15 Scipio.

16 JUDGE SEE: Thank you. Go
17 ahead, please.

18 MR. SMITH: Again, my name's
19 Jason Smith. I would like to thank you for
20 the opportunity to comment on the potential
21 industrial wind turbine complex proposal.

22 I called it an industrial complex
23 because with the approval of this project
24 by the Ohio Power Siting Board, will result
25 in essentially converting thousands of

1 acres of farmland, which is currently zoned
2 agricultural, into a industrial complex
3 will remained zoned agriculture.

4 Many concerns I, as well as thousands
5 of other county residents, have with these
6 machines include but are not limited to,
7 the excessive noise level of the machines
8 themselves, which are often times higher
9 than the World Health Organization deems
10 healthy, shadow flicker, the loss of the
11 protected Bald Eagle population, which we
12 see nearly once a week, um, as well as
13 other wildlife damages, infrasound and the
14 harmful resulting effects, which is still
15 being studied today as the effects are not
16 fully understood by the science community,
17 property value loss and obstructed air
18 travel.

19 With all the issues stated, one in
20 particular, one particular issues concerns
21 me more than any other. What county
22 landowners choose to do with their property
23 is their business and their right. I know
24 this, also, as I'm a landowner myself,
25 non-participating. As long as those plans

1 do not interfere with my rights and my
2 families' rights, my neighbors' rights, et
3 cetera. In the case of the wind turbine
4 discussion these 600 to 650 towering moving
5 machines will all but eliminate aerial
6 rescue abilities. The lack of heli-rescue
7 operations in the eastern part of Seneca
8 County as well as the southern part of
9 Seneca County puts myself, my family, as
10 well as my friends and my neighbors at
11 risk. I have a nine year old son and an 11
12 year old daughter. God forbid I, I or they
13 ever need these services, however, should
14 they need them I want and need to know that
15 they're available. If these projects move
16 forward the entire eastern and southern
17 part of your county will essentially be cut
18 off from emergency medivac services. Not
19 only because of the sheer size of the
20 location of the turbines, but also because
21 of the wake they create which can be felt
22 by an aircraft up to 3 miles away from each
23 machine. This wind turbulence, AKA wake,
24 which is visible on radar, creates an area
25 in which aircraft cannot penetrate safely,

1 specifically helicopters. Due to the sheer
2 size, congestion, and eminent wake much of
3 the rural eastern and southern portions of
4 our county will be off limits to airborne
5 rescue services.

6 I took a section out of an article
7 that I've been reading on and a pilot, a
8 medivac pilot names Ray Slavic, he's
9 retired EMS pilot who has flown for over 20
10 years for a Life Flight-type program. When
11 he was asked, do you feel that an EMS pilot
12 would be able to land near a large wind
13 turbine even if they shut them off? His
14 response, quote, don't kid yourself, they
15 will most likely not land anywhere in the
16 county where the turbines are located, I
17 have arrived at many accident scenes before
18 the sheriffs department. We, helicopter
19 and crew, are often three-quarter of the
20 way to an accident scene before the
21 sheriffs department or other people in
22 authority arrive on the scene. The first
23 responders often make the first call and we
24 are on the way. Time is the important
25 issue and that is the reason for the EMS

1 flights. The sooner we arrive for the
2 transport the better the chance of saving
3 that life. Remember the reason we are here
4 is to be able to transport patients to the
5 nearest trauma center as soon as possible.
6 If the patient needs to be transported by
7 ground to a location free of turbines or to
8 the local medical center instead of a
9 direct pick up from the accident scene
10 valuable time is lost and that is what the
11 EMS helicopter program is all about.

12 Among the many, many other reasons
13 that these wind turbines should not be
14 built, to me and my family this is the most
15 important and directly effects my rights to
16 emergency medical treatment. For that
17 reason I request that the Ohio Power Siting
18 Board does not allow this project to move
19 forward in our region. Thank you.

20 JUDGE SEE: Any cross? Any
21 cross for this witness?

22 Thank you sir. Do you have a copy of
23 your statement?

24 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

25 JUDGE SEE: Thank you.

1 Bill Harpel. Bill Harpel?

2 Laurie Shellhouse. Shellhouse.

3 Laurie Shellhouse? Thank you.

4 Ms. Yost, if you could raise your
5 right hand?

6 * * * * *

7 KATHLEEN YOST

8 being of lawful age, was first duly
9 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
10 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
11 hereinafter certified, testified and
12 said as follows:

13 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
14 your name for the record, give us your
15 address and the township you live in.

16 MS. YOST: My name is
17 Kathleen, K-A-T-H-L-E-E-N, Yost, Y-O-S-T.
18 I live at 3206 South County Road 7, Tiffin.
19 That's in Seneca Township. I am not in the
20 footprint of any of these turbine project
21 but I do have something to say.

22 JUDGE SEE: Go ahead.

23 MS. YOST: I would like to
24 address the more than 14,000 abandoned wind
25 turbines currently sited in the United

1 State. There are at least three abandoned
2 project sites in California and five in
3 Hawaii, with more scattered throughout many
4 other states. The wind companies promise
5 at the beginning to have a bond to cover
6 decommissioning and removing turbines that
7 are no longer viable, but after many sales
8 to different investment groups, that
9 promise is not being kept and these
10 eyesores are what the residents need to
11 live with for years to come, possibly
12 decades.

13 The bases of these turbines are 25 to
14 30 feet deep. They need to blast through
15 bedrock to build the bases. What is that
16 going to do to our aquifers and wells? I
17 have read testimony from people living in
18 other areas with turbines and they have
19 stated that it has affected their wells,
20 sometimes the water is almost black.
21 Living in the country we only have our
22 wells to bring clean, fresh water into our
23 homes.

24 For the past 20 years or so Seneca
25 County has actively trying to reintroduce

1 the Bald Eagle into this area. And we have
2 done a terrific job. We now have dozens of
3 nesting pairs. Wind companies like to say
4 the cats kill more birds in the U.S. than
5 turbines and I'm sure that's true. But
6 cats kill robins, sparrows, starlings and
7 other small birds that are not endangered.
8 Cats do not kill eagles, hawks, owls and
9 other large birds. Turbines also kill bats
10 which are beneficial to area farmers, and
11 even family gardeners, so that they can use
12 less and spend less on pesticides. Seneca
13 County has many nature preserves with the
14 very purpose of providing habitat for a
15 variety of native wildlife and plants, and
16 at least three of these are in the
17 footprint of the turbines. All those years
18 of nurturing these birds will be for
19 naught.

20 And this is an aside, I have pictures
21 of eagles on my cell phone because I was so
22 excited to see them that I have them.

23 Many rural areas of our county are
24 zoned for agriculture, residential and some
25 commercial use. What is the purpose of

1 local zoning laws if industrial-use
2 turbines are allowed on thousands of acres?
3 I can assure you none of the people living
4 in these areas never thought they would be
5 living in and industrial zone.

6 And one woman mentioned Whirlpool in
7 Findlay. In Findlay Whirlpool has six
8 turbines and they are one-third the size of
9 what is proposed for our county. And they
10 are already in an industrial zone.

11 None of the above points even
12 addresses the fact that it costs more in
13 ores and minerals and other production
14 costs to produce each turbine than will
15 ever be produced in electricity. None of
16 the wind turbines would be economically
17 viable without government subsidies. These
18 turbines are not the green dream or savior
19 that they are made out to be.

20 Please consider all of these points,
21 along with others made here today, and
22 decline to approve these industrial wind
23 turbines In Seneca County. Thank you.

24 JUDGE SEE: Any cross for this
25 witness?

1 Nathan Miller. Nathan Miller?

2 MR. MILLER: I'm an intervenor,
3 I can't speak. Sorry.

4 JUDGE SEE: Darylene Dunn or
5 Darylene Dunn?

6 Ms. Shellhouse?

7 MS. SHELLHOUSE: Shellhouse.

8 JUDGE SEE: Shellhouse. Could
9 you raise your right hand, please?

10 * * * * *

11 LAURIE SHELLHOUSE

12 being of lawful age, was first duly
13 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
14 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
15 hereinafter certified, testified and
16 said as follows:

17 JUDGE SEE: State and spell
18 your name for the record, state your
19 address and your township.

20 MS. SHELLHOUSE: Laurie Shellhouse.
21 L-A-U-R-I-E, S-H-E-L-L-H-O-U-S-E. 761 East
22 Township Road 28, Tiffin, Ohio, Eden
23 Township.

24 JUDGE SEE: Thank you.

25 MS. SHELLHOUSE: We received a

1 letter from sPower that we were in the
2 footprint. My name is Lori Shellhouse, my
3 house Gary and I are Eden township
4 residents. I grew up in Attica, Venice
5 Township. We live on my husband's family
6 farm, it's been in the family for 89 years.
7 This farm is our children's legacy. You
8 can't put a price tag on farms that have
9 been in families for generations. I post a
10 comment to the OPSB on May 1, 2018,
11 describing the meeting that was held on
12 April 17, 2018, looking like a county fair,
13 with the amount of people there seeking
14 information. How ironic that this meeting
15 is taking place during our actual county
16 fair. These wind turbines have pit
17 families, neighbors and friends against one
18 another.

19 I went to the Seneca Regional Planning
20 website and printed Article 13 of Eden
21 Township's zoning concerning wind turbines.
22 There wasn't a date on the article. I'm
23 going to read a few things I found very
24 interesting. The purpose of the section is
25 to establish general guidelines for the

1 location of wind turbines and individual
2 wind turbine systems to protect the public
3 health, safety, comfort and general welfare
4 of the residents of Eden Township, and to
5 protect the scenic beauty of the area from
6 unnecessary and unreasonable visual
7 interference and noise.

8 This section seeks to: Protect
9 residential and agriculture areas from
10 potential adverse impact of wind turbines;
11 permit wind turbines in selected areas by
12 on-site residential, commercial or
13 industrial uses, subject to the terms,
14 conditions and provisions hereof; ensure
15 the public health, welfare and safety of
16 Eden Township residents in connection with
17 wind turbines; avoid potential damage to
18 real and personal property from the wind
19 turbines or the failure of such structures
20 and related operations. The maximum height
21 of any turbine shall be 100 feet, which
22 includes the tower and the maximum vertical
23 height of the turbines blades. Maximum
24 height shall be calculated by measuring the
25 length of a prop at a maximum vertical

1 rotation to the base of the tower. A wind
2 turbine shall be located on a maximum of
3 one acre.

4 Now, I realize state overrides local
5 government, unfortunately. I've been doing
6 some research and the common thread with
7 everything I read is ask us, don't force it
8 on us. My husband and I have no neighbors
9 directly beside us or across from us, just
10 land. We have no problem with what you do
11 with your property but when it bleeds onto
12 our property, we have a problem. We are
13 told that you can't hear the infrasound and
14 we won't even notice the shadow flicker.
15 However, people have compared the shadow
16 flicker to a child turning a light switch
17 on and off, on and off. I suffer from
18 debilitating migraines and am extremely
19 light sensitive. I am certain the shadow
20 flicker won't give me one migraine at all.

21 As far as infrasound, I disagree with
22 this as well. In 2016 we were traveling
23 I-30 to Indy to visit our son during a
24 summer internship. The radio was on, I had
25 earbuds in, listening to a book on my

1 phone, my eyes were closed, seat reclined,
2 when I felt rhythmic vibration. I sat bolt
3 upright and said, oh, my God, is something
4 wrong with our car? My husband never said
5 a word, just pointed to the left, and all I
6 could see were turbines for miles. I said
7 oh, my God, those poor people. And two
8 years later we are those people.

9 People have reported heart attack
10 symptoms from the constant vibrations and
11 infrasound which is also a great concern as
12 my husband has a heart condition. There
13 was a book written in 2009 by Dr. Nina
14 Pierport about wind turbine syndrome. The
15 book explains that many people living in
16 1.2 miles of these spinning giants getting
17 sick. So sick that they often abandon
18 their homes. I can't imagine leaving our
19 family farm that's been in our family for
20 89 years. Nobody wants to buy their toxic
21 farms. The lucky ones get quietly bought
22 out by wind developers who steadfastly
23 refuse to acknowledge that wind turbine
24 syndrome exists and yet the wind developers
25 thoughtfully include a confidentiality

1 clause in the sales agreement, forbidding
2 them from discussing the matter further.
3 My question is why would they need that
4 clause if they have nothing to hide?

5 Someone mentioned the turbine in
6 Findlay that serve the Ball Corporation.
7 However, what wasn't mentioned was that in
8 February the Findlay City Planning
9 Commission rejected two 400-foot turbines.
10 The residents denounced the wind turbines
11 as an eyesore which would sink their
12 property values, they worried about shadow
13 flicker and expressed health concerns.
14 They learned from their mistakes, we should
15 too.

16 JUDGE SEE: Any cross for
17 witness?

18 MR. BORCHERS: (Indicating.)

19 JUDGE SEE: Thank you, ma'am,
20 If you have copies of your statement.

21 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Ms. Dunn is next
22 and on deck is Keith Moyer. Is Keith here?

23 Please raise your right hand.

24 * * * * *

25 DARYLENE DUNN

1 being of lawful age, was first duly
2 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
3 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
4 hereinafter certified, testified and
5 said as follows:

6 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
7 spell your name for the record, your
8 address and your township.

9 MS. DUNN: I am Darylene M.
10 Dunn, D-A-R-Y-L-E-N-E, M, D-U-N-N. I live
11 at 7534 East County Road 12, Bloomville,
12 Ohio, 44818, Bloom Township.

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
14 proceed.

15 MS. DUNN: I am most
16 appreciative to talk to you today. My
17 husband and I give our support to the
18 sPower Wind. We are destined to have four
19 turbines in our area on your land.

20 A few obstacles have come my way
21 during my life. I had polio at age 11 and
22 bladder cancer removal in an eight-hour
23 operation two years ago at the James Center
24 I am most fortunate. This particular issue
25 will be my last hurdle to get over.

1 We own our land, pay our taxes, and
2 like many make our decisions as to what
3 happens on our land. We signed our lease
4 with a power company, wind power company 12
5 years ago.

6 Our area around Bloomville needs help
7 financially. We have no restaurants and
8 many businesses have left.

9 Two close friends have traveled two
10 times around the world. They have told us
11 many countries are way ahead of the U.S. in
12 wind power.

13 Since God gave us wind and it is free,
14 let's use it. Thank you.

15 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Is
16 there any cross?

17 MR. SHUFF: No.

18 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

19 Mr. Moyer and on deck Dan Tyell. Is
20 Mr. Tyell here?

21 Please raise your right hand.

22 * * * * *

23 KEITH MOYER

24 being of lawful age, was first duly
25 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the

1 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
2 hereinafter certified, testified and
3 said as follows:

4 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
5 spell your name for the record and give us
6 your address and township.

7 MR. MOYER: My name is Keith
8 Moyer. I live at 3040 South State Route 67
9 in Tiffin, Ohio. I'm in Bloom Township.
10 My name is spelled K-E-I-T-H, M-O-Y-E-R.

11 JUDGE SEE: Please proceed.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. MOYER: I'd like to focus
14 on the visual impact assessments submitted
15 by Seneca Wind and prepared by Tetra Tech.

16 According to Ohio Administrative Code
17 4906-4-09 Section C, Section 6, the
18 applicant shall provide photographic
19 simulations or artist's pictorial sketches
20 of the proposed facility from at least one
21 vantage point in each area of three square
22 miles within the project area, showing
23 views to the north, south, east and west.
24 The photographic simulations or artist's
25 pictorial sketches shall incorporate the

1 environmental atmospheric conditions under
2 which the facility would be most visible.

3 The assessment selected 21 observation
4 points. Of the 21 submitted photographic
5 simulations, 14 were within the project
6 area. Of those 14, only two had four
7 angles of observation. There were two more
8 with three angles of observation. Eight of
9 the remaining photographs had two angles of
10 observation and two photos only contained
11 one angle of observation. There were no
12 submitted photos which incorporated views
13 to the north, south, east and west. None
14 of the photographic simulations met the
15 requirements of all four compass
16 directions.

17 Observation points 3, 4, 16 and 18,
18 were all taken from the lowest points
19 relative to the surrounding area.

20 Observation points 4, 16 and 18 were taken
21 near creeks and appear to be the lowest
22 possible elevation to the surrounding
23 landscape.

24 Observation point 3 happens to be at
25 the northeast corner of my property, it's

1 at the intersection of State Route 67 and
2 US 224. This is a dangerous intersection
3 which has had multiple serious accidents
4 because of the limited visibility of
5 distance. If the observation point had
6 been moved about 600 feet west, to the top
7 of the hill, they would have much better
8 view of things going on there. From that
9 point I can see five miles away to a water
10 tower at Sentinel School.

11 The Ohio Administrative Code in
12 Section 4906-4-028(D) (4) impact of the
13 facility section states; describe the
14 visibility of the project, including a
15 viewshed analysis and area visual effect
16 shown on a corresponding map of the study
17 area. The viewshed analysis shall not
18 incorporate deciduous vegetation,
19 agricultural crops, or other seasonal land
20 cover as viewing obstacles.

21 All the observation point photos were
22 taken when the trees were in full leaf.
23 Observation point 5 uses a church and a
24 tree as viewing obstacles. Observation
25 point 4 has power poles as viewing

1 obstacles. Observation point 3 has trees
2 as viewing obstacles. Observation point 15
3 was taken in the Village of Attica and it
4 shows three views of buildings.

5 Observation point 8 was taken in the
6 Village of Bloomville at the intersection
7 of State Route 19 and New Haven Street with
8 two views of buildings. Observation point
9 19 was taken at the intersection of South
10 Washington Street and Main Street in Tiffin
11 it was obstructed by buildings, a van and
12 multiple cars. Observation point 20 is at
13 Heidelberg's Football Stadium, everybody
14 knows that Heidelberg's Football Stadium is
15 one of the lowest points in Tiffin.

16 Observation point 21 from Kern Park has a
17 nice view of trees.

18 Having driven through areas in Ohio
19 that contain wind farms with wind turbines
20 that are much shorter than those proposed
21 for the Seneca Wind Farm, I can state that
22 this study does not show the extreme visual
23 impact of 77 nearly 600-foot tall wind
24 turbines in five townships. If the
25 intention was to actually show the visual

1 impact of the wind turbines it failed and
2 their application for certificate should be
3 denied. Seems to me that the intent of
4 this visual impact assessment was to avoid
5 showing the visual impact, not show the
6 visual impact. Thank you.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Is there cross for
8 this witness?

9 Please bring your comments up here.

10 Cheryl Mira. Cheryl Mira? Is Cheryl
11 Mira here?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She left.

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

14 David Ziegler. David Ziegler?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He left.

16 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

17 Lisa Handshoe and on deck is Kim
18 Siesel. Is Kim here? Thank you.

19 Please raise your right hand.

20 * * * * *

21 LISA HANDSHOE

22 being of lawful age, was first duly
23 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
24 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
25 hereinafter certified, testified and

1 said as follows:

2 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
3 state and spell your name for the record,
4 your address and township.

5 MS. HANDSHOE: Lisa Handshoe,
6 L-I-S-A, H-A-N-D-S-H-O-E. 6085 East State
7 Road 18, Republic, Scipio Township.

8 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. You
9 may proceed.

10 MS. HANDSHOE: Today I had to ask
11 myself some questions. Why am I choosing
12 to speak and what are the leading factors
13 that started my journey to oppose, to
14 opposing any wind projects be ability in
15 Seneca County the way they are currently
16 being proposed?

17 Three things came to mind. A lot of
18 things came to mind, three things are what
19 I'm going to mention.

20 Number one, total disregard for public
21 input. Number two, why such the effort to
22 silence the affected township voices. And
23 number three, total disregard for public
24 safety and natural habitat.

25 I will quickly cover my thoughts on

1 all three of these questions in my mind
2 knowing that there is little time and many
3 other people who would still like to speak.

4 Total disregard for public input: I
5 am greatly saddened by the secrecy and/or
6 the total disregard for total input. For a
7 proximity of ten years, and now we just
8 heard that this for, it's 12 years, the
9 proposed projects were in the making with
10 no knowledge given to the community. I do
11 not understand why it was hidden under the
12 darkest veil from the affected communities.
13 There must be reasons that the public was
14 kept in the dark. It is troublesome to why
15 the proposed projects would be kept quiet.
16 I believe mostly because they know not to
17 be a good fit to Seneca County.

18 Silence the affected townships: It
19 seems to be common goal of the wind
20 companies to quickly silence the voices
21 from any communities that has proposed
22 turbine projects in the works. The people
23 that may have to live among these machines
24 should have the ultimate say on whether
25 these projects are a good fit or not. It's

1 very disturbing to know that there is so
2 much outside influence trying to tell our
3 loving communities that so dearly keep
4 Seneca County as their home how we should
5 live. We know what's best for your
6 communities better than any outsider ever
7 would. It should not be up to anyone
8 besides the townships to decide what is
9 best.

10 As I drive, I'm two miles from
11 Republic and as I drive into Republic from
12 Tiffin we've got the sign that says
13 Seneca -- or Scipio township, zoned for
14 your protection, and every time I just have
15 to laugh because what does that mean, what
16 does that mean in this instance?

17 Total disregard for public safety and
18 natural habitat: This is the most
19 important one to me, the total disregard
20 for public safety. There are many
21 documented turbine failures that occur
22 every year. I feel that if all the
23 failures that really do occur actually got
24 reported the numbers would be staggering.
25 These machines are known for a fact to have

1 blade failures. The information on the
2 length of these blade throws have been
3 given to the Board and exceed the setbacks.
4 Other public safety hazards are fires,
5 cause of health conditions, shadow flicker,
6 and total disrupt every day quality for
7 those living around them. I'm appalled
8 that any person could think that it is okay
9 to subject any living person to the
10 conditions that exist living among
11 industrial wind turbines. And I'll say
12 that again, industrial wind turbines. Let
13 that sink in for a second. That name says
14 it all. They're not a good fit in Seneca
15 County communities because we do not live
16 in an industrial habitat. We choose to
17 live in an agricultural rural habitat that
18 is safe.

19 We need to keep our community safe
20 along with Seneca County's natural beauty
21 and habitat for many generations to come.

22 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Any cross?

23 Thank you. Do you want to give us a
24 copy of your statement?

25 On deck is Dan White. Is Mr. White

1 here? Thank you.

2 Mr. Siesel, please raise your right
3 hand.

4 * * * * *

5 KIP SIESEL

6 being of lawful age, was first duly
7 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
8 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
9 hereinafter certified, testified and
10 said as follows:

11 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
12 spell your name for the record --

13 MR. SIESEL: My name is Kip,
14 K-I-P, last name Siesel, S-I-E-S-E-L.

15 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: And your address
16 and township, please.

17 MR. SIESEL: So I'm an
18 Operating Engineer, Local 18 business rep.
19 I'll give you the office address. 2412
20 South Reynolds Road, Toledo, Ohio, 43614.
21 Although, I do reside in Seneca County in
22 Venice Township, so --

23 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Okay.

24 MR. SIESEL: Is that good?

25 On behalf of Operating Engineers Local

1 Union 18, I'm here to support the approval
2 of the Seneca Wind Farm project.

3 The members of Local 18 and the State
4 of Ohio have benefited greatly from the
5 wind farm projects built in Northwest Ohio
6 over the past several years. There have
7 been several phases and years of work for
8 our members as a result of these projects,
9 and the Seneca Wind Farm will help
10 contribute to the creation of jobs. In
11 turn, high paying wages, health care
12 benefits and training programs can continue
13 to grow because of the wind industry.

14 The areas in which these projects have
15 already been constructed have seen numerous
16 benefits in the townships and the counties
17 involved. If approved the Seneca Wind Farm
18 will not only create jobs but you can
19 expect an economic impact, additional tax
20 money, and clean energy for Ohio as a
21 result from the project.

22 The members of Local 18 have the
23 experience to build this project safely and
24 on time from there involvement on the other
25 wind farm projects. They also have been

1 provided the proper training required to
2 build a project of this size safely and on
3 time. The ongoing maintenance of the
4 Seneca Wind Farm would also continue to
5 employ our members during the project's
6 existence.

7 We encourage the Ohio Power Siting
8 Board to support the jobs of the men and
9 woman of Local 18 by approving the Seneca
10 Wind Farm application.

11 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

12 Is there any cross for this witness?
13 Could you provide a copy of your testimony?

14 On deck is Kurt Lease. Is Mr. Lease
15 here?

16 Mr. White, please raise your right
17 hand.

18 * * * * *

19 DAN WHITE

20 being of lawful age, was first duly
21 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
22 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
23 hereinafter certified, testified and
24 said as follows:

25 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please

1 state and spell your name for the record,
2 your address and your township.

3 MR. WHITE: Okay. Dan, D-A-N,
4 last name White, W-H-I-T-E. Address, 4080
5 East Eden Township Road, spawning of
6 Bloomville, Ohio.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: And township?

8 MR. WHITE: Eden.

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Okay. Please
10 proceed.

11 MR. WHITE: Good evening. My
12 name is Dan White and I live in the heart
13 of the proposed Seneca Wind project
14 footprint. Article 1 of our Ohio
15 Constitution states: All men are by
16 nature, free and independent, and have
17 certain inalienable rights, among which are
18 those of enjoying and defending life and
19 liberty, acquiring, possessing and
20 protecting property, and seeking and
21 obtaining happiness and safety.

22 I strongly believe that the Seneca
23 Wind project violates my constitutional
24 rights as we currently have little or no
25 control of the process other than my

1 offerings, along with our fellow yellow
2 brothers and sisters, testimony here
3 tonight.

4 I object to the negative effects that
5 the wind turbines will have on my family's
6 quality of life, public safety, negative
7 impact wildlife, and the devaluation of my
8 property. The fact that there are
9 documented cases of turbine blade failures
10 where debris was thrown greater distances
11 than what our setbacks distances are
12 doesn't make any logical sense. There is
13 clearly a public safety issue.

14 Also, with regard to our wildlife and
15 very fine local Seneca County Parks
16 District, Ohio Department of Natural
17 Resources studies indicate a 2.5-mile
18 minimum radius distance for turbine siting
19 near natural resources, woods, forests,
20 prairie, water sources, with respect to not
21 negatively impacting flight and travel
22 patterns, nesting, inspect activity, et
23 cetera. Within the footprint of Seneca
24 Wind we have Forrest Nature Preserve,
25 nearest turbine, 0.37 mile. Garlo

1 Heritage, 0.6. Bowen, the champion but
2 still defeated at 2.0 miles.

3 There's overwhelming opposition to
4 this project in Seneca County as attested
5 by this evening's attendance of my fellow
6 yellow brothers and sisters.

7 I strongly urge you to deny the
8 construction certificate for this specific
9 project, Seneca Wind.

10 Thank you, God bless and have a safe
11 drive.

12 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

13 Is there any cross for this witness?

14 On deck is Beth Walliser. Is Beth
15 here? Thank you.

16 Mr. Lease, will you please raise your
17 right hand?

18 * * * * *

19 KURT LEASE

20 being of lawful age, was first duly
21 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
22 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
23 hereinafter certified, testified and
24 said as follows:

25 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please

1 state and spell your name for the record,
2 your address and township.

3 MR. LEASE: Name is Kurt
4 Lease, K-U-R-T, L-E-A-S-E. Address is 5251
5 East County Road 16, Tiffin, Ohio, 44883.
6 And I live in Bloom Township.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
8 proceed.

9 MR. LEASE: My name is Kurt
10 Lease. I live and own the -- I get a
11 little tongue-tied, sorry. I live and own
12 land inside the footprint of the Seneca
13 Wind project. I object to this project
14 because of the unsafe conditions that will
15 result from building these turbines and
16 because of the lack of input allowed by the
17 local citizens.

18 One of the safety issues is the impact
19 that turbines will have on air ambulances.
20 I have been a member of the Bloom Township
21 Volunteer Fire Department for 21 years.
22 Our department has responded to many
23 accidents where air ambulances have had to
24 land on scene to evacuate wounded. It is
25 often under less than ideal conditions and

1 weather, visibility-type things. Turbines
2 will most certainly prevent some of the
3 scene landings. I can tell you from
4 experience these accidents can be kind of
5 gruesome. I have personally called for an
6 air ambulance at an auto accident and was
7 later told that the victim would not have
8 survived had the air ambulance been delayed
9 for any reason. I mean, they actually did
10 surgery on the back, in the back of the
11 squad before they flew him, it was that
12 close. Being able to land a helicopter on
13 scene is many times the only way that can
14 save lives.

15 At the very least someone is going to
16 have to build and maintain several
17 helicopter landing pads in various
18 locations throughout the project so
19 patients can be moved to them locations
20 with a ground ambulance to help speed
21 things along. Our average transport time
22 for our ambulance is 10 to 15 minutes. So
23 we can have a Life Flight there in that
24 amount of time and have them heading to a
25 trauma center. You add 15 to 15, it ain't

1 a good combination. But even then, extra
2 the time and extra moving of patients will
3 cost some lives.

4 Another safety issue is injury by the
5 turbines themselves. The old saying of
6 good fences make good neighbors is a good
7 way to look at this subject. It is now
8 public knowledge that large wind turbines
9 can and do have blade failures. 3800 per
10 year is the number often quoted. The blade
11 throw workshop held by the Power Siting
12 Board earlier this year was a real
13 eyeopener for everyone. Now we know that
14 blade pieces large enough to cause severe
15 injury fly hundreds of feet farther than
16 the current setbacks used to design this
17 project. With that type of information
18 shouldn't the Board be, sorry, considering
19 longer setbacks than this minimums the Ohio
20 Revised Code currently finds? How can this
21 project be given the go-ahead knowing the
22 public safety is at risk? Why is there no
23 mention of this known blade throw hazard in
24 the Staff report?

25 Today's public meeting is supposed to

1 be the time when the Board receives input
2 from the public. We would hope that you
3 would, you might consider what we have to
4 say, especially our concerns about public
5 safety. But the Staff released its report
6 three weeks ago. How can you say our input
7 means anything at all? This entire process
8 makes no sense. You make your decisions
9 with no input from the people who will have
10 to live inside the projects for decades and
11 you don't even consider our safety. How
12 can you expect us to do anything other than
13 oppose the plan? It should be no surprise
14 to see us trying as hard as we can to
15 defend our homes and families. You know
16 the turbines are dangerous at the distances
17 drawn on the plans. Please make public
18 safety the number one priority on your list
19 by moving them to a safe distance. Make
20 sure something is done to help air
21 ambulance issue. I personally have
22 volunteered my time to protect the citizens
23 and wouldn't think twice to do it again.
24 Now it's your turn to do the same. You
25 have no higher duty than to protect the

1 people of Seneca County and Ohio. Thank
2 you.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Is there any cross
4 for this witness?

5 On deck is Richard Hughes. Is Mr.
6 Hughes here?

7 Please raise your right hand.

8 * * * * *

9 BETH WALLISER
10 being of lawful age, was first duly
11 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
12 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
13 hereinafter certified, testified and
14 said as follows:

15 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: State and spell
16 your name for the record, your address and
17 the township you reside in.

18 MS. WALLISER: Okay. My name is
19 Beth, B-E-T-H, Walliser, W-A-L-L-I-S-E-R.
20 I live at 45 Thomas Street here in Tiffin,
21 Ohio. I believe it's Clinton Township but
22 I'm not 100 percent sure. I'm on the north
23 side of town. My sister does live in Eden
24 Township and they've resided there for 30
25 years.

1 I'd like to start off by saying thank
2 you for hosting this meeting. Is it
3 appreciative that you come to our county
4 instead of us traveling to Columbus. I'd
5 like to start off by saying I am an
6 environmentalist. I truly believe we need
7 to develop more green energy to offset our
8 dependence on fossil fuels, however,
9 location, location, location is the key.

10 Location of these industrial wind
11 turbines and their infrastructure will
12 create adverse health and safety effects on
13 people, homes, schools, farmland,
14 livestock, wildlife, roads, bridges, Light
15 Flight assessability and on and on.

16 It is disturbing to think that 16
17 turbines would be circling Seneca East
18 School. For any child who could develop
19 health issues as a result of these
20 turbines, where would they go for a safe
21 education? What would be an alternate
22 school? There are so many unanswered
23 questions that should be alarming as for
24 the public safety of us citizens in Seneca
25 County. Our Seneca County Commissioners

1 should adhere to the Seneca County
2 Comprehensive Plan created by the Seneca
3 County Regional Planning Commission,
4 rescind the alternative energy zone and
5 vote to intervene against Republic Wind and
6 Seneca Wind.

7 The Ohio Power Siting Board should
8 deny this application. And I
9 wholeheartedly hope that you take into
10 consideration everything that's been said
11 tonight.

12 Thank you for your consideration.

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

14 Is there cross for this witness?

15 On deck is Bryan Stacklin. Is Bryan
16 here? Thank you.

17 Please raise your right hand.

18 * * * * *

19 RICHARD HUGHES

20 being of lawful age, was first duly
21 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
22 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
23 hereinafter certified, testified and
24 said as follows:

25 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and

1 spell your name for the record, your
2 address and the township you reside in.

3 MR. HUGHES: Okay. My name is
4 Richard Hughes, H-U-G-H-E-S. I live at
5 335 South Monroe in Tiffin and, um,
6 actually I'm in Hopewell Township part of
7 it.

8 Okay. And I would like to address the
9 Board. It's a pleasure to have you here
10 today, but we do have concerns coming
11 through of this effort and I trust that
12 you'll take them to heart and really look,
13 dig into the facts and the research. I
14 know you have many duties but this is a
15 very critical area for this county.

16 We have a lot of advertising going
17 through, and I'm not going to lay a lot of
18 facts on you, we're hearing much of it, I
19 can tell you, through our other speakers.
20 We do have a mixed concern, one is the
21 integrity of the information being put out
22 by the wind farm. Okay? I personally
23 perceive a lot of deception going on with
24 this program. They're going to tell you
25 what they can do for you but they're not

1 going to tell you the consequences, and
2 this is a serious issues for the residents
3 of Seneca County.

4 Also, we have the ideas that, of the
5 height of these turbines. Okay, as you may
6 understand the very tallest tree in the
7 world is the great Sequoia tree along the
8 coast of California. It's going to be
9 dwarfed by the size of these windmills that
10 will be perspectively from some of the
11 largest in the United States. Why such a
12 large unit being put into our county? All
13 right. And this is, this is going to be
14 huge. You're going to see them and you're
15 going to feel all these effects. Even
16 though we have advocates that say well, you
17 know, there's a financial gain here for us.
18 Well, I think the risk is far greater than
19 any financial gain we could ever do.

20 And of course, with these wind farms,
21 as we're well aware, without huge
22 government subsidies these wind farms would
23 not it exist. All right. That's just a
24 fact of life.

25 So we have to really take a look at

1 the environmental impact definitely on our,
2 our youth. Seneca East has been mentioned
3 several times which is a serious issue on
4 the health of these children which is real.
5 I do believe it is quite real.

6 Also the environmental impacts of our
7 county. And do we really have enough wind
8 days to support such windmills or is much
9 of this power going to be generated through
10 use of other resources with huge
11 generators? I personally do not believe
12 we're going to have sufficient wind days to
13 support such a, such a program.

14 Also, we are going to have definitely
15 economic impact coming in to our people.
16 There are going to be a loss of values of
17 property I believe. Also I can see our, or
18 perceive that I see a loss of business
19 coming into this community that that's
20 going to have such a huge impact with the
21 influx of these large turbines.

22 We also have now the one other area
23 that I want to look at is, of course, the
24 land value that they, from what I have been
25 identifying in my own personal research it

1 will impact land value for these people in
2 a negative way.

3 So these some of the areas that I
4 really trust when you weigh the impact and
5 benefits of these windmills on the
6 residents of Seneca County, I trust you'll
7 see that this project is in no way of
8 benefit to these individuals, but rather
9 more of a risk to the community as a whole.
10 Thank you very much.

11 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

12 Is there cross for this witness?

13 Thank you.

14 On deck is Mark, and I can't read your
15 last name, but your address is 8720 West
16 Township Road 96. Are you here, Mark?

17 Okay. Ed Clark, you're on deck. Is
18 Mr. Clark here? Thank you.

19 Please raise your right hand.

20 * * * * *

21 BRYAN STACKLIN

22 being of lawful age, was first duly
23 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
24 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
25 hereinafter certified, testified and

1 said as follows:

2 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
3 spell your name for the record, your
4 address and your township.

5 MR. STACKLIN: My name is Bryan
6 Stacklin, B-R-Y-A-N, S-T-A-C-K-L-I-N. I
7 reside at 210 South Main Street, that's in
8 Attica, Ohio, that's in Venice Township.

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
10 proceed.

11 MR. STACKLIN: Well, me and a
12 gentleman earlier had the same idea, I
13 think it was Mr. White, Article 1 of the
14 Ohio Constitution, all men are, by nature,
15 free and independent, and have certain
16 inalienable rights, among which are those
17 of enjoying and defending life and liberty,
18 acquiring, possessing and protecting
19 property, and seeking and obtaining
20 happiness and safety.

21 The majority of residents within
22 Seneca County are against this project. I
23 know there's been various, I think
24 Tiffin.net had three different polls and
25 they were all majority against it. This

1 project will hinder our right to enjoy our
2 lives and obtain happiness due to the
3 effects of the industrial wind turbines;
4 such as but not limited to, shadow flicker,
5 scarring of our landscape, impact on
6 wildlife, and I could go on and on but I'll
7 try to keep it short. We have the right by
8 Article 1 of the Constitution to safety
9 from dangers of these industrial wind
10 turbines; such as but not limited to,
11 infrasound, blade throws, ice throw, and
12 protecting our children from the 16
13 industrial wind turbines within 2 miles of
14 Seneca East Local Schools, which I have a
15 five year old and a three year old that
16 will be attending them, one that was a
17 learning disability. And we are here today
18 to protect our families, friends and
19 properties, we ask that Ohio Power Siting
20 Board deny this application. Thank you.

21 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Is there cross for
22 this witness?

23 Would you like to leave your
24 statement?

25 Okay. On deck is Joe Anderson.

1 Please raise your right hand.

2 * * * * *

3 EDWARD CLARK

4 being of lawful age, was first duly
5 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
6 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
7 hereinafter certified, testified and
8 said as follows:

9 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
10 state and spell your name for the record,
11 your address and township.

12 MR. CLARK: Edward Clark,
13 E-D-W-A-R-D, C-L-A-R-K. 3671 South State
14 Route 231, Tiffin, and that is Eden
15 Township.

16 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
17 proceed.

18 MR. CLARK: I'm going to, I'm
19 going to kind of protest on a little bit
20 different level. Give you a little
21 background about myself. I've got over 30
22 years in electrical trades. I been in
23 construction industry for quite some time.

24 I, too, went to Van Wert. I spent the
25 better half of a day with a good friend and

1 my wife talking to people down there. And
2 a lot of things kind of come into play with
3 me on these projects. There's really no
4 oversight.

5 When I look at the National Electrical
6 Code in that book it does cover an article
7 through the NEC, but yet we do not use the
8 state people for our local building code
9 officials to police these projects. So it
10 just kind of comes to mind that there's a
11 lot of different things. Um, and I'm just
12 going to touch on a few of the articles,
13 because if anybody knows the National
14 Electrical Code it's like reading cereal,
15 seriously.

16 Article 694.4, equipment grounding.
17 Wind turbine tower shall be connected to a
18 grounding electric pole -- electrode
19 system, excuse me. Where installed in
20 close proximity to galvanized foundation or
21 tower anchor components, galvanized
22 grounding electrodes shall be used.

23 Bonding conductor; equipment grounding
24 conductors or supply-side bonding jumpers,
25 as applicable, shall be required between

1 turbines, towers, and premise grounding.

2 And three, tower connections.

3 Equipment grounding, bonding and grounding
4 electrode conductors, where used, shall be
5 connected to metallic towers using listed
6 means. All mechanical elements used to
7 terminate these conductors shall be
8 accessible.

9 So who's policing this to make sure
10 that the grounding system is complete? I
11 mean, we have, we have a transformer that
12 sits outside each one of these turbines
13 that kick the voltage up to 38,000 volts.
14 So is the bonding done per the electrical
15 code?

16 I also, Article 300.5 E states
17 backfill. Backfill containing large rocks,
18 paving materials, cinders, large or sharp
19 angular substances, or corrosive materials,
20 shall not be placed in the excavation where
21 materials can damage or contribute to the
22 corrosion or raceways, cables, or other
23 substructures which may prevent adequate
24 compaction of fill.

25 Protection in the form of granular or

1 selected materials or suitable sleeves
2 shall be provided to prevent physical
3 damage to the raceway or cable.

4 Now, when you read your cable
5 manufacturer specifications, the cable
6 manufacturer states in there that ground,
7 inground conductors as this, if they're not
8 installed correctly the life of these
9 cables can decrease down to 10 or 15 years.
10 So there's a lot of different substances
11 that should be used when you're doing that.

12 Table 300.50. And this is for over
13 22,000 KV and below 40,000 KV direct buried
14 cable is to be a depth of 36 inches of
15 cover. That's not to the bottom of the
16 trench, that's to the top of the conductor.
17 So as they stack these things in we have
18 multiple runs that are coming through these
19 trenches. How deep are they going to go
20 and who's checking to make sure that the
21 depth is there? They could be at 24 inches
22 if they're in a PVC conduit or metal
23 raceway.

24 It also goes on to note, to general
25 note two in that same section, where solid

1 rock prevents compliance with cover depth
2 specified in this table, the wiring shall
3 be installed metal or non-metallic raceway
4 permitted for raceway burial. The raceway
5 shall be covered by a minimum of 1 inches
6 of concrete extending down to rock.

7 There again, who's policing this?
8 Who's making sure that the installer of
9 these cables are doing this correctly?
10 Because I spoke to the Ohio Power Siting
11 Board, the Corp of Engineers, they do
12 periodically inspections to the job site,
13 but they do not do a phase construction as
14 what I have to go through where, before I
15 can bury the cable or I can cover it in
16 concrete, it has to be looked at.

17 Given these three sections of the NEC,
18 who verifies that these standards are
19 upheld? One of the projects consists of
20 over 20,000 acres of wind farms in cases we
21 have bedrock of 8 inches or below.
22 Shouldn't there be a concern for the
23 farmer's use of sub soilers that can easily
24 reach depths of 16 inches? If these
25 installations are not monitored closely

1 who's watching out for the wellbeing of our
2 local farmers?

3 These are just a few items that should
4 require site inspections prior to any
5 concrete pour or table installed and
6 covered, in addition to the turbines being
7 erected. I view this as the turbine
8 contractors get a free pass on these
9 inspections and it puts landowner and the
10 general public at risk.

11 I am going to touch on setbacks. I'd
12 also like to speak about setbacks and
13 possible blade throws. There are
14 documented cases of blade throws have
15 thrown debris more than 1800 feet. The
16 current setbacks for Seneca Wind are
17 1334 feet from the nearest
18 non-participating property line. This
19 results in a 500-foot shortfall and
20 protection of the public.

21 And in closing I'd like to talk about
22 a local vote. You've seen House Bill
23 6, they pulled the Reineke Referendum again.
24 But it was a close margin, it was a six to
25 seven vote. And we know we got the House

1 of Representatives majority controlling
2 this and we need this. And I would like to
3 say speaking on behalf of the proposed
4 referendum that was added to House Bill 6
5 the House Bill Representative and Bill
6 Reineke Representative -- Representative
7 Bill Reineke. In the Senate committee
8 review, the local referendum was removed
9 but the tremendous support and attention
10 that the local referendum received at the
11 Statehouse should strongly demonstrate to
12 the Ohio Power Siting Board that the people
13 in the affected areas want to have some
14 means of local control. If wind power's so
15 great, why is the industry so afraid of
16 giving us citizens the opportunity to vote?
17 I personally feel a referendum should not
18 just be here in Ohio, but should be a
19 federal law that allows the public to vote
20 that are going to be affected.

21 I do have a few other things I'm going
22 to leave with you, this trenching and
23 excavation, bury cables from, from one of
24 the articles, along with some other OSHA
25 concerns.

1 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Is
2 there any cross from this witness?

3 Please come up with your comments.

4 Mr. Anderson is up and Jessica Cornett
5 is on deck. Is Ms. Cornett here? Ms.
6 Cornett?

7 Dustin Ash? Is Mr. Ash here? I don't
8 know if I'm reading that correctly.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What's the
10 address?

11 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Address is
12 14281 --

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's me.
14 Austin.

15 JUDGE SEE: Oh, thank you.
16 I'm glad you asked. Thank you.

17 Please raise your right hand.

18 * * * * *

19 JOSEPH ANDERSON
20 being of lawful age, was first duly
21 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
22 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
23 hereinafter certified, testified and
24 said as follows:

25 JUDGE SEE: Please state and

1 spell your name for the record, your
2 address and township.

3 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Joseph
4 Anderson, J-O-S-E-P-H, A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. I
5 life in Scipio Township. 9444 East
6 Township Road 124, Republic, Ohio.

7 JUDGE SEE: Thank you. Please
8 proceed.

9 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. I'm not
10 going to address a lot of the technical
11 data that you see in these times, but why
12 I'm against this project, 20 years ago we
13 purchased land and developed it and we
14 enjoy being out in the country. It's
15 quiet. We've actually had people say your
16 birds woke me up, when they come to visit.
17 Now we're told well, these things won't be
18 much more than like a distance jet, but the
19 distance jets aren't seven days a week or
20 24/7, whatever that they run. So that's
21 going to be annoying to us.

22 So our property value will diminish
23 greatly. Who's going to want to buy my
24 house? I don't think any of you will want
25 to live there with the turbines down the

1 street. So also I'd like, curious, how
2 many of these lease holders will be living
3 next to these turbines? From what I've
4 heard not very close. So -- and by the
5 way, a lot of these towers we're going to
6 be putting up, to put things in
7 perspective, the Trump Tower is 664 feet
8 high. So we're talking how many in our
9 Seneca County? So 70-some Trump Towers.

10 This another one of the other things
11 I'm against. My personal house, the
12 aggravation seeing these both day and night
13 will lead to more stress, not to mention
14 negative effect it will have our skylight.
15 At night we like to sit out and look at
16 galaxies such as, whatever, meteor showers.
17 Now we're going to have flickering lights
18 as well as noise. So that's going to take
19 away from us. So, there again, our
20 diminished lifestyle.

21 Our Bald Eagles, symbol of America
22 will be endangered as well as birds of
23 prey. It will be a buffet for coyotes,
24 that is before the pickup man gets there in
25 the morning, so they'll be lots of -- I've

1 talked to people in Harding County who live
2 right by these and they said yeah, they
3 create a job, he personally knew of a
4 gentleman that lived near Kenton, his job
5 was to be out there at dawn to pick up the
6 dead animals, the birds I should say,
7 underneath these things.

8 So these are just some of the negative
9 effects and that's why I'm against it.

10 Um, I don't know how many of you had
11 to come up Route 53 from 23, but prior to
12 today there was numerous anti wind signs,
13 but for some odd reason here recently, just
14 the other day, a lot them disappeared. So
15 this is what's happening in our county.
16 It's creating a great division and a lot of
17 us just flat out don't want it. So thank
18 you for your time, appreciate your coming.

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Is there cross for
20 this witness?

21 MR. BORCHERS: Your Honor, just
22 one clarification.

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. BORCHERS:

25 Q Sir, are you the Mr. Joseph Anderson who's part

1 of the local --

2 A I'm sorry, I can't hear you please.

3 Q Can you hear me okay now, sir?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Thank you. Just for clarification, are you the
6 Mr. Joseph Anderson who is part of the local residents
7 group who has intervened in the Republic Wind Ohio Power
8 Siting Board proceeding?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. BORCHERS: That's all I have.

12 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

13 Dustin, are you up and on deck is Maria
14 Anderson. Is Ms. Anderson here? Ms.
15 Anderson?

16 Michael who lives at 102 Dorchester
17 Square, Westerville, Ohio?

18 JUDGE SEE: Waterville?

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI:

20 Waterville? Michael? Is there a
21 Michael?

22 Okay. Chris Zeman. Is Mr. Zeman
23 here? Thank you.

24 Please raise your right hand.

25 * * * * *

1 DUSTIN AUSTIN

2 being of lawful age, was first duly
3 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
4 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
5 hereinafter certified, testified and
6 said as follows:

7 JUDGE SEE: Please state and
8 spell your name for the record, your
9 address and the township you reside in.

10 MR. AUSTIN: My name is Dustin
11 Austin and it's spelled D-U-S-T-I-N,
12 A-U-S-T-I-N. I live at 14281 County Road
13 46, Bellevue, Ohio, Thompson Township.

14 I come to you as a long time Seneca
15 County resident, a resident whose family
16 has been in this county for over 170 years.
17 Furthermore, my home is located on the
18 family farm which has been in our family
19 for 131 years. Over the years I've heard
20 generations of family members tell stories
21 about the land, give insights to the
22 farming operations and the geology of the
23 farm. This is very important since we're
24 here today to talk about the industrial
25 wind farms proposed for our area.

1 I have grave concerns over these
2 projects, as they will greatly impact my
3 family, my home, the surrounding area where
4 I reside. I have three major concerns with
5 this project that I hope the Ohio Power
6 Siting Board takes into account before
7 granting certificate to this project.

8 One is the impact the turbines will
9 have on the water systems in this county.
10 You see people, actually many of my
11 neighbors, rely on their wells for their
12 main and only water source for their home,
13 barns and animals. Many families today
14 cannot afford another water source or have
15 one brought in. Especially, since most
16 wells are a free water source, helping to
17 make it financially easier for families to
18 pay their other monthly bills.

19 In one community in Chatham-Kent,
20 Ontario, there are three major -- there are
21 major problems with water wells being
22 contaminated with black shale sediment.
23 This has affected over 200 homes, which was
24 first noticed during construction and
25 operations of the North Kent Wind project.

1 This has been believed to have been caused
2 by what is called pile driving, along with
3 the different types of vibrations from the
4 operation of the turbines. Why we want to
5 take a chance of affecting our precious
6 water sources in this county, which our
7 families desperately rely on?

8 Secondly, with this being said, it is
9 very important for the Ohio Power Siting
10 Board to consider the large karst area in
11 Seneca County. With a large amount
12 sinkholes in this county, it is very
13 important to consider what lies below the
14 surface and I can only pray that this is
15 highly researched and considered before
16 allowing the wind projects. On our family
17 farm there are five large sinkholes and a
18 sixth one in the process of opening up.
19 This is very concerning for my family as we
20 do not know how many more sinkholes could
21 or would open up during and after
22 construction of these large wind turbines.
23 The vibrations caused by these large wind
24 turbines are sure to have negative side
25 effects here, just like they have in other

1 communities. The fact of the matter is,
2 new sinkholes could open up and the current
3 sinkholes could open even larger making
4 this a very serious problem. According to
5 go a report, Elevating Karst Risk at
6 Proposed Windpower Projects, William J.
7 Bangsund of Barr Engineering Company and
8 Kenneth J. Johnson of Oklahoma Geological
9 Survey, I quote, karsts can lead to a wind
10 turbine tilting and even toppling. I ask
11 you all, is this something you'd want to
12 topple near your home or your family?
13 Especially since the wind companies are
14 pushing for shorter setbacks from homes.

15 Lastly, I want to urge the Ohio Power
16 Siting Board to consider our local parks
17 which would also be negatively affected by
18 these wind projects. I live near Bowen or
19 Bowen Nature Preserve. I urge the Ohio
20 Power Siting Board to let the Seneca County
21 Park District intervene in these
22 proceedings, as they have given ample time
23 for the wind companies to fix and update to
24 their own applications. To discount Seneca
25 County Park District's request to

1 intervene, due to a small oversight in the
2 required timeframe, seems unreasonable. If
3 the wind companies get breaks on these, so
4 should the Park District, as they have a
5 lot to lose. We need to protect our area
6 wildlife as they are essential to farming
7 operations, with the many benefits they
8 bring such as bats. An estimated 600,000
9 birds are killed annually by wind turbines,
10 so why would we want to participate in this
11 manslaughter? Some of the most beneficial
12 bird being bats, which eat large numbers of
13 night-flying insects which include
14 mosquitoes; and they pollinate the seeds
15 and the fruits we eat. Furthermore, our
16 eagle population has finally returned and
17 these large turbines threaten the species
18 once again. Bird watching is a real thing
19 in this area, which brings tourists to the
20 area. Why would we want to risk all of
21 this for wind turbines which are really not
22 green at all? The major negative impacts
23 far outweigh any minute monetary benefits
24 these turbines would bring.

25 I urge the Ohio Power Siting Board to

1 deny the certificate and do not let these
2 industrial wind farms into Seneca County.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Is there cross for
4 this witness?

5 Mr. Zeman is up and on deck is Tom
6 Scheele, Scheele.

7 Please raise your right hand.

8 * * * * *

9 CHRIS ZEMAN

10 being of lawful age, was first duly
11 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
12 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
13 hereinafter certified, testified and
14 said as follows:

15 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
16 spell your name, your address and township.

17 MR. ZEMAN: Okay. It's Chris
18 Zeman, C-H-R-I-S, Z-E-M-A-N. Adams
19 Township, Republic, Ohio. My address is
20 6868 East Township Road 138.

21 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: What township?

22 MR. ZEMAN: Adams Township.

23 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: All right. Thank
24 you. Please proceed.

25 MR. ZEMAN: Okay. My name is

1 Chris Zeman and I am a resident of
2 Republic, Ohio which is located in Seneca
3 County. I'm here today to speak in
4 opposition to the proposed Seneca Wind
5 project filed by sPower, renewable energy
6 company.

7 According to the Ohio -- excuse me.
8 According to the Ohio Power Siting Board
9 website, the Seneca Wind project is
10 proposed to consist of up to 77 industrial
11 scale wind turbines with a total generating
12 capacity of 212 megawatts. One of the main
13 questions here today is does this project
14 meet the need, excuse me, met the
15 requirement of public need? In my opinion,
16 the answer is no. Proof of this can be
17 found on Wikipedia where it's listed that
18 in northern Ohio alone there is currently
19 3,049 megawatts of active base load
20 generation. Baseload power generation is
21 defined on Wikipedia as being the baseload
22 on a grid is the minimum level of demand on
23 electrical grid over a span of time, for
24 example, one week. This demand can be met
25 by unvarying power plants, dispatchable

1 generation, or by collection of smaller
2 intermittent energy sources, depending on
3 which approach has the best mix of low
4 cost, availability and high reliability in
5 any particular market. The remainder of
6 demand, varying throughout a day, is met by
7 dispatchable generation, load following
8 power plants, and peaking power plants,
9 which can be turned up or down quickly,
10 operating reserve, demand response and
11 energy storage. Power plants that do not
12 charge their power output quickly, such as
13 large coal or nuclear plants, are generally
14 called baseload power plants. Of this
15 3,049 megawatts of power, 2,160 megawatts
16 is produced by natural gas. These plants
17 are located in Oregon, Ohio, which is near
18 Toledo, Lorain Ohio, and Fremont, Ohio.
19 The remaining output is currently produced
20 by Davis Besse Nuclear Power station in Oak
21 Harbor, Ohio, which is 889 megawatts. To
22 the contrary, wind energy located on Ohio's
23 largest wind projects are only contributing
24 hundred 728.9 megawatts of power, which is
25 being produced with a total of 334

1 industrial wind turbines. These turbines
2 currently are located in Paulding and Van
3 Wert Counties. On average, and according
4 to Sciencing.com 2 megawatt industrial wind
5 turbine consumes one and a half acres of
6 land. Using that math, 501 acres of land
7 is being consumed just to produce
8 728.9 megawatts of power. In comparison,
9 the Fremont Energy Center is only 80 acres
10 and producing nearly the same amount of
11 energy, the 707 megawatts, as 334
12 industrial wind turbines. In addition, the
13 Fremont Energy Center meets the definition
14 of dispatchable generation as it puts out
15 predictable and reliable electricity for
16 our area. With this sort of energy
17 available in our area, is wind development
18 really necessary? Once again, that answer
19 is no. Thank you.

20 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Is
21 there cross for this witness?

22 MR. BORCHERS: Yes, Your Honor.

23 BY MR. BORCHERS:

24 Q Mr. Zeman, are you an intervenor in the Republic
25 Wind case at the Power Siting Board?

1 A Yes, sir, I am.

2 MR. BORCHERS: Thank you.

3 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Mr. Scheele,
4 please raise your right hand.

5 * * * * *

6 TOM SCHEELE

7 being of lawful age, was first duly
8 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
9 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
10 hereinafter certified, testified and
11 said as follows:

12 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
13 spell your name for the record, your
14 address and your township.

15 MR.SCHEELE: Tom Scheele,
16 T-O-M, S-C-H-E-E-L-E. I live at 4686 North
17 Township Road 175, Republic, Ohio, and that
18 is Adams Township.

19 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
20 proceed.

21 MR.SCHEELE: I am here today in
22 opposition of the development of Seneca
23 Wind which is proposed to be constructed in
24 rural Seneca County. The wind industry is
25 here for one reason, convenience. This is

1 because our county commissioners granted
2 them a PILOT program back in 2011 and also
3 because of proximity the to PJM grid.
4 Seneca County pilot program grants
5 renewable energy developers, including
6 wind, Payment in Lieu of Taxes, or PILOT,
7 which allows them to compensate the county
8 with a flat rate of \$9,000 per year per
9 megawatt. In addition, the proximity to
10 the PJM grid allows a developer to save
11 money by reducing the amount of
12 transmission lines needed to transmit wind
13 energy to the multi-state PJM network.
14 According to PJM, this multi-state network
15 consists of up to 13 states and also the
16 District of Columbia. A quick internet
17 search of the PJM website today, July 23rd,
18 indicates that at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
19 there was approximately 2,177 megawatts of
20 wind energy being released down to the
21 grid. In comparison, just Ohio's two
22 nuclear plants alone can produce
23 2,149 megawatts of baseload generation.
24 Using PJM numbers for wind energy output of
25 2,177 megawatts over 13 state network,

1 which equates to only 167 megawatts per
2 state, and does not include the District of
3 Columbia, it is obvious that wind energy is
4 contributing very little to the PJM grid
5 system. So why have it? The answer for
6 the wind industry is simple, state
7 requirements that mandate renewable energy
8 on the grid and the requirements to
9 purchase it. With that being said, there
10 is an artificial need that is being created
11 that justifies wind energy, and thus the
12 associated convenience for its developers.

13 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Is
14 there a cross for this witness?

15 CROSS-EXAMINATION

16 BY MR BORCHERS:

17 Q Mr. Scheele, are you an intervenor in the
18 Republic Wind case?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 MR. BORCHERS: Thank you.

21 JUDGE SEE: That conclusion
22 the local public hearing. The evidentiary
23 hearing will follow --

24 CHAIRMAN RANDAZZO: Whoa, whoa --

25 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Kurt Dunn and on

1 deck Paula Dunn. Paula Dunn on deck.

2 Please raise your right hand.

3 * * * * *

4 KURT DUNN

5 being of lawful age, was first duly
6 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
7 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
8 hereinafter certified, testified and
9 said as follows:

10 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Please state and
11 spell your name for the record, your
12 address and your township.

13 MR. DUNN: Kurt Dunn, K-U-R-T
14 D-U-N-N. 1500 East County Road 50, Tiffin
15 Ohio, excuse me.

16 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: And your township?

17 MR. DUNN: Clinton, Clinton.

18 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please
19 proceed.

20 MR. DUNN: I am definitely in
21 support of the wind turbines. We've been
22 waiting over ten years for this project to
23 get started. I have to reason to believe
24 it's not a good project. It's going to be
25 an economic boom for the county, the

1 schools. So why not proceed with it? And
2 it's free energy. I know they were talking
3 about nuclear plants, they're getting old,
4 I think we need to upgrade our system, not
5 just for now but for the future. So thank
6 you.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you.

8 Is there cross for this witness?

9 MR. SHUFF: Yes.

10 CROSS-EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. SHUFF:

12 Q Are you a lease holder, Mr. Dunn?

13 A Yes, I am.

14 MR. SHUFF: Thank you very
15 much.

16 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Paula Dunn?

17 Please raise your right hand.

18 * * * * *

19 PAULA DUNN

20 being of lawful age, was first duly
21 sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the
22 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as
23 hereinafter certified, testified and
24 said as follows:

25 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Thank you. Please

1 state and spell your name for the record,
2 your address and your township.

3 MS. DUNN: Paula Dunn,
4 P-A-U-L-A, D-U-N-N, Seneca.

5 JUDGE SEE: And the township?

6 MS. DUNN: Clinton.

7 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Clinton Township.

8 JUDGE SEE: Go ahead with your
9 testimony.

10 MS. DUNN: I'm for it. I
11 think it will help the schools, capture the
12 wind, why not? They're not ugly. Cell
13 phone towers are uglier.

14 MS. FRY: Is this bullying?

15 JUDGE SEE: Any cross for this
16 witness?

17 MR. SHUFF: No, thank you.

18 MS. FRY: Is this bullying,
19 Mr. Shuff? If this bullying, Mr. Shuff?

20 JUDGE AUGOSTINI: Okay. That
21 concludes this local hearing. The
22 evidentiary hearing for Seneca Wind, Board
23 Staff and the intervening parties will have
24 the opportunity to present testimony in
25 support of their respective positions is

1 currently scheduled to commence on
2 August 26, 2019 at the Board's offices in
3 Columbus, Ohio. After the evidentiary
4 hearing is concluded the parties will have
5 the opportunity to submit written briefs
6 and reply briefs in support of their
7 respective positions. Thereafter, the
8 Board will issue it's ruling on the Seneca
9 Wind's application.

10 On behalf of the Board, we would like
11 to thank you and everyone for attending the
12 hearing. This will conclude the public
13 hearing which will be submitted on the
14 record for this Board's consideration in
15 this case.

16 This hearing is adjourned. Thank you
17 and safe travels.

18 (WHEREUPON, the public meeting
19 concluded at 8:31 p.m.)

20 * * * * *

1 STATE OF OHIO :

2 COUNTY OF LUCAS : C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

3
4 I, KRISTIE L. BIRCH, Notary Public in and for
5 the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do
6 hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and
7 correct transcript of my notes taken in the above-styled
8 case and thereafter transcribed by me.

9 I do further certify that I am not a relative,
10 employee or counsel of any of the parties hereto, and
11 further that I am not a relative or employee of any
12 attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, or
13 financially interested in the action.

14 I do further certify that I am not, nor is the
15 court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a
16 contract as defined in Civil Rule 28 (D).

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
18 and affixed my seal of office at Toledo, Ohio, on this
19 26th day of July, 2019.

20
21 _____
22 KRISTIE L. BIRCH
23 Notary Public in and for the
24 State of Ohio.

24 My Commission Expires: September 30, 2020.

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in

Case No(s). 18-0488-EL-BGN

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