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17-2295-EL-B6N

Huntley Reporting Service, Inc.
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Sandusky, Ohio 44870

RE: THE APPLICATION OF REPUBLIC WIND, LLC, FOR A CERTIFICATE TO
SITE WIND-POWERED ELECTRIC GENERATION
FACILITIES IN
SENECA AND SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO

October 17, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

This needs to be filed along with the attached Exhibits and Documents.
It goes to the PYCO Docketing Division, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor,
Columbus, Ohio.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Huntley Reporting
Service, 419-626-4039 or huntleyreporting.com.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Lori Delhees
Court Reporter

Lori Delhees

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IN THE MATTER OF:

THE APPLICATION OF REPUBLIC WIND, LLC

FOR A CERTIFICATE TO SITE WIND-POWERED

ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES

IN SENECA AND SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO

- - - - -

REPUBLIC WIND FARM

CASE NO. 17-2295-EL-BGN

- - - - -

Thursday, September 12, 2019

- - - - -

BOARD MEMBERS:

Sam Randazzo, Chairman
Jay S. Agranoff, Administrative Law Judge
Anna Sanyal, Administrative Law Judge

- - - - -

Tiffin University
Marion Center
235 Miami Street
Tiffin, Ohio

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Dustin Austin Exhibit 1, Karst Interactive Map

Dustin Austin Exhibit 2, Map

Michael Curran Exhibit 1, Documents

Gail Miller Exhibit 1, Documents

Gail Moyer Exhibit 1, Excerpts From Seneca County
Comprehensive Plan Update 2001

Steve Shuff Exhibit 1, Newspaper Article

Greg Smith Exhibit 1, Maps

Daniel Wite Exhibit 1, Statement and Map

Charles Groth Exhibit 1, Republic Wind OPSB
Public Comments Documents

Cheryl Mira Exhibit 1, Documents

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Dominic Miller, Exhibit 1, Weather Radar Documents

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Jan Sampson Exhibit 1, Statement

1
2 MR. AGRANOFF: The Ohio Power Siting
3 Board is scheduled for a Public Hearing at this
4 time and place. Case No. 17-2295-EL-EGN, which
5 is captioned, In The Matter of the Application of
6 Republic Wind, LLC for a Certificate to Site
7 Wind-Powered Electric Generation Facilities in
8 Seneca and Sandusky Counties.

9 My name is Jay Agranoff, and next to me
10 is Anna Sanyal, and we are the Administrative Law
11 Judges assigned to hear this particular case on
12 behalf of the Board. Also with us is the
13 Chairman of the Ohio Power Siting Board, Mr. Sam
14 Randazzo. And Mr. Randazzo, would you like to
15 make a statement at this time?

16 MR. RANDAZZO: Hello, everybody, and
17 thanks for coming. I recognize some faces from
18 some other hearings that we've been to. So this
19 is an important meeting to all of you, but
20 regardless of which side of the issue you're on,
21 and as a result of that it's important to us. So
22 thanks very much for taking part in this process.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

25 I'd also like to point out that we also

1 have a number of the Board staff members that are
2 in attendance today, and you may have seen them
3 when you first came into the building. In
4 particular, Mr. Matt Butler and Mr. Matt
5 Schilling are here and they can assist you with
6 any questions that you might have regarding the
7 application or any other questions you might have
8 regarding matters that are before Ohio Power
9 Siting Board.

10 If you have any questions regarding the
11 application in this case, as I pointed out
12 before, we also have members of the applicant for
13 Republic Wind that are available to answer any
14 questions that you might have.

15 There are a number of parties that are
16 interviewers in this particular case, they
17 include property owners, governmental entities,
18 environmental groups, and the Ohio Farm Group.
19 The adjudicatory hearing portion of this
20 proceeding was originally scheduled to commence
21 on October 2, 2019. Pursuant to an entry that
22 was issued earlier today, the October 2nd hearing
23 will now be a call and continue with the hearing
24 to reconvene on Monday, November 4th at the
25 Board's offices in Columbus.

1 At the evidentiary hearing the parties
2 in this case will offer the testimony of their
3 witnesses, present evidence, and cross-examine
4 witnesses of other parties. In this case, the
5 applicant for Republic Wind sees a Certificate of
6 Environmental compatibility and public needs to
7 construct and operate the Republic Wind Farm,
8 which is a proposed wind powered elect generation
9 facility consisting of up to 47 wind-powered
10 turbines, for a total generation capacity of up
11 to 200 megawatts in Seneca and Sandusky Counties.

12 The project will be located in Adams,
13 Pleasant, Reed, Scipio, and Thompson Townships in
14 Seneca County, and York Township in Sandusky
15 County. The project will occupy up to 19,000
16 acres of leased private land, involving
17 approximately 440 properties.

18 The applicant anticipates that
19 construction would begin in the first or second
20 quarter of 2020. The Board Staff Report, in
21 response to Republic's application, was filed on
22 July 25, 2019.

23 The purpose of today's hearing is
24 limited to receiving comments from the public,
25 specific to the Republic Wind application to

1 construct its proposed wind farm project. We
2 emphasize that this is your opportunity to let
3 the board know how you would be affected if the
4 proposed project is constructed and your opinion
5 of how Republic's application. Any questions
6 that you have about the project, the application,
7 or the Board process should be addressed to the
8 Board staff or Republic's representatives prior
9 to offering the testimony.

10 I would like to point out that the
11 hearing is being transcribed by a court reporter.
12 Please make sure that when you testify that you
13 verbalized all of your responses and speak
14 clearly so that the court reporter can accurately
15 reflect your testimony.

16 If you will or expect to be a witness
17 on behalf of the intervening party, your
18 testimony should be offered at the evidentiary
19 and judicatory hearing and not at this public
20 hearing. I would point out that the intervening
21 parties are as follows: The Board of Seneca
22 County Commissioners, Adams Township, Scipio
23 Township, Reed Township, York Township, Seneca
24 County Park District, the Ohio Environmental
25 Council and the Environmental Defense Fund, the

1 Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, various local
2 residences, and staff of the Ohio Power siting
3 Board.

4 I would ask at this time that if there
5 are counsel from any of the entities that I just
6 identified, if you would please come and sit in
7 the front row and that way if you have any
8 questions to any of the witnesses that will be
9 testifying, it will just make it easier and more
10 conducive for your questions to be asked and so
11 the court reporter can hear you. So if there is
12 any counsel for the entities I just identified,
13 please come forward and sit in the front rows.

14 If you have prepared a written
15 statement, it would be helpful if you provide a
16 copy to the court reporter for reference to
17 ensure that the transcript is accurate. In
18 addition, any attachments to your testimony will
19 be marked as public hearing exhibits. If you
20 have written comments from others who are not
21 able to attend or do not wish to offer testimony,
22 you may present their comments to myself,
23 Ms. Sanyal, or any member of the Board staff to
24 be included in the comment section of the case
25 docket.

1 Additionally, if you do not wish to
2 testify or believe your testimony would be
3 duplicative of the testimony of others, there are
4 sheets at the desk when you first came in that
5 you can sign and that way it will be reflected as
6 to whether or not you are in support or in
7 opposition to the proposed application without
8 having to actually testify.

9 For those of you that did sign up to be
10 witnesses in this particular proceeding, we will
11 call you forward in order that you were listed on
12 the sign-in sheet. We will also call the name of
13 the person who is on deck, and basically so we'll
14 have two witnesses coming forward at the same
15 time.

16 And to start, the first name that we
17 call will go to the microphone to my left, your
18 right, and the second witness will go over to my
19 right, your left, and we'll then just keep
20 rotating so that we can hopefully do things in an
21 expedient manner. If for some reason, when your
22 name is called, you decide you do not want to
23 testify, simply just indicate that you're passing
24 and we'll move on to the next witness.

25 Before you present your testimony,

1 either myself or Ms. Sanyal will be basically
2 asking you to take an oath, to swear you in, so
3 that we can basically have you attest to the
4 veracity of your testimony. And then you'll be
5 asked to spell your name, provide your address,
6 and to indicate which township you reside in and
7 whether or not you reside within a project area.

8 Your testimony will be considered to be
9 part of the record in this case and it will be
10 available and reviewed by the Board in
11 consideration of it's decision regarding
12 Republic's application. Additionally, if there
13 were counsel here from any of the parties, in the
14 moment it doesn't appear that there are, they too
15 may be able to ask any clarifying questions
16 regarding your testimony. And Ms. Sanyal or
17 myself or Chairman Randazzo may also have some
18 questions to ask you regarding your testimony
19 that you provide today.

20 Once you are finished testifying you
21 certainly are free to leave at any time, we just
22 ask that you leave quietly so that you do not
23 disturb any witnesses that are testifying. And
24 we ask that the audience please be considerate of
25 those that are testifying and try to just make

1 sure that you allow the individuals to complete
2 their testimony without interrupting them.

3 We ask that you try to keep your
4 testimony to a reasonable amount of time, since I
5 presume that we're going to have a large of
6 people that do want to testify, just so that we
7 can keep things moving efficiently in a expedient
8 manner.

9 I would also ask that if there are any
10 members of the media that in attendance, if you
11 please make sure that you let either Matt
12 Schilling or Matt Butler know as to who you are
13 and please provide them with your business card,
14 that way they'll be able to put you on our
15 service list and provide you with any information
16 that may be issued pertaining to this case.

17 And, lastly, I would ask that you
18 please shut off your cell phones so that there is
19 no noise that may interrupt this particular
20 proceeding. And are there any questions from we
21 begin?

22 MR. RANDAZZO: Yes. I just, I would
23 like to introduce Representative Stein, Dick
24 Stein, who is with us this evening. I know we
25 chatted earlier in the day and I know he has

1 obligations back in the district, but thanks for
2 being here.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. At this
4 point in time we're going take the appearances of
5 the parties in this proceeding. And on behalf of
6 the Applicant.

7 MR. PARRAM: Yes. Thank you, Your
8 Honor, and good afternoon.

9 On behalf of the Applicant, Republic
10 Wind, Devin Parram and Dylan Borchers from the
11 Law Firm of Bricker & Eckler, 100 South Third
12 Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

14 And is there counsel from any of the
15 intervening parties in attendance today? I will
16 presume that silence indicates there are none.
17 And I also would like to mention that we
18 probably, depending on how we're doing time-wise,
19 we'll take a break sometime, maybe in an hour or
20 an hour and a half or, just so that, to extent
21 that there are people that may need to be leave
22 and, you know, just want to wait until we took
23 breaks. So that you know it will be sometime
24 probably in about an hour and a half or so.

25 Anything else? If not, then well call

1 the first witness.

2 MS. SANYAL: Kathy Yost. And then if
3 we could have Ms. Linda Coffman also come up and
4 if could just wait up here.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Please raise your right
6 hand.

7 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
8 you're about to give in this proceedings is the
9 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
10 truth?

11 MS. YOST: Yes.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
13 name and address, please.

14 MS. YOST: Kathleen, K-A-T-H-L-E-E-N,
15 Yost, Y-O-S-T, 3206 South County Road 7, Tiffin,
16 that's Seneca Township. And I am not in the
17 footprint of the current wind project.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please
19 proceed.

20 MS. YOST: I would like to address the
21 fact that there are more than 14,000 abandoned
22 wind turbines currently sited throughout the
23 United States. There are at least 3 abandoned
24 project sites in California and 5 in Hawaii, with
25 more scattered throughout many other states. The

1 winds companies promised at the beginning to have
2 a bond to cover decommissioning and removing
3 turbines that are not longer viable, but after
4 many sales to different investment groups, that
5 promise is not being kept and these eyesores are
6 what the residents need to live with for years to
7 come, possibly decades.

8 The bases of these turbines are 25 to
9 30 feet deep, maybe even more, I don't know.
10 They need to blast through bedrock to build the
11 bases. What is that going to do to our aquifers
12 and our wells? I have read testimony from people
13 living in other areas with turbines and they have
14 stated that it has affected their wells,
15 sometimes the water is almost black. Living in
16 the country, we will have our wells to bring
17 clean, fresh water into our homes.

18 For the past 20 years or so, Seneca
19 County has been actively trying to reintroduce
20 the bald eagle into this area. And we have done
21 a terrific job! We now have dozens of nesting
22 pairs. Wind companies like to say that cats kill
23 more birds in the U.S. than turbines, and I'm
24 sure that's true. But cats kill robins,
25 sparrows, starlings, and other small birds that

1 are not endangered. Cats do not kill eagles,
2 hawks, owls, and other larger birds. Turbines
3 also kill bats, which are beneficial to our area
4 farmers, and even family gardeners, so they can
5 use less and spend less on pesticides. Seneca
6 County has many nature preserves for the very
7 purpose of providing habitat for a variety of
8 native wildlife and plants, and at least two of
9 these are in the footprint of the turbines. All
10 those years of nurturing these would be for
11 nothing.

12 Many rural areas of our county are
13 zoned for agricultural, residential, and some
14 commercial use. What is the purpose of local
15 zoning laws if industrial use turbines are
16 allowed on thousands of acres? I can assure you
17 none of the people living in these areas ever
18 thought they would be living in an industrial
19 zone. Some people in the past have been to the
20 Whirlpool facility in Findlay, Hancock County,
21 Ohio, and the fact that they have a half a dozen
22 or more turbines. Whirlpool is already zoned
23 industrial and their turbines are half or less
24 the size of the ones proposed for our mainly
25 agricultural townships. And the people in that

1 township have since voted against more turbines
2 being built. Thankfully, they had that choice.

3 And none of the above points even
4 addresses the fact that it costs more in ores and
5 minerals and other production costs to produce
6 each turbines than will ever be produced in
7 electricity. None of the wind turbines would be
8 economically viable without government subsidies.
9 These turbines are not the green dream or savior
10 that they are made out to be.

11 Please consider all of these points,
12 along with others that will be made here today,
13 and decline to approve these industrial wind
14 turbines in Seneca County. Thank you.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. If you
16 could, please, and we'll see if counsel has any
17 questions.

18 MR. PARRAM: Your Honor, I'm just going
19 to make a standing objection. I believe Ms. Yost
20 may have read some statement or made indications
21 about other things that she read in other
22 proceedings. I just want to make a standing
23 hearsay objection with respect to the witnesses
24 that testify or brought other statements. A
25 standing hearsay objection throughout the

1 proceeding, that we are not waiving any objection
2 with respect to hearsay for the purposes of the
3 hearing or for purposes of briefing.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: So noted.

5 MS. YOST: I'm sorry, what did you say
6 to do with this?

7 MR. AGRANOFF: If you can just please
8 give it to me.

9 MS. YOST: I'm sorry.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. I appreciate
11 it.

12 MS. SANYAL: Cathy Limbird, if you
13 could please come up. And if you could just wait
14 over there.

15 MS. COFFMAN: I don't know where I'm
16 supposed to go.

17 MS. SANYAL: I'm going to swear you in
18 right now.

19 MS. COFFMAN: Okay.

20 MS. SANYAL: Okay. If you'll please
21 stand up.

22 MS. COFFMAN: Sorry.

23 MS. SANYAL: Do you solemnly swear or
24 affirm that the testimony you're about to provide
25 is the whole truth?

1 MS. COFFMAN: I do.

2 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And then if you
3 will state your address and the township from
4 where you are from, and whether or not you're in
5 the project area.

6 MS. COFFMAN: Do you want me to stand
7 over there?

8 MS. SANYAL: No. You can stand here.
9 There. Thank you, Mr. Parram.

10 MS. COFFMAN: I'm sort of -- all
11 right. Thank you.

12 MR. PARRAM: You're welcome.

13 MS. COFFMAN: All right. My name is
14 Linda Coffman, L-I-N-D-A C-O-F-F-M-A-N. I live
15 at 6851 South State Route 231 in Tiffin, Ohio,
16 which is in Eden Township.

17 I am opposed to the industrial wind
18 turbine project proposed by APEX. I am
19 essentially concerned with the people who live in
20 the project footprint, some barely a quarter mile
21 from 600 turbines. These families would be the
22 ones to bear the heaviest burden and pay the
23 highest price. If a project like this were to be
24 allowed, that project would transform their rural
25 farmland community into an industrialized area.

1 I am also very concerned about the environmental
2 impact from these turbines, especially on large
3 birds species and on bats. This is a problem
4 that effects everyone.

5 About a year ago I received an email
6 invitation to attend an open house at the APEX
7 office in Bellevue. I went to learn, to hear
8 what they had to say. APEX Clean Energy had
9 produced various handouts and I was encouraged to
10 take one of each of them. Today I would like to
11 comment on a few of the topics APEX covered in
12 these handouts, and you might want to look to see
13 if there is a pattern of their coverage.

14 APEX addresses the subject of property
15 values and quotes of study which says "the core
16 results of our analysis consistently show no
17 sizeable, statistically, significant impact of
18 wind turbines on nearby property values." The
19 size of the study they quoted was 51 thousand
20 homes and all of the homes were within 10 miles
21 of wind facilities. Study details show that less
22 than 3 percent of these homes were within one
23 mile of the turbines. The vast majority of the
24 homes were from nearby towns up to 10 miles away.
25 This study is meaningless for the people actually

1 living nearby or inside the project's footprint.

2 In a Forbes article dated September 23,
3 2015, it states,

4 "Why should somebody choose to buy a
5 home with an industrial wind farm nearby."

6 In contrast to the APEX handout, the
7 conclusion in this article was that nearby
8 residents would take about 25 to 40 percent loss.

9 On the subject of wildlife APEX states
10 that they conduct environmental impact studies
11 and they coordinate with federal and state
12 wildlife agencies to make sure their projects are
13 sited in areas where impact to birds and bats are
14 minimized and appropriately mitigated, if
15 necessary.

16 In November of 2018 I wrote a letter to
17 the Ohio Power Siting Board concerning a
18 statement an APEX project manager made to a group
19 of people in the open house. He was answering a
20 question about wind quality and he told the group
21 the wind across Seneca County is very high
22 quality. He said because of Lake Erie there is a
23 steady river of wind. I then asked him if
24 migrating birds wouldn't follow a route like
25 that? He acknowledged that Seneca County is in a

1 migratory route for birds and APEX will be
2 required to curtail their turbines during the
3 migration period. My letter to the Ohio Power
4 Siting Board was to ask how long their turbines
5 would be curtailed and who would enforce it?

6 Putting industrial wind turbines in a
7 known migratory fly away doesn't sound like APEX
8 was making sure their projects are sited in areas
9 where impacts to birds and bats are minimized.
10 This is just one of the reasons why Seneca County
11 would not be an appropriate location to host
12 these turbines.

13 A third topic in an APEX handout
14 addresses health, and specifically infrasound.
15 The handout states, and I quote,

16 "Low level frequently noise or
17 Infrasound modifies wind turbines as
18 minimal and at no consequence. Further,
19 numerous reports have concluded that there
20 is no evidence of health effects arising
21 from infrasound or low frequency noise
22 generated by turbines." End quote.

23 APEX goes on to say that health
24 symptoms associated with turbines are likely due
25 to a nocebo response, which is a recognized

1 psychosomatic condition.

2 On pages 23 to 35 of the Ohio Power
3 Siting Board Post of the public hearing held
4 July 23 this year, Captain Michael Curran
5 delivered a comprehensive report on studies which
6 show infrasound does adversely affect the heart
7 and other organs in laboratory animals, and human
8 tissue samples were also studied.

9 Robert Berg, on pages 134 through 144
10 also spoke on infrasound and reported there is
11 proven reduction in the strength of the tissue of
12 the human heart when they're exposed to
13 infrasound signals. That scientist's conclusion
14 was that wind installations should be kept far
15 enough away from where people live and gather to
16 ensure human health is not endangered.

17 The two totally different and
18 independent studies cited by Curran and Berg
19 reached similar conclusions and refute what APEX
20 wrote.

21 A fourth, and my final example,
22 concerns safety. APEX wrote, quote,

23 "Fact: Ohio has some of the most
24 restrictive setbacks in the country," end
25 quote.

1 APEX also wrote a paragraph attempting
2 to make sure the safe viewing setback mentioned
3 in the 2007 turbine manual written by turbine
4 manufacturer, Vestas, was not confused with
5 actual setback distances. In the last sentence
6 of that paragraph APEX said, quote,

7 "The implication that a safe viewing
8 distance from a catastrophic failing
9 turbine should be applied as a standard
10 setback is as unreasonable as the
11 suggestion that standard setback if
12 building to building in downtown Bellevue
13 should be based on a safe viewing distance
14 in the case of a gas explosion or fire in
15 the neighborhood," end quote.

16 In June of this year, the Ohio Power
17 Siting Board asked for public comments on whether
18 to require turbine operators to report turbine
19 incidents. Apparently reporting has not been
20 required, which makes me wonder how APEX, without
21 having data to support it, can know for sure that
22 these incidents are really quite rare and highly
23 unlikely.

24 What we do know is that APEX would like
25 our present setback distances to be reduced, even

1 though our current setbacks are insufficient to
2 protect people and property if an incident were
3 to occur.

4 Evidence from the blade throw workshop,
5 which is on file at the Ohio Power Siting Board,
6 clearly states that 1 in 20 turbines will have a
7 blade throw event in its lifetime, and blade
8 fragments weighing several pounds have been
9 thrown hundreds of feet farther than current
10 setbacks.

11 If public safety truly is a
12 consideration, the industrial wind turbines
13 should not be sited close enough to where people
14 live to make them unsafe in their own homes.

15 The pattern I see leads me to conclude
16 the APEX application to install their industrial
17 wind turbines in Seneca County should be denied.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

20 If I could just ask one question. Are
21 you currently residing within the propose
22 project?

23 MS. COFFMAN: Yes, I am currently --

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Are you currently
25 residing within the proposed project?

1 MS. COFFMAN: Am I currently --

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Living in the proposed
3 project area.

4 MS. COFFMAN: No. I live south of
5 town, in -- adjacent to the S Power Project, if
6 they should decide to refile. And I think I read
7 that if I had a concern, because my biggest
8 concern is the birds and the bats. I mean, I'm
9 concerned about people, but the birds and the
10 bats will be affected and affect all of us. Some
11 people living in town think they won't be
12 effected. They will be. So that's why I'm here
13 today.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Any questions from
15 counsel?

16 MR. PARRAM: No questions, Your Honor.

17 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

18 MS. SANYAL: And Lori Riedy, if you
19 would, please come up and hang out here. Thank
20 you.

21 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
22 the testimony you're about to provide is the
23 whole truth?

24 MS. LIMBIRD: Yes.

25 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And then if you'll

1 state your name, your address, what township, and
2 if you're a part of the project area. Thank you.

3 MS. LIMBIRD: My name is Cathy Limbird.
4 C-A-T-H-Y L-I-M-B-I-R-D. I have lot at 16418
5 Reed Street, Township Road 9. I live in Reed
6 Township in Seneca County. I do not live in the
7 footprint of Republic Wind.

8 MS. SANYAL: Thank you.

9 MS. LIMBIRD: I am talking to today
10 because I oppose the wind turbine project. There
11 are multitude of reasons why I oppose them, but I
12 am focusing on what I think is the most important
13 reason to me. I have growing concerns of the
14 health effects that the industrial wind turbines
15 can cause. I have worked in healthcare as a
16 registered nurse for over 30 years. Because of
17 my background as a nurse, my focus has always
18 been trying to better the quality of my patients'
19 lives. I feel that the effects of the turbines
20 will decrease the quality of life in those living
21 by them.

22 To term "Wind Turbine Syndrome" is a
23 clinical name that has been given to the multiple
24 symptoms that are experienced by many people who
25 live near the wind turbines. These symptoms

1 include sleep disturbances, headache, tinnitus,
2 ear pressure, dizziness, vertigo, nausea, visual
3 blurring, rapid heart rate, irritability,
4 problems with concentration and memory, panic
5 episodes and anxiety that are associated from the
6 internal pulsation of quivering which arise from
7 even when they're awake or asleep.

8 Wind turbine syndrome seems to be
9 triggered but the organs of motion, position, and
10 balance, which is located in your ear. The low
11 frequency noise and the infrasound that the wind
12 turbine produces send scrambled signals to the
13 brain centers that control these symptoms. There
14 are many accounts of people who live by the
15 turbines that have developed such intense
16 symptoms that they literally had to move from
17 their homes and property.

18 Infrasound is the noise produced by the
19 turbines that a human ear cannot hear. It occurs
20 when large masses are in motion, for example, the
21 rotation of the wind turbine blades. Infrasound,
22 especially the larger the wind turbines is, can
23 be measured miles away from that turbine. Wind
24 developers deny any health effects from the
25 infrasound and the low frequency noise of the

1 turbines. Unfortunately, some people think that
2 if you can't hear the noise, it can't hurt you.
3 There has been much research done on this subject
4 in the medical field and saying that what you
5 can't hear will not hurt you is absolutely false.

6 As troubling as the Wind Turbine
7 Syndrome is, my concern grew even more when I
8 found research done by a cardiovascular physician
9 in Germany. The wind turbines have been around
10 there for over 20 years. He has been focusing on
11 the acute human health effects of infrasound.

12 It was found that infrasound does have
13 a distinct effect on heart muscle tissue. They
14 found a clear reduction of the heart muscle
15 strength when exposed to infrasound. When your
16 heart muscle decreases in its strength your heart
17 will not pump as effectively as it should, thus
18 decreasing the heart's function and causing a
19 multitude of cardiac problems.

20 This study is alarming to me. Wind
21 turbines do not belong around here in areas where
22 people live. No one should endure health effects
23 from wind turbines. There is nothing, absolutely
24 nothing that says wind turbines must sited next
25 door to peoples' homes. Siting of these turbines

1 that over 600 feet high is a crucial problem.
2 Please keep them out of our counties where our
3 population is too large. They do not belong
4 here.

5 I am also very concerned about Life
6 Flight being able to reach emergencies in our
7 area if the wind turbines were to be built here.
8 As a registered nurse, who has worked for over 30
9 years in a rural hospital emergency department, I
10 am very aware of the importance of the golden
11 hour a trauma victim has immediately after being
12 involved in an injury accident. We live in an
13 area that's at least 60 miles away from a Level 1
14 trauma center. Without Life Flight, we here in
15 our rural area will take huge steps backward when
16 it comes to treating trauma victims in a timely
17 manner to save their lives. Not only are we in
18 the middle of farm country where accidents can
19 and do happen, but we have a great deal of
20 tourist traffic, especially in the summer and
21 fall months.

22 . At the end of the day, you guys will
23 all go home. I do not know if there are wind
24 turbines lurking in your future or not, but I
25 want you to remember that the decision that this

1 board makes is going to impact thousands of
2 people. Our quality of life is resting in your
3 hands. Please do not subject us to all of the
4 negative impact that the wind turbines have. Let
5 us please continue to live our lives in our
6 beautiful and peaceful rural areas, unchanged
7 from the way it is now. Thank you.

8 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

9 Any questions from counsel?

10 MR. PARRAM: No, questions. Your
11 Honor.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you very much.

13 MS. SANYAL: Casey Didion, if you'll
14 come here.

15 And, Ms. Riedy, if you'll please raise
16 your right hand.

17 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
18 the testimony you're about to provide is the
19 whole truth?

20 MS. RIEDY: I do. And thank you for
21 saying "Riedy." Nobody gets my name right.

22 MS. SANYAL: I'm trying to be
23 phonetically correct.

24 MS. RIEDY: Okay. My name is Lori
25 Riedy, L-O-R-I R-I-E-D-Y. And I am in Groton

1 Township in Erie County. I am not in the
2 footprint of this project. There is another
3 project going on next that I will be involved in.

4 MS. SANYAL: Ms. Riedy, your address.

5 MS. RIEDY: 9910 State Route 269, and
6 that is in Bellevue.

7 MS. SANYAL: And you may proceed.

8 MS. RIEDY: All right. I own Russell's
9 Flower Garden Center & Gifts. And I am here to
10 voice my absolute opposition to the wind turbines
11 that are slated for Sandusky, Seneca, Erie, and
12 Huron Counties. All four counties that are
13 surrounded in the city of Bellevue.

14 There are many reasons why I am against
15 them. The bats, the eagles, the bird migration,
16 the infrasound, the shadow flicker, the fact that
17 only landowners that have them on their actual
18 property are the only ones that will really
19 benefit from them. But my biggest concern is the
20 effect that it will have on the very sensitive
21 region that we live in known as the Karst Region.

22 Bellevue has the largest sinkholes in
23 the State of Ohio by perimeter, area, and volume.
24 We have the most extensive karst region and this
25 has been documented.

1 My business involves using tens of
2 thousands of gallons of water being pumped from
3 our well to water eight greenhouses full of
4 plants, mum pots, et cetera. Without our well we
5 will be out of business. Not only are they
6 trying to put wind turbines here, but they want
7 to erect the largest ever built, 655 feet, two of
8 which are to be located directly behind my
9 property within less than a quarter of a mile.

10 The amount of excavation that will have
11 to be done to later pour hundreds of tons of
12 concrete into the bases to hold these turbines is
13 just unbelievable. There is absolutely a very
14 high probability that greater sinkholes and
15 solution cavities will be disrupted or filled in.
16 Underground streams and drainage that have formed
17 through our limestone layers will be irreparably
18 damaged. Our wells may be contaminated, if not
19 destroyed all together.

20 There was a report done after the 2008
21 flood in Bellevue, which closed down our State
22 Route 269, where my business is located, for more
23 than three months. I cannot imagine what would
24 happen if these turbines are allowed to be built.
25 This was designated as an EPA protected area

1 because of the sensitive region that we are
2 located in. Why would we allow anyone to come in
3 and disturb our area for something that has
4 already proven to have negative effects and no
5 quantitative benefits? They have no idea of what
6 type of area they are dealing with, and then add
7 to that they want to put the largest turbines
8 ever constructed on top of it in an area with
9 high population. They have slated a very high
10 concentration of turbines in a very populated
11 area, which makes no sense.

12 This whole process will have a negative
13 effect on many of the people who live in this
14 area and I would plead that they not be allowed
15 to located here in Bellevue. Thank you.

16 MS. SANYAL: Any questions?

17 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: I just have one
19 clarifying question. You had indicated that
20 there was going to be a turbine a quarter mile
21 from your property.

22 MS. RIEDY: Yes.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: Which project was that?

24 MS. RIEDY: That would Emerson Creek.

25 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

1 MS. SANYAL: Dustin Austin, if you'll
2 please come up.

3 And then, Mr. Didion, your right hand.

4 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
5 the testimony you're about to provide is the
6 whole truth?

7 MR. DIDION: I do.

8 MS. SANYAL: And if you'll state your
9 name, address, township, and whether or not
10 you're in the project area.

11 MR. DIDION: My name is Casey Didion,
12 C-A-S-E-Y D-I-D-I-O-N. I'm in York Township,
13 Bellevue, Ohio. 6040 County Road 113.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Are you in the project
15 area?

16 MR. DIDION: I am in the project area.
17 I have a windmill -- actually three windmills
18 scheduled to be within about 1,250 feet of my
19 residence.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

21 MR. DIDION: Thank you.

22 Any sound decision is made by
23 conducting an impartial cost-benefit-analysis.
24 The factors to be analyzed in considering these
25 local wind farms fall into two categories:

Environmental Considerations and Economic Impact.

The Environmental analysis centers on the undisputed amount and location of karst in our region. In the simplest terms, karst's unstable terrain allows for high connectivity between land surfaces and the water tables. What does this mean? It means pollution. Pollution of our wells. Pollutions of our drinking water. And pollutions of Lake Erie. This is because they promote major nutrient loading from farm runoff chemicals and fertilizers creating a direct route to Lake Erie and that's causing the notorious harmful algae blooms of Lake Erie.

Our own Ohio Department of National Resources independently documented and discussed these at length in a publication of 2013, which concluded that Bellevue's karst sites are the largest in the state. This report was conducted years before the influence or pressure of wind farm craze and cautioned the high susceptibility of pollution and instability of erecting structures in karst regions. Yet, interesting, windmill proponents now offer their own self-funded report to assure us that there is no risk to our local water supply.

1 But with windmills exerting more than
2 1,000 pounds of pressure per square foot, what if
3 they are wrong? What is the Ohio Department of
4 Natural Resources was right? How will a polluted
5 water table serving entire communities be
6 remediated? Who will the residents call when it
7 happens? Who will shoulder the cost? There is
8 no easy or cheap fix to these fragile
9 subterranean features that are damaged.

10 The environmental risks may pass muster
11 in our cost-benefit-analysis if they were all
12 paid by the economic benefit. But to be blunt,
13 it isn't even close.

14 To summarize: These wind farms do not
15 result in more energy choices to consumers.
16 These wind farms do not result in lower energy
17 costs to consumers. Only a handful of local
18 property owners stand to benefit from the land
19 leases. By their own admission in their
20 application, these windmills are expected to
21 generate only 41 permanent jobs. And what's most
22 telling, the economic projections themselves were
23 filed under seal. Why? Because they'd rather
24 line the pocket of developers and the lease
25 holders.

1 Finally, we must consider safety in
2 completing our analysis. In 2014, legislators
3 took a note to the noise and dangers of blade
4 throw from much shorter wind towers. At that
5 time they approved House Bill 483, which set the
6 distances of blade tips 1,125 feet from a
7 property line. Now, in a frenzy to promote and
8 approve much taller windmills, proponents seek
9 closer distances and want to measure from a
10 structure as opposed to the property line.
11 They're looking out for our safety, aren't they?

12 Step back and run the analysis:
13 Irreparable harm to local residents, including
14 flood and the contamination of our drinking
15 water; further pollution to our Great Lake Erie;
16 Safety concerns of reduced setbacks weighed
17 against a non-profitable business adventure,
18 which generates few permanent jobs and results in
19 no direct benefits to most local residents.

20 I encourage you to deny this
21 application for our sake. Thank you for
22 listening.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: No questions from
24 counsel?

25 MR. PARRAM: No questions, Your Honor.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Mr. Chairman.

2 MR. RANDAZZO: Mr. Didion, you
3 mentioned a Department of Natural Resources study
4 from 2013 that examined the karst.

5 MR. DIDION: Yes, sir, I did.

6 MR. RANDAZZO: Do you have a copy of
7 that study or --

8 MRS. DIDION: I do.

9 MR. RANDAZZO: Okay.

10 MR. DIDION: Yes. My wife is with me
11 and she's also going to speak on karst issues.

12 MR. RANDAZZO: Okay. Well, we can wait
13 until you speak.

14 MRS. DIDION: Okay.

15 MR. DIDION: This was also given to the
16 Siting Board at the same time -- actually I sent
17 this into the Siting Board beforehand. Actually,
18 it was given to them for the Seneca East project.
19 The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has done
20 one heck of a good job on this. And it's just
21 been upgraded in 2018, by the way. I just go
22 back to 2013, because 27 of these windmills, and
23 this Republic set up, are sitting right on top of
24 a karst by their own acknowledgement. They make
25 reference they've got some mountain in Oklahoma

1 or Texas that they're working on karst related
2 right now. Working on. Not settled. Not
3 figured out how to do it. They were told -- on
4 the Siting Board they were told that the
5 foundations are only 10 foot deep so they
6 shouldn't effect our well water.

7 These karsts in the soil behind my
8 house two and a half feet under the soil level,
9 is limestone gold in my areas that can get
10 dissolved through that water running into there.
11 Two and a half feet of soil. That's what we got
12 to filter our farm chemicals and our sprays that
13 go on our fields and so forth. And that will go
14 along with our septic systems and so forth. If
15 those layers are removed, that enters right into
16 the limestone cast formation. We have the
17 largest karst formation in Ohio. I wouldn't be
18 afraid to say probably the United States. That's
19 my testimony.

20 MR. RANDAZZO: Thank you.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Any additional questions
22 from counsel?

23 MR. PARRAM: No, Your Honor.

24 MS. SANYAL: And then Diane Hudok, if
25 you'll come up here and wait. Thank you. And

1 then Mr. Austin, your right hand.

2 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
3 the testimony you're about to provide is the
4 whole truth?

5 MR. AUSTIN: I do.

6 MS. SANYAL: And I feel like you know
7 the drill by now.

8 MR. AUSTIN: My name is Dustin,
9 D-U-S-T-I-N A-U-S-T-I-N. I live at 14281 East
10 County Road 46, Bellevue. I live in Thompson
11 Township and I am within the Republic Wind
12 Footprint. As a matter of fact, I have five
13 turbines approximately 2,000 feet from my
14 residence.

15 I come to you today as a long time
16 Seneca County resident. A Thompson Township
17 resident whose family has resided in this county
18 for over 170 years. My home that I've own is
19 located on the family farm, which has been in our
20 family for 131 years. Over the years I've heard
21 generations of family members tell stories about
22 the land, and give insights to the farming
23 operations and the geology of the farm. This is
24 very important, since we are here today to talk
25 about industrial wind farms proposed for this

1 area.

2 I have grave concerns over these
3 projects, as they will greatly impact my family,
4 home, surrounding area where I reside, and I have
5 three major concerns with this project that I
6 hope the Power Siting Board takes into account.

7 One is the impact that these wind
8 turbines will have on our water system in this
9 county. You see, many people, actually many of
10 my neighbors, rely on their wells for their main
11 and only water source for their home, barns, and
12 animals. Many families today cannot afford
13 another water source, or have one brought in.
14 Especially since most wells are a free water
15 source, helping to make it financially easier for
16 families to help pay their other monthly bills.

17 In one community in Chatham-Kent,
18 Ontario, there are major problems with water
19 wells being contaminated with black shale
20 sediments. This has effected over 200 homes,
21 which was first noticed during construction and
22 operations of the North Kent Wind project. This
23 is believed to have been caused by what is called
24 pile driving, along the different types of
25 vibrations from the operations of the turbines.

1 Why would we want to take a chance of affecting
2 our freshest water sources in this county which
3 families desperately rely on?

4 Secondly, with this being said, it's
5 very important for the Ohio Power Siting Board to
6 consider the large karst area in Seneca County.
7 With the large amount of sinkholes in this
8 County, it is very important to consider what
9 lies below the surface. And I can only pray that
10 this is highly research and considered before
11 allowing these wind projects.

12 On our family farm there are five
13 sinkholes, five, and a sixth one is in the
14 process of opening up. This is very concerning
15 for my family, as we do not know how many more
16 sinkholes could or would open up during and after
17 construction of these large wind turbines. The
18 vibrations caused from these larger industrial
19 wind turbine is sure to have negative side
20 effects here, just like they have in other
21 communities. The fact of matter is, new
22 sinkholes could open up and the current sinkhole
23 could open even larger, making this a very
24 serious problem. I urge you to look at the two
25 maps I am including in my statement attached

1 here. Which I have given you a copy of already
2 on pages 3 and 4. According to our report,
3 "Evaluating Karst Risk At Proposed Wind Power
4 Projects" by William Bangsund of Barr Engineering
5 Company, and Kenneth A. Johnson of Oklahoma
6 Geological Survey, I quote, Karst can lead to a
7 wind turbine tilting and even toppling," end
8 quote. I ask you all, is this something that you
9 would want to topple near your home or your
10 family? Especially, since wind companies are
11 pushing for shorter setbacks.

12 Lastly, want to urge the Ohio Power
13 Siting Board to consider our local parks which
14 would also be negatively affected by these wind
15 projects. We need the our area wildlife as they
16 are essential to farming operations, with the
17 many benefits they bring, such as bats. An
18 estimated 600 birds are killed annually by wind
19 turbines, so why would we want to participate in
20 this slaughter? Some of the most beneficial
21 birds being bats, which eat large numbers of
22 night-flying insects, which include mosquitoes,
23 and the pollinate seeds and fruits we eat.
24 Furthermore, our eagle population has finally
25 returned and these large turbines threaten the

1 species once again. Bird watching is a real
2 thing in this area, which brings tourists to the
3 area.

4 In the Public Utilities Commission
5 mission statement, they assure all residential
6 and business consumers access to adequate, safe,
7 and reliable services at fair prices. I sure
8 hope you keep that statement in mind along with
9 the words "safe" and "reliable" when voting on
10 this project. These large industrial wind
11 turbines are neither safe nor reliable, if you
12 take a look at these wind turbines and other
13 projects, in other areas.

14 Why would we want to risk all of this
15 for wind turbines which are really not green at
16 all? The major impacts far outweigh any minute
17 monetary benefits the turbines could bring. I
18 urge the Ohio Power Siting Board to deny the
19 certificate and do not let these industrial wind
20 farms into Seneca County.

21 Included with my map, which I put key
22 with, you'll notice one red circle dot I want to
23 highlight. This map is a map from the Karst
24 Interactive Map by the ODNR Division of
25 Geological Surveys. This is a recent map, we

1 just updated it.

2 The sinkholes circled in red was not
3 accounted for in this particular map. The
4 interesting factor, if you turn to page 4, Apex
5 said it proposed a transmission line running feet
6 within this large sinkhole that has not been
7 accounted for on our family farm.

8 I urge you to closely follow all of the
9 transmission lines and overlay it with all of the
10 proposed and known sinkholes in our county.
11 You'll be pleasantly surprised. That is it.

12 MS. SANYAL: Thank you. Any questions?

13 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

14 MS. SANYAL: Any questions?

15 MR. AGRANOFF: No.

16 MS. SANYAL: William Seaman. And if
17 you'll just wait.

18 And then Ms. Hudok, am I pronouncing
19 that correctly?

20 MS. HUDOK: Yes. Thank you.

21 MS. SANYAL: Right hand.

22 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
23 the testimony you're about to provide is the
24 whole truth?

25 MS. HUDOK: Yes. My name is Diane

1 Hudok, D-I-A-N-E, Hudok, H-U-D-O-K.

2 MS. SANYAL: Could you get the
3 microphone a little closer to you?

4 MS. HUDOK: Diane Hudok, D-I-A-N-E,
5 Hudok, H-U-D-O-K. I live at 6300 Township Road
6 151, Eden Township, Seneca County. I am not in
7 the footprint, but I am within the radius of the
8 infrasound wind effects.

9 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

10 MS. HUDOK: Your Honor, my husband,
11 Joe, and I live in Eden Township in rural Seneca
12 County. We oppose the construction of Republic
13 Wind. Industrial wind turbines here in this area
14 are so wrong on so many levels. There are many
15 facts and much anecdotal evidence that you will
16 be hearing today and tonight from others for this
17 conclusion. I am asking that when you listen,
18 please listen also with your heart.

19 There are trade-offs when you live out
20 of town, out in the country. Those who live in
21 the country have traded pizza delivery, big deal;
22 cable TV, and reliable cellphone WiFi service.
23 We traded it for fireflies at dusk, eagles in
24 flight, starry night skies, and barn owls in the
25 wood, just to mention a few. We have longer

1 distances to schools, work, grocery stores,
2 doctors, and church, but shorter time in actual
3 traffic. One tractor and one car constitutes a
4 traffic jam in our county. We've traded the
5 nonstop noise of the city for the throaty growl
6 of our neighbors' tractors at planting and
7 harvest. We've learned to sniff the air or check
8 which way the breeze blows before hanging out
9 laundry. We have sky-scapes instead of
10 skyscrapers, and we like it that way.

11 To us, a wind farm is not a farm. We
12 know farms. This is an industrial project that
13 is systematic organized vandalism of our beloved
14 rural area.

15 The proposed industrial wind turbines
16 here make us fear for our health, our homes, our
17 water, our community ethos, and the rural beauty
18 that surrounds us.

19 Industrial wind turbines here would be
20 monstrous metal structures testifying to short
21 sightedness and greed. Okaying construction of
22 this wind project okays destruction of this rural
23 area and rural living. And that is not okay and
24 not just or fair. So we ask please deny the
25 application. Thank you, Your Honor.

1 MS. SANYAL: Counsel, any questions?

2 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

3 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Any questions? No.

4 Thank you. If you have a copy of your remarks,
5 you don't have to give it to us, but if you do,
6 we'll take it.

7 And then Jim Feasel, if you would come
8 up here to be on deck. Thank you so much.

9 Right hand.

10 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
11 the testimony you are about to provide is the
12 whole truth?

13 MR. SEAMAN: I do.

14 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And then address,
15 name, township, project area. Thank you.

16 MR. SEAMAN: This is not my first
17 rodeo.

18 MR. SANYAL: Okay.

19 MR. SEAMAN: My name is William Seaman,
20 W-I-L-L-I-A-M, last name Seaman, S-E-A-M-A-N. My
21 address is 4584 State Route 547, Bellevue, Ohio,
22 44811. I do not live in the project area. I do,
23 however, exist in the cumulative viewshed of the
24 Republic Wind project.

25 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you live in the

1 township?

2 MR. SEAMAN: I live in Lyme Township,
3 excuse me. My name is William Seaman. I'm a
4 resident of Lyme Township in Huron County. My
5 family has farmed, owned property, and lived in
6 Lyme township for 172 years. Lyme Township is
7 adjacent to Seneca County and Sandusky County.
8 And as I previously said, I reside in the
9 viewshed of the Republic Wind project and I'm in
10 the project footprint on the Emerson Creek Wind
11 project.

12 Just a little story before I get into
13 the rest of my statement. In my travel to Tiffin
14 for this event I passed, as I was entering Scipio
15 Township, a sign that said, "Scipio Township
16 zoned for your protection." So for the record, I
17 would like every single one of those signs that
18 we see in all the rural townships in Ohio to
19 state the same thing. "Oxford Township, zoned
20 for your protection," but underneath it would be
21 a little sign except -- that would say "Except
22 for industrial wind turbine." Because we all
23 live -- I know Franz Copta and John Paul Stark
24 and whoever wrote Allison In Wonderland would
25 appreciate that sense of humor.

1 MS. SANYAL: Lewis Carroll.

2 MR. SEAMAN: Thank you for the
3 opportunity to speak at this public hearing
4 today. My comments are directed to the seven
5 voting members on the Ohio Power Siting Board,
6 Sam Randazzo, Dorothy Pelanda, Lydia Mihalik,
7 Laurie Stevenson, Amy Acton, Mary Mertz, and
8 Gregory Murphy. These are the individuals who
9 ultimately will approve or deny APEX's
10 certificate for the Republic Wind project.

11 I'm not a young person, so hopefully
12 the many years I've lived have given me some
13 wisdom. My current wife may disagree with that,
14 but she's not here to listen to that statement.

15 In my 39 years of employment with the
16 Federal government I have seen, up close and
17 personal, public policies that are destructive,
18 unnecessarily expensive, and downright wrong.
19 And often these public policies start out with
20 the best of intentions.

21 First and foremost, we can all agree
22 that we want Ohio to be a better place to live.
23 We want an environment safe for ourselves, our
24 children, and our grandchildren. We want our
25 natural resources protected. We also want our

1 economy to grow and prosper.

2 And for the record, by itself, Ohio has
3 the 7th largest economy in the United States and
4 the 27th largest in the world.

5 The backbone of our robust economy is
6 our electrical grid. Reliable, robust, and
7 reasonably priced electricity is essential to
8 keeping businesses currently based in Ohio here,
9 and attracting new businesses from other parts of
10 the United States and overseas.

11 The arrival of big wind to our area,
12 with projects in Seneca, Sandusky, Huron and Erie
13 County, does not make our electrical grid more
14 reliable, more robust, or cheaper.

15 A study released by the University of
16 Chicago in April 2019, shows that states with
17 renewable portfolio standards inevitably have
18 higher costs for electricity. Higher costs per
19 energy reduced Ohio's ability to attract
20 businesses. Companies expand or come to Ohio in
21 part because we have a reliable electric grid.
22 Intermittent energy sources are not what Ohio
23 needs.

24 Every single watt of power produced by
25 an industrial wind turbine must be backed up by

1 another power source, be it nuclear, natural gas,
2 coal, et cetera. This doesn't sound like a
3 recipe for simplicity.

4 Germany, despite 29,000 operating wind
5 turbines in a nation the size of Montana, has not
6 reduced its carbon emissions at all. There's
7 growing resistance to wind development in
8 Germany, with installations down 80 percent this
9 year. How does Germany handle the shortfalls
10 from wind? They fire up their coal powered
11 plants and are now building a natural gas
12 pipeline to Russia. Their cost of electricity is
13 the highest in Europe, and two and a half times
14 higher when compared to our electrical cost in
15 the United States. This does not appear to be a
16 sound energy policy.

17 The arrival of big wind in our area
18 also endangers human health, animal health, and
19 our environment.

20 As you've heard previously, setback
21 distances, under current Ohio law, are grossly
22 inadequate. The operating manual for one model
23 of turbines used in these projects in our area
24 states the minimum safety zone around an
25 industrial wind turbine is 1640 feet, which is

1 several hundred feet longer than our current
2 setback rules. In Hillsdale County, in Michigan,
3 the regulation is one mile from any home. The
4 French Ministry of health recommends 4,291 feet
5 setbacks, although they only enforce the 1640
6 feet rule. In Bavaria, in Germany, the setbacks
7 are ten times the height of a wind turbine. So
8 on the Republic Wind project that would make the
9 setbacks 5,860 feet.

10 In addition to the threat of being
11 struck by ice throws or various parts from a wind
12 turbine because of inadequate setback distances,
13 our state health officials should be concerned
14 about the cumulative negative effects of noise,
15 shadow flicker, and infrasound from industrial
16 wind turbines. Has this topic been discussed or
17 researched at the Ohio Department of Health? If
18 it has not been studied or discussed, why not?
19 There's substantial data already there due to the
20 extensive history of wind power in you Europe.

21 By now we should all be aware of the
22 threats to our water, by siting wind turbines in
23 an area where the karst is prevalent, which is
24 smack dap in the Republic Wind project, and also
25 in parts of the Emerson Creek Wind project.

1 Siting wind turbines in the most fragile Great
2 Lake, Lake Erie, and siting wind turbines in the
3 karst does not sound like rational public policy
4 to me.

5 Despite mounting contra evidence around
6 the globe, however, we continue to see more wind
7 development in Ohio. There's money to be made,
8 and federal tax credits to be received by crony
9 capitalists who live nowhere near a wind turbine.

10 At the heart of this is the
11 marginalization of the rural residents in
12 Northwest Ohio. If these projects were anywhere
13 near Indian Hill or Madeira or Powell or New
14 Albany or Upper Arlington or Hilliard or Maumee
15 or Shaker Heights or Hunting Valley or Chagrin
16 Falls or Hudson they would be dead upon arrival.
17 Wind developers hope our marginalized rural
18 communities do not have the energy or means to
19 fight these projects.

20 These projects are not wanted, despite
21 what APEX clean energy may say. For example, in
22 Huron County, in the Emerson Creek Wind project,
23 only 38 families in five townships will
24 potentially host a wind turbine in the Emerson
25 Creek Wind project. I'm sure the numbers are

1 equally small in Seneca and Sandusky County.

2 38 families should not be allowed to
3 set public policy for 60,000 residents of Huron
4 County. And if you're keeping track of these 38
5 families, only one person out of those 38
6 families is an elected official, a township
7 trustee in Lyme Township. 38 families are not my
8 rulers, anymore than people from New York or
9 California get to tell me who will win the next
10 presidential election.

11 Please deny the certificate for
12 Republic Wind project and send a message of sound
13 energy policy and common sense to those who would
14 desecrate our rural landscapes and threaten our
15 economy, our environment and our health. Protect
16 all the citizens in Ohio, not just those who live
17 in the suburbs and the cities. Thank you.

18 MS. SANYAL: Roger Walters, if you'll
19 come up on deck. And then Mr. Feasel, correct?

20 MR. FEASEL: Yes.

21 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Do you solemnly
22 swear or affirm that the testimony you're about
23 to provide is the whole truth?

24 MR. FEASEL: Yes.

25 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And then name,

1 address, township, and if you're in the project
2 area.

3 MR. FEASEL: My name is Jim Feasel,
4 last name is spelled F-E-A-S-E-L, at 1121 East
5 County Road 16, Tiffin, Ohio, my address. I am
6 in the viewshed of the Republic Wind project and
7 our farm is in the footprint of the Seneca Wind
8 project, and that's in Eden Township.

9 MS. SANYAL: Thank you. And you may
10 proceed.

11 MR. FEASEL: I'm opposed to this
12 project being built in Seneca County for public
13 safety reasons. The seven voting members of the
14 Power Siting Board, who were just mentioned, will
15 determine whether Republic Wind receives a
16 certificate to build. Yet, for the most part,
17 these voting members are insulated from the
18 details surrounding the project. On the off
19 chance that the voting members will hear my words
20 today, I would like to address my remarks
21 directly to them.

22 By now, everyone on the staff should be
23 aware of that fact that wind turbines already
24 build in Ohio and surrounding areas have
25 experienced failures, throwing several pound

1 blade fragments hundreds of feet farther then the
2 setback distances used in the design of this
3 Republic project. The evidence of this is on
4 file at is Siting Board's office. This evidence
5 is signed and stamped by professional engineers.

6 This evidence proves beyond a shadow of
7 a doubt that many of the turbines in this project
8 are far too close for public safety. On average,
9 3,800 wind turbine wind blade failures occur each
10 year. These include three brand new turbines in
11 the United States that have suffered catastrophic
12 failure already this year, and two more new
13 turbines in other countries also this year,
14 proving that the new technology is still not
15 reliable and cannot be counted on to solve the
16 safety problem. Yet the staff report makes no
17 mention of the safety risks designed into this
18 project.

19 Also on file at the Board's office are
20 safety manuals for the turbines proposed to be
21 installed. Although deemed proprietary
22 information, it is widely believed that the
23 safety distances recommended by the turbine
24 manufactures are far greater than the setback
25 distances allowed in the design of this project.

1 Whether this is true or not, it's inexcusable
2 that this information be withheld from the public
3 who will be direct exposed to any possible
4 hazards. The safety recommendations in these
5 manuals can be made public without exposing trade
6 secrets. There is absolutely no excuse for not
7 doing so.

8 The process that the Power Siting Board
9 staff is using to approve wind projects shows
10 complete and utter disregard for public safety.
11 And this disregard comes with the full knowledge
12 of the staff, and hopefully by now every voting
13 member on the boards. It is not a matter of
14 opinion. It is not a matter of lacking
15 information. It is not a matter of
16 misinformation. Rather, it is a matter of a
17 complete failure of this agency to adhere to its
18 number one directive, that being to protect
19 public safety.

20 Being the judge over whose property
21 rights are most important is not what this Board
22 was created for. Judging the safety and need of
23 manager projects is what the Board was created
24 for. Determining whether more tax money for
25 local schools would be a good thing or not is not

1 the duty of this Board. Making determinations on
2 public safety is the duty of this Board.

3 Deciding whether some more income for
4 lease holders would help their financial
5 condition is not this Board's job. Deciding how
6 best to protect public safety is this Board's
7 job. Protecting the world against climate change
8 is not in this Board's mission statement.
9 Protecting Ohio citizens by properly locating
10 energy projects is this Board's defined mission.
11 I could go on, but it shouldn't be necessary.

12 I ask the members of the Board to
13 remember when deciding, that as a society we only
14 accept risks to safety if there is an offsetting
15 benefit that cannot be attained by any other
16 method with lower risk. Every benefit this wind
17 project purports to bring can be attained with
18 lower risk by other methods. Solar would be one
19 such alternative method. Your vote will become
20 part of your permanent legacy. It could be used
21 to help guide the renewable industry towards
22 safer and more sensible projects, while
23 protecting public safety at the same time. If I
24 had a vote, that's how I would use it.

25 Perhaps in the near future local

1 citizens will obtain some control with a vote in
2 these projects, by gaining the right to a
3 referendum on that. At that point, we, the
4 public, can decide if any benefits that may come
5 with the wind project are worth the costs and the
6 risk of turning our area into a heavy industrial
7 zone. In some areas they may well be. In others
8 they will not. Only the local residents can make
9 that decision correctly.

10 Until a better method of local control
11 is brought to bear on these projects, the Board
12 should not even consider granting certificates to
13 any more wind projects.

14 When local control is re-established
15 then we, the local public, will undoubtedly be
16 very motivated to watch out for public safety.
17 It is our safety that is on the line here, and
18 that of our families, and our children, our
19 neighbors, and our loved ones. Until that time
20 comes, and the ills of this process are healed,
21 we must rely on you, the voting members of the
22 Board, to protect our safety. I respectfully ask
23 that you do not let us down. Thank you.

24 MR. PARRAM: Mr. Feasel, just one
25 clarifying question.

1 MS. SANYAL: Counsel has a question for
2 you.

3 MR. PARRAM: Mr. Feasel, just one
4 clarifying question. Do you live within the
5 footprint of the Republic Wind project?

6 MR. FEASEL: I do not. I live within
7 the viewshed of the Republic Wind project and our
8 farm is in the footprint the Seneca Wind project.

9 MR. PARRAM: Thank you.

10 MS. SANYAL: Thank you very much.

11 And then Kathryn Walters, would you
12 please come up to the podium on the left.

13 And Mr. Walters, would you please raise
14 your right hand.

15 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
16 the testimony you're about to provide is the
17 whole truth?

18 MR. WALTERS: Yes.

19 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And then name,
20 address, township, and whether you're in the
21 project area.

22 MR. WALTERS: Roger Walters, R-O-G-E-R
23 W-A-T-E-R-S. I do live in the Republic project
24 area.

25 MR. AGRANOFF: What is your address,

1 sir?

2 MR. WALTERS: 6556 North State Route
3 18, Clyde 43410.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: And which township do
5 you reside in?

6 MR. WALTERS: Thompson.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

8 MR. WALTERS: For full disclosure, I
9 manage and lease land to APEX, and there's no
10 probability that we'll ever see a turbine on this
11 land. Oil and gas leaks has been a fact of life
12 in this area. Leases have and continue to
13 provide some stability to farm income affected by
14 weather and market calamities.

15 Alternative energy will provide some
16 additional stability to rural communities. The
17 Wind project will benefit not only landowners,
18 but schools, townships, and counties.

19 All the arguing over this issue led my
20 wife and I taken a road trip to the Van
21 Wert/Paulding area last year. We are all
22 different. We look at these things differently.
23 Personally, I would rather sit on my porch and
24 look at this slowly spinning turbine blade than a
25 cell phone tower or the new electrical poles if

1 you go east on 224 from Tiffin.

2 While walking under turbines north of
3 Paulding we found no dead birds, no dead animals
4 of any kind. Unless they all decomposed, they
5 weren't there. I had to ask my wife if she could
6 hear the blades turning. I couldn't hear the
7 blades turning.

8 Traffic two miles away, the farmers
9 grain augers running and loading grain 1,500 feet
10 away, and even the birds close around us at the
11 tower site made more noise than the noise from
12 the turbine that I couldn't hear.

13 My trees give me shadow flicker for a
14 short period of time every day, and I'm not
15 cutting the trees down.

16 Semi's hitting the grooved pavement on
17 the edge of my road is pretty annoying. So I see
18 that as not a perception for me. That's the way
19 I look at it.

20 Folks that we talked to in that Van
21 Wert/Paulding hadn't seen or heard concerns about
22 real estate prices being affected. No one said
23 that they thought the turbines were awesome, and
24 no one said that they had hated them. The
25 attitude was generally one of ambivalence across

1 the board. And no one complained about the
2 benefits of the additional funding or denied the
3 additional funding come into their communities.

4 You have my wife on deck next. She has
5 a vocal cord disorder. She has a signed a
6 written statement, if you'll accept that.

7 MS. SANYAL: Any questions?

8 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

9 MS. SANYAL: And then did you want to
10 give us your's? Did you have questions?

11 MR. AGRANOFF: I don't.

12 MS. SANYAL: Okay. I'll take a copy
13 and then --

14 MR. WALTERS: Would you like that
15 statement?

16 MS. SANYAL: Yes. We'll just take it
17 and include it as correspondence.

18 MRS. WALTERS: I have all of my
19 information on there. Thank you.

20 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Perfect. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. PARRAM: Your Honor, just a brief
23 statement.

24 MS. SANYAL: Yes.

25 MR. PARRAM: I would just ask that -- I

1 heard some laughing or snickering when the
2 witness was testifying. I would just ask
3 everyone be respectful on both sides as we
4 proceed forward.

5 MS. SANYAL: Thank you.

6 May I call up Michael Curran and then
7 Garta Moyer. And then, Ms. Moyer, if you would
8 come up to the middle podium and just wait until
9 Mr. Curran is done. Thank you.

10 Mr. Curran, do you solemnly swear or
11 affirm that the testimony you're about to provide
12 is the whole truth?

13 MR. CURRAN: I do.

14 MS. SANYAL: Thank you. And then name,
15 address, township, and if you're part of the
16 project area, please.

17 MR. CURRAN: My name is make Michael
18 Curran, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, C-U-R-R-A-N. My
19 residence, my farm is 26026 County Road 47, and
20 that's in Seneca County. As far as the footprint
21 of the Republic project, I'm not in the direct
22 footprint of the project, however, the research
23 on infrasound, it shows it travel miles and
24 miles, so I probably in the footprint of the
25 infrasound.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Which township you do
2 you reside it?

3 MR. CURRAN: It's Seneca County
4 Township.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: I'm sorry?

6 MR. CURRAN: Seneca Township.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Seneca Township. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. CURRAN: I would like to thank the
10 Ohio Power Siting Board for allowing me to give
11 my testimony this afternoon concerning some of
12 the potential health effects which quite possibly
13 could be produced by the large size and numerous
14 wind turbines being proposed for construction in
15 Seneca County.

16 My name is Captain Michael Curran, I'm
17 retired from the United States Navy. While on
18 active duty I was stationed at the Bethesda Naval
19 Hospital, directly across the street from the
20 National Institutes for Health, that is NIH,
21 which is the home of the on-line medical
22 literature service called Pub-Med.

23 The articles utilized by the Wind Power
24 companies to minimize concern for the potential
25 harmful effects of infrasound generated by wind

1 turbines on human, referenced articles they said
2 were found in the Pub-Med database. The Wind
3 Power companies basically claimed that there was
4 no real research which clinically documented
5 harmful health effects of infrasound on humans or
6 other living creatures.

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

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

1 function, heart function. These effects included
2 changes in cardiac rate and rhythm, included
3 arrhythmias. Microscopic inspections of
4 sacrificed laboratory animals' heart tissue
5 showed multiple areas of pathological cell
6 changes. The heart was only one of the many
7 internal organs adversely affected by infrasound
8 studied by the Soviets. Society research
9 articles at the library are written in Russian
10 using the Cyrillic alphabet. In my folder here,
11 which I will submit, I have included three of
12 those articles which I have had translated into
13 English, with attached photographs of the Journal
14 cover, which has the date stamp NIH, National
15 Institute of Health, acquired the Journal. I
16 have also included photographs of the first page
17 of each articles in Cyrillic.

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

1 wanted to meet the researches at their hospital
2 and ask them more specific questions concerning
3 their testing techniques and their findings.

4 In January of this year, I flew
5 directly to Frankfurt, Germany, and then made the
6 short drive across the Rhine River to Mainz.
7 Arriving at the office of Professor
8 Christian-Friedrich Vahl, I was introduced to his
9 main researcher on this suggest, Dr. Ryan Chaban,
10 who is a cardiothoracic surgeon on staff at the
11 hospital. Over two days he enlightened me as to
12 research materials and methods and the findings
13 of his investigations. And I think that one
14 aspect of his ongoing research in Germany is
15 extremely important and relevant to this meeting
16 today.

17 To the best of his knowledge and of my
18 knowledge, Dr. Chaban's research is the first to
19 directly expose and measure the immediate adverse
20 effects of infrasound on living human cardiac
21 tissue.

22 The University Hospital team used two
23 heart tissue samples harvested from human
24 patients undergoing cardiac surgery. One of the
25 samples was used as a control and the other

1 sample was exposed to infrasound. Samples were
2 exposed to infrasound as 16 hertz frequency,
3 decibel levels of 100, 110, and 120 decibels. No
4 decibel weighting system, such as dB(A), which is
5 utilized by the wind turbine research that they
6 present.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: If you could just, for
8 the purposes of the record, indicate what dB(A)
9 stands for.

10 MR. CURRAN: dB(A) is -- okay. dB(A)
11 is -- that was my next statement here. Since
12 dB(A) weighting system is used to measure only
13 sound levels which are audible above 20 hertz
14 frequency. The samples were stimulated
15 electrically at a rate of 75 beats per minutes
16 for 120 minutes. The decrease in force of the
17 infrasound exposed the cardiac tissue was found
18 to measure almost seven and a half percent for
19 every 10 decibel increase over the 100 decibel
20 baseline, resulting in an almost 15 percent
21 decrease in heart tissue contracting force at 120
22 decibels.

23 Beside the adverse effect on heart
24 function, I asked Dr. Chaban is there could be
25 and cognitive complications that could affect an

1 individual due to decreased heart performance
2 over time. He told me that Cardiac Induce
3 Dementia could very possibly result in the
4 decrease in the hearts ability to circulate an
5 adequate blood supply to the brain.

6 I questioned him that since a 7.5
7 decrease in contraction force was seen at 110
8 decibels, would it be possible that the
9 contraction force could be decreasing a certain
10 amount between 100 decibels and 110 decibels. He
11 stated that result could potentially occur, but
12 that he could only vouch for the changes
13 demonstrated at his testing points of 110 and 120
14 decibels.

15 I had also asked Dr. Chaban if there
16 could be effects on heart tissue contractile
17 ability at levels of 100 decibels or less expose
18 if the exposure to infrasound extended over years
19 and decades instead of only 120 minutes. He
20 relied that even though that was an interesting
21 question, he could only confirm the results of
22 his team's testing at the 110 and 120 decibel
23 power of level points.

24 Prior to his training in Medicine and
25 specialization in Cardio and Thoracic Surgery,

1 Dr. Chaban told me that his undergraduate
2 education was heavily involved in Physics. He
3 explained to me the characteristics of infrasonic
4 acoustic energy where, because of its long
5 wavelength, infrasound can travel long distances
6 with out dissipating its energy level and also
7 has the ability to penetrate into buildings. He
8 also discussed the phenomenon known as Helmholtz
9 Resonance, whereby infrasound energy can be
10 condense in a closed room, reaching energy levels
11 100 times greater than the energy level measured
12 outdoors.

13 I would think that the potential health
14 risks from infrasound, identified by Soviet
15 research in the 20th Century and confirmed by the
16 latest ongoing German research in the 21st
17 Century would dispel forever the notion of clean,
18 safe, green energy produced by wind turbines.
19 Even the research that the Wind Companies
20 themselves use in their attempt to support their
21 construction plans state that most of the sound
22 energy produced by wind turbines is in the low
23 and infrasonic range and that the larger the size
24 of the wind turbines, the greater the amount of
25 infrasonic energy produced. The planned wind

1 turbines being 600 feet tall are going to produce
2 a huge amount of infrasonic acoustic energy,
3 externally unheard, but internally, working on
4 internal human organs in a slow, ongoing,
5 insidious manner.

6 Therefore, I am stating in my official
7 testimony that I most strongly recommend against
8 the Industrial Wind Turbine project proposed by
9 the entity known as Republic Wind, Case No.
10 17-2295-EL-BGN. The Ohio Power Siting Board
11 should not, in good conscious, allow this to
12 happen to the population of Seneca County.

13 Thank you for the courtesy of allowing
14 me to testify to you publically today on this
15 issue.

16 MR. PARRAM: No questions, Your Honor.

17 MS. SANYAL: No questions. Okay.

18 And then does this include all the
19 research you referred to?

20 MR. CURRAN: Yes I have a -- this top
21 part here. This is presented at the Congress for
22 German Specialty in Surgery by Dr. Chaban and his
23 group. And then I have the three articles from
24 the -- three of many articles from the NIH.

25 MR. SANYAL: Thank you.

1 Ms. Gail Miller.

2 MS. MOYER: It's Moyer.

3 MS. SANYAL: I know. I'm calling out
4 the next person so they can wait.

5 MS. MOYER: Okay. That's a Gail, too.
6 Huh?

7 MS. SANYAL: And, Ms. Miller, if you
8 could just wait on deck. And then, I'm sorry, I
9 could not read your name.

10 MS. MOYER: I'm sorry. I should have
11 printed it. It's Gail, G-A-I-L, Moyer,
12 M-O-Y-E-R.

13 MS. SANYAL: Moyer.

14 MS. MOYER: My address is 3040 South
15 State Route 67 in Tiffin, Ohio, in Bloom
16 Township. And I've lived there since 1981. I
17 know you want to know --

18 MS. SANYAL: I have to swear you in.
19 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
20 the testimony you're about to provide is the
21 whole truth?

22 MS. MOYER: Yes.

23 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And I interrupted
24 you, so tell us your township again.

25 MS. MOYER: This question is always

1 whether or not I live in the footprint. I have
2 an explanation as to why I'm testifying today.
3 That I don't live in the footprint. I live
4 across the street from the township or a township
5 that is in it, but I have other explanation why I
6 am testifying okay.

7 MS. SANYAL: Sure. And what township
8 do you live across from?

9 MS. MOYER: Bloom Township. I said
10 that. Bloom, B-L-O-O-M.

11 MR. AGRANOFF: That's the one that you
12 reside in?

13 MS. MOYER: That's the one I reside in.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: And you live across the
15 street from?

16 MS. MOYER: Scipio.

17 My name is Gail Moyer, I reside 3040
18 South State Route 67, Tiffin, Ohio, Bloom
19 Township, and I've lived there since 1981. I was
20 born and raised in Bellevue, Ohio, where I met my
21 husband, Keith, who grew up in Flat Rock, Ohio,
22 which is a part of this Republic Wind. We were
23 married in Ebenezer United Methodist Church in
24 Flat Rock, and owned property in Flat Rock when
25 the application re for the Republic Wind Farm was

1 initially initiated. And just as a noted, we did
2 not receive notification at that time, even
3 though we owned property in Flat Rock.

4 I would like to state that I am opposed
5 to the proposed Republic Wind Farm for many
6 reasons, including excessive noise levels,
7 harmful levels of shadow flickering, harmful
8 effects from infrasound, dangers of ground water
9 impacts and well water contamination due to karst
10 in the area, negative impacts to our local
11 airports, Life Flight service, property values,
12 nature preserves, local bald eagles and other
13 wildlife, the siting of the wind turbines very
14 close to Flat Rocks Children's home, and the
15 overall improper siting of the over 600 foot tall
16 industrial wind turbines in a densely populated
17 rural environment.

18 However, today I will focus my remarks
19 on Ohio Administrative Code 4906-4-08, health and
20 safety, land use and ecological information,
21 Section 4 Land Use Plans, Part D, which states:
22 assess compatibility of the proposed facility and
23 the anticipated resultant regional development
24 with current regional plans. I am basing my
25 remarks on the Seneca County Regional

1 Comprehensive Plan Update 2001 and the Sandusky
2 County Comprehensive Plan Update 2013, because
3 Republic Wind is in both Seneca County and
4 Sandusky County. I have a written copy of
5 excerpts from these documents as well as a copy
6 of my statements concerning these excerpts to
7 give to the court reporter.

8 The Comprehensive/Regional Plans are
9 long-range plans used to guide growth and
10 development according to the Ohio Revised Code
11 713.23. They are statements of development
12 policy for the counties and work best with public
13 support and understanding, as well as far-sighted
14 leadership by public agencies to support the
15 vision and goals of the respective plans. All
16 decisions should made in light of the strong
17 history of private rights enjoyed by citizens of
18 our county. Sandusky and Seneca County residents
19 have chosen to allow most land-use control to be
20 exercised at the township level in order to
21 ensure that these controls are responsive to the
22 needs and wishes of residents. The plans do not
23 advocate the expansion of these controls at the
24 expense of property rights or the deduction of
25 local authority.

1 In order to promote positive economic
2 growth countywide, there should be a co-operative
3 understanding between all agencies, citizens, and
4 public officials so that all parties can be
5 involved in new industry proposals.

6 Economic development must be considered
7 within a land-use framework in order to have
8 maximum benefit on the regional and local
9 economies while having minimum negative impact on
10 the environment, service capacity, and character
11 of the area. Furthermore, the use of economic
12 development agreements through intergovernmental
13 coordination should be promoted.

14 Sandusky County's housing goal is to
15 ensure adequate supply of housing to meet the
16 diverse needs of Sandusky County households
17 promoting housing developments in a safe, quiet
18 environment that is healthy, convenient, and
19 attractive, ensures stable property values, and
20 affords opportunities for all citizens.

21 Sandusky County desires to establish
22 conservation, restoration, and preservation
23 methods to assist in the retention of natural
24 amenities and scenic beauty and encourage site
25 design that protects the natural terrain and

1 groundwater, preserves or restores significant
2 vegetation and scenic views, and protect areas
3 that are sensitive to change: wetlands appearing
4 in corridors, other environmentally sensitive
5 areas, and habitats. One such area is the
6 Shelley Wetland located at the intersection of
7 County Road 177 in York Township, Road 292, less
8 than 1 1/2 miles from a proposed wind turbine
9 over 600 foot tall.

10 Seneca County provides an example of
11 the value of open space and natural resources to
12 its residents. Throughout the County's past, the
13 natural environment has played an important role
14 in defining Seneca's identity. Seneca County
15 prides itself on its rural character and
16 agricultural resources. Citizens want to
17 maintain the rural character of the County by
18 preserving farmland and other natural resources.

19 To protect the County's rural
20 character, growth management techniques need to
21 be used to encourage compact development in
22 existing urban areas, plan ahead for growth, and
23 prevent further environmental degradation of the
24 land. We need to encourage growth that builds on
25 existing municipalities and supports new

1 residential commercial and industrial grown only
2 within identified urban growth boundaries where
3 public infrastructure is available.

4 We need to preserve prime farmland
5 recognizing agriculture as a viable economic
6 resource. We need to develop and implement an
7 aggressive program to preserve agricultural uses
8 in those areas identified for permanent
9 agricultural preservation. Citizens and
10 officials alike acknowledge that the encroachment
11 of development on farmland is a critical county
12 issue.

13 We need to protect sensitive
14 environmental area such as wetlands, woodlands,
15 steep slopes, endangered species habitats, native
16 species habitats, and flora and fauna from the
17 impacts of development. We need to restrict
18 development in critical resource areas, such as
19 in the 100 years flood plain and in perennial
20 stream buffers. We need to maintain and preserve
21 natural open space corridors that are important
22 to wildlife and plant life habitat.

23 Again, these ideas are not my original
24 thoughts. They are all part of the documents
25 that were accepted as guides for Seneca County

1 Regional Planning Commission and the Sandusky
2 County Comprehensive Plan. They can be found on
3 their websites. These plans were created to
4 advice elected officials on actions relevant to
5 growth and change.

6 I requested that the Ohio Power Siting
7 Board reject the application for a license to
8 erect an industrial wind turbine farm submitted
9 by Republic Wind, LLC, OPSB No. 17-2295-EL-BGN as
10 it is not compatible with the current Seneca
11 County Regional Plan or the Sandusky County
12 Comprehensive Plan and will negatively impact our
13 farming and airports, and decimate our rural open
14 spaces and sensitive environmental areas. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. SANYAL: Do you have a copy of your
17 comments?

18 MS. MOYER: I do.

19 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

20 MS. SANYAL: They don't have any
21 questions.

22 MS. MOYER: Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. SANYAL: Dennis Shriner, if you
24 will come up and wait at the middle podium.

25 And Ms. Miller, will you raise your

1 right hand.

2 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
3 the testimony you're about to provide is the
4 whole truth?

5 MS. MILLER: I do.

6 MS. SANYAL: And then -- I feel like
7 I've been through this spiel. Name, address,
8 township.

9 MS. MILLER: My name is Gail Miller,
10 G-A-I-L M-I-L-L-E-R. My home is at 14411 U.S.
11 24, Attica, Ohio. I live in Venice Township.
12 I'm in the Seneca Wind project.

13 MS. SANYAL: And you may proceed.

14 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Throughout
15 history man has advanced in knowledge and
16 technology through a trial of ideas and by
17 learning and responding to the experiences of
18 others on these ideas. Currently Ohio is being
19 besieged by Wind power comes seeking, under the
20 guise of renewable energy, to install wind
21 turbines and line their own pockets before the
22 advantage of government subsidies run out. They
23 are doing this at the expense of local residents
24 who will be facing loss of property values,
25 infrasound, shadow flicker, and the destruction

1 of a peaceful rural way of life. When will Ohio
2 learn from others?

3 Let's talk about the prices of
4 electricity. And I quote from an article by
5 Michael Shellenberger, Forbes, April 25, 2018,
6 entitled: "Yes, Solar & Wind Really Do Increase
7 Electric Prices." Two reasons: Unreliability
8 and Transmission lines. The following increases
9 occurred from 2009 to 2017: In North Dakota
10 electricity prices rose 30 percent, while
11 electricity from solar grew from 2 to 8 percent.
12 In South Dakota electricity prices rose 40
13 percent, electricity from solar and wind grew
14 from 25 to 30 percent. In Kansas electricity
15 prices rose 33 percent, electricity from solar
16 and wind just grew from 6 to 36 percent. In Iowa
17 electricity prices rose 21 percent, electricity
18 from wind and solar grew from 14 to 37 percent.
19 Oklahoma, electricity prices rose 18 percent,
20 electricity from wind and solar grew from 4 to 32
21 percent.

22 The value of solar and wind decline in
23 economic value as they become larger shares of
24 the electricity grid for physical reasons. They
25 produce too much energy when society don't need

1 it and not enough energy when they do.

2 A quote from another article in Forbes,
3 September 4, 2019, the "The University of Chicago
4 from earlier this year that renewable energy
5 mandates significantly increased average retail
6 electricity prices." Thanks to the hefty
7 deployment of renewable electricity prices in
8 California between 2011 and 2018 rose seven times
9 more, 28 percent, than they did in the rest of
10 the country, 5 percent, while electricity prices
11 have risen 50 percent in Germany in 2006."

12 Another quote from an article in
13 Bloomberg.com, August 26, 2019, "The road to a
14 world powered by renewable energy is littered
15 with unattended consequences. Like a 40,000
16 percent surge in electricity prices. Texas power
17 prices jumped from less than \$15 to as much as
18 \$9,000 a megawatt-hour this month as coal plants
19 retirements and weak wind left the region on a
20 brink of blackouts during a heat wave. It's a
21 phenomenon playing out worldwide. Germany
22 averted three blackouts of its own in June, and
23 the UK more than a million homes lost power on
24 August 9th in part because the wind farm tripped
25 offline.

1 Let's talk about safety from the
2 turbines themselves. It has been reported that
3 there's an average of 3,800 wind turbine blade
4 failures. I found two articles from March 2019,
5 one in Nova Scotia, and one in Germany. I am
6 sure there were many more in between. But just
7 since July there have been blade failures, fires,
8 blackouts, and other problems with turbines in
9 Brazil, New York, Texas, Spain, Ireland, England,
10 Wales, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan,
11 Pennsylvania, Washington, South Africa, Nebraska,
12 New Mexico, Oklahoma, Australia, and Scotland.

13 And what about setbacks? Quoting from
14 an "Analysis of Throw Distances of Detached
15 Objects from Horizontal-Axis Wind Turbines,"
16 March of 2018, for normal tip speeds the
17 potential blades throw distance for a 5 megawatt
18 turbine is 900 meters or 2,953 feet. An
19 "extreme" tip speeds the corresponding distance
20 for the 5 megawatt turbine was 1,500 meters or
21 4,921 feet. Does Ohio's current setback distance
22 from property lines reflect safety from blade
23 throws?

24 What about setbacks due to the
25 dangerous infrasound? The history of infrasound

1 can be traced back to the fifth operational wind
2 turbine being installed in Boone, North Carolina
3 in 1979. NASA and SERI fully investigated
4 acoustic, seismic and atmospheric aspects using
5 turbine operational information and data
6 recordings in a series of field experiments. In
7 March 1982 NASA's Guide to the evaluation of
8 human exposure to noise from large turbines
9 showed that even with windows shut houses do not
10 stop LFN, low frequency noise, sound energy.
11 Measured levels inside the home are significantly
12 higher than predicted within the LFN range. The
13 house acts like a drum for LFN.

14 In 1987 the wind industry was told, and
15 I quote, "The dB(A) filter shuts out the LFN and
16 is therefore unsuitable. G-weighted scales were
17 better correlated with noise, annoyance,
18 vibrations, and pulsations. Finland, February 1,
19 2019, and article, "Home Wreckers: Finish Study
20 Finds Wind Turbine Infrasound Unsafe For
21 Residents Living Within 15 Kilometers, 49,212.6
22 feet." Germany, May 7, 2019, another article,
23 "Far Out: German Study Find Pulsing Wind Farm
24 Infrasound 20 Kilometers, 65,616.8 feet, From
25 Turbines." September 3, 2019, New York, Number

1 Three Wind told to listen to World Health
2 Organization turbine noise standards.

3 Residents, councils speak against wind
4 turbines; January 2019. Policymakers in
5 Spotsylvania, Virginia," and that is what is say,
6 Spotsylvania, Virginia, "voted to block the
7 building of a solar farm, after local residence
8 organized themselves in opposition of a concern
9 for the impact on the environment, property
10 values, and electricity prices. February 2019,
11 Lafayette, Indiana, from the Lafayette Journal:
12 Ordinance proposes to ban wind farms, other
13 counties have either banned wind farms, set
14 restrictive ordinances that make farms
15 impractical, or put a moratorium on the turbines
16 until more health studies.

17 Also February of 2019, a Kansas bill
18 was proposed setting minimum setbacks for a
19 commercial wind turbine. The bill sets out
20 minimum setbacks of not less than 12 times the
21 system height, which is the total height of a
22 wind turbine measured with the in a vertical
23 position, or, 7,9 20 feet, whichever is greater
24 from any residential property or public building.
25 It also proposes a setback of 20 times the system

1 height or three miles, whichever is greater, from
2 any airport or local, state, or federal wildlife
3 refuge, public hunting area or public park. Mark
4 2019: The largest county in California, San
5 Bernardino, banned the building of any more large
6 solar and wind farms over the opposition of
7 renewable energy lobbyists and labor union. The
8 did so on behalf of conservationists and locals
9 seeking to protect fragile desert ecosystems.
10 March 17, 2019, New York, Worth Town Council arms
11 for Wind Law Adoption in May. Turbines that
12 generate more than 100 kilowatts of electricity
13 are limited to 400 feet. Developers would have
14 to erect turbines away from property lines,
15 structures, and roads at a distance of five times
16 their height. They will not be allowed to emit
17 noise louder than 35 A weighted decibels 7:00
18 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and 25 weighted decibels from
19 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

20 March 2019, Illinois, from the Harold
21 Review.com. Zoning Board votes against DeWitt
22 County Wind Farm. Members expressed concerns
23 about public safety risks with weather radar
24 interference, shadow flicker for
25 non-participating residents and potential water

1 drainage issues. March 2019, Scotland: Council
2 confirms wind farm objection. Councillors were
3 recommended to object on several grounds,
4 including the fact that the proposed development
5 would have a significant impact on the protected
6 area, which has a "sensitive landscape, high
7 visual prominence, high wilderness, and
8 recreation value." Scotland Officers were also
9 advised that the applicants had not demonstrated
10 that the proposal by the wind company would not
11 have a "detrimental impact upon aircraft and
12 aviation." Locally Life Flight cannot land
13 within 1.5 miles of a wind turbine. And what
14 about crop dusting?

15 September 5, 2019, Wind Daily. "Angry
16 residents send German wind industry spinning."
17 And I quote, "After years of breakneck growth in
18 the capacity and uptake that has seen wind power
19 delivering a th of Germany's total energy
20 production, vocal 'not-in-my-backyard' opposition
21 by residents and a lack of government support
22 have seen investment shrink in the sector. More
23 than 600 citizen initiatives have sprung up the
24 giant installations, with a district called
25 Saale-Orla even offering 2,000 euros to anyone

1 taking action to get expert opinions opposing
2 wind farms. And only a few dozen new turbines
3 were installed since the beginning of this year,
4 down 82 percent from a year ago, said Germany's
5 Wind Energy Association."

6 How, when, and why has a questionable
7 promise of money and jobs become more important
8 than the help and welfare of the residents in
9 Ohio? One of the Ohio Farm Bureau's commercial
10 recently stated that they wanted to preserve Ohio
11 farmland for future generations. A farmer builds
12 up his soil through the years by adding
13 fertilizer and nutrients to it. Wind power
14 companies will be dragging 200 plus foot heavy
15 turbine blades across the field, that is the
16 distance of about four 53 foot semi trucks end to
17 end, dumping tons of cement into a big hole in
18 the field and putting up 600 foot turbines, and
19 that's a distance of two football fields, high in
20 the area into that hole. How does all of this
21 preserve the farmland for future generations?

22 It is time Ohio, and particularly the
23 Ohio Power Siting Board, paid attention to
24 previous and current reports of problems with
25 wind turbines in the United States and in other

1 countries and stop to look at the consequences
2 resulting from these problems. Please learn from
3 the experiences of others, to take action to
4 prevent these problems from occurring in Ohio.

5 In closing, I would like to thank you,
6 the members of the Ohio Power Siting Board, for
7 the opportunity to speak. I am not a doctor, a
8 scientist, or a lawyer. I am a great-grandmother
9 who is very concerned about the health and
10 wellbeing of the residents of Seneca. I am
11 hoping that the Reineke Referendum when presented
12 will be passed so that our residents may vote to
13 protect the rural farmland that we all dearly
14 love. I will be turning a copy of my testimony,
15 along with copies of many of the articles from
16 which I quoted. Thank you.

17 MS. SANYAL: Go ahead.

18 MR. PARRAM: Just one clarifying
19 question.

20 MS. SANYAL: Sure.

21 MR. PARRAM: Ms. Miller, do you reside
22 in the footprint of the Public Wind project.

23 MS. MILLER: I am not sure, sir.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Which county, again, do
25 you reside in?

1 MS. MILLER: I'm sorry?

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Which county do you
3 reside in?

4 MS. MILLER: I believe Seneca County,
5 and I live in Venice Township, which was within
6 the Seneca County Wind project.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay.

8 MS. SANYAL: Thank you.

9 Kip Siesel, if you'll go to the further
10 microphone and wait on deck there. And then
11 Schreiner. Correct?

12 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
13 the testimony you're about to provide is the
14 whole truth?

15 MR. SCHREINER: Yes, I do.

16 MS. SANYAL: And then address,
17 township, and whether you're in the project area.

18 MR. SCHREINER: My name is Dennis
19 Schreiner, that's D-E-N-N-I-S S-C-H-R-E-I-N-E-R.
20 I live at 8403 State Route 99, Sandusky, Ohio.
21 That is in Groton Township of Erie County. And I
22 do not live within the footprint of Republic
23 Wind, but I am in the cumulative viewshed. I
24 also have a couple of sinkholes and an artesian
25 well on my property that's connected through the

1 karst areas that are in Seneca County.

2 Your Honor, Chairman Randazzo,
3 Representative Stein, and you know, my name is
4 Dennis Schreiner and I am here to talk to you
5 today about Margin and Safety.

6 Due to a lack of local control under
7 the current Ohio Law, I'm going to offer
8 testimony that shows a need for the Ohio Power
9 Siting Board to place public safety as a top
10 prior when considering projects such as this. It
11 should be incumbent upon the wind developer to
12 prove their equipment is safe, not for the public
13 to show that it is not safe.

14 The Ohio Power Siting Board is charged,
15 in part, with promulgating regulations to ensure
16 the safety of all of Ohioans.

17 One of the reductions in safety is a
18 reduction in physical personal safety. And
19 people have talked about this before. Setbacks
20 should clearly be established as to minimize of
21 any risk of an undesirable event due to the
22 proposed industrial Wind Generating Facilities.

23 There have been turbine accidents here
24 in Ohio, three of them as a matter of fact, that
25 are of note. Timber Road II, the Paulding Wind

1 Farm, on April 24, 2012. A turbine was in
2 service for only two years. It failed due to a
3 manufacturing defect. The developer stated in
4 their May 2010 application, that project setbacks
5 between the turbine sites and permanent
6 residences and property lines should be able to
7 protect the public from the already minimal risk
8 of blade throws. The distance to the residences
9 in that time period was 914 feet, and to a
10 property line it was 505 feet. In the formal
11 incident report that was issued, turbine
12 manufacturer Vestas established an emergency
13 clearance distance of 500 meters, that is 1,640
14 feet. In summarizing the blade damage, Vestas
15 reported that the largest fragment that they
16 recovered was more than 6.6 pounds and was
17 found at 764 feet from the power base. A Van
18 Wert County Hoaglin Township Trustee further
19 document fragments that were thrown 1,158 feet
20 and 1,561 feet from the tower, however, he did
21 not estimate the weight.

22 On April 4th the Hog Creek Wind Farm in
23 Harden County had a blade shear event. No report
24 was filed, because in Ohio reporting of
25 incidences are not a requirement. So if --

1 unless a newspaper would report it and then the
2 wind companies say exception to that, basically
3 just being a high quality hearsay instead of
4 anything formal to be used. But speculation is
5 high, that there were high variable winds and
6 lightning that cause the blade to fail.

7 On August 25, 2018, the Blue Creek Wind
8 Farm in Van Wert County, a 10 foot section of the
9 blade broke loose and traveled 825 feet. All of
10 their safety systems failed and the unit
11 continued to rotate for 10 minutes and then
12 separated. Debris was thrown 300 feet further
13 than the property line setback distance. I
14 believe it is a matter of Public Safety and
15 non-participating Property Owner Rights that
16 industrial wind turbines be no closer than the
17 manufacturer required 1640 feet. Now, I want to
18 recall, in the failure report Vestas, the turbine
19 manufacturer, gave us this proprietary and
20 confidential information that's isn't available
21 in other applications that says the safety
22 setback is 500 meters or 1640 feet.

23 I think the distance should be 1640
24 feet or the distance calculated in a credible
25 blade throw analysis, whichever is the greater.

1 As the previous person stated, some of these
2 turbines travel, the tips travel to speeds that
3 give ejection per second files that are much
4 greater than 1640 feet. So we ought to take a
5 look at that. Just because the turbine is safe
6 doesn't mean it has to rotate very quickly, so it
7 really is a functional blade than speed how far
8 those blades are going to go. So either 1640
9 feet or whatever the distance if the blade throw
10 analysis should be used.

11 Please do not allow Ohio to become the
12 laughing stock of the Nation and the World with
13 respect to setbacks since virtually everyone is
14 increasing setbacks to address the effects of
15 blade failures, noise, especially the infrasound
16 or low frequency noise, and shadow flicker.
17 Setback distances of a mile or more from occupied
18 structures are not uncommon.

19 A reduction in ecological safety. The
20 extreme description of the subsoil in and around
21 karst features alone should give the Power Siting
22 Board reason to pause and ask what controls are
23 going to be put in place to protect our drinking
24 water. When we talk to members of APEX and asked
25 about protection of our drinking water, well,

1 they said, "Well, we put these foundations in and
2 if it creates a problem, you know, we'll
3 remediate it. We'll maybe shift you over to
4 public water or something like that." Well, many
5 of us out in the country don't have access to
6 public water, so I guess we'd have to just cart
7 water in. And then there was never a firm answer
8 of how that would be taken care of. Is it just
9 our poor luck from living there or were they
10 going to provide water for the rest of our life
11 or if life of the project.

12 There's also a concern with the
13 dissolution of carbonate rocks that are exposed
14 to the slightly acidic groundwater in the
15 Republic Wind project. I would urge that
16 independent third party reviewers be brought into
17 the project that are both agreeable to the State
18 of Ohio and the developer if this project moves
19 forward.

20 As in some previous testimony, we know
21 Doug Aiden of the Ohio Department of Natural
22 Resources is the author of a number of these
23 karst reports and he very clearly points out some
24 of the cautions you should take. I would think
25 he would be a great resource to use to be able to

1 come up as a state representative to find out
2 whoever we bring in as a third party reviewer to
3 be acceptable for the state.

4 There's also a reduction in the level
5 of safety provided to preserve and protect
6 wildlife. I think we have -- in order to keep
7 this shorter I'm not going to go through my whole
8 statement. But we have birds, bats, whatever,
9 and in this area, it's Republic Wind, it's very
10 similar to the Seneca Wind, in that they, DNR
11 thinks we're very underestimating the number of
12 bird kills. So that is the reduction in
13 ecological safety, in the fact that what we're
14 using for bird kills may not be a conservative
15 value.

16 There will be reduction political
17 sustainability due to the absence of local
18 control. I don't believe these projects will be
19 politically sustainable, because Ohio Law has
20 removed local control over the siting of green
21 energy industrial complexes in land zoned for
22 residential/agricultural use by bypassing our
23 local zoning procedures that are here for our
24 safety for facilities under the Ohio karst Siting
25 Board control. The short-sidedness of preventing

1 local control has significantly divided our
2 communities. Surprisingly, the Ohio Chamber of
3 Commerce states that a local referendum sets a
4 dangerous precedence. Let that sink in.

5 In this age of information, continually
6 telling people their opinions don't matter or
7 they don't deserve a seat at the decision-making
8 table, will be politically unsustainable.

9 Politicians are elected to serve the people and
10 the elections and referendums allow the people to
11 vote with their voice -- or have a voice with
12 their vote. Pardon me.

13 Other reductions in the margin of
14 safety. Intermittent wind generation disrupts
15 the entire electrical grid resulting in
16 blackouts, as evidenced by just in this years,
17 loss of power in Chicago, New York, Washington
18 State, and Texas, just to name a few. Chemical
19 hazards exist with industrial wind turbines,
20 within the additional of 450 gallons plus of
21 lubricating oil in the unit that often leaks.
22 And there basically the thing in the pictures of
23 turban fires that you see all the black smoke
24 building from the turbines. That's a result of
25 the oil burning up.

1 With the current setbacks road safety
2 is reduced in Ohio. I would offer that maybe the
3 roads should be posted with a sign kind of like
4 with do for deer crossings. Just put a sign with
5 a wind turbine falling over and hitting a car to
6 let people know maybe they shouldn't go down that
7 road.

8 The margin of safety is reduced for
9 emergency medical systems and other emergency
10 services. Industrial wind turbines interfere
11 with Life Flight, weather radar, and the
12 reception of emergency broadcast and other radio
13 signals. Autonomous farm vehicle navigation
14 systems can be affected if they're within 2.4
15 miles of an industrial wind turbine.

16 Lacking industrial wind turbine
17 reporting criteria and rule making is a problem,
18 in that the assurance of public safety is
19 reduced. Turbine failures are not rare, they are
20 not isolated incidences with little or no
21 consequence. Industrial wind turbines fail at a
22 rate of one failure per turbine per year. And my
23 definition of failure is that the wind turbine
24 stops producing energy when it could be producing
25 it. I'm not talking about the wind going away.

1 And that it isn't an easy fix. They have to keep
2 the unit off line until somebody goes up and does
3 something to it to get it back in fruit. So one
4 failure per turbine per year.

5 Blade failures are at about 5 percent.
6 So if you just count the turbine blades, 5
7 percent of the them are going to fail over the
8 course of the project's lifetime. And that
9 failure rate isn't getting any better. I don't
10 know if it's because the blades are getting
11 longer and they're putting a little more stress
12 on them. But the bigger units aren't getting
13 more reliable with respect to blade failures.

14 Five industrial wind turbines have
15 suffered catastrophic failure and subsequent
16 collapse so far in 2019. Three of those were in
17 the U.S., two were in foreign countries. What
18 reasoning can the Ohio Power Siting Board apply
19 that would allow the construction of these much
20 taller industrial wind turbines in Ohio without
21 knowing what the cause is and the corrective
22 actions that have been taken to prevent
23 reoccurrence?

24 In conclusion, the responsible siting
25 of wind turbines should preclude Seneca County

1 and Sandusky County as being host counties. And
2 I therefore, recommended denial of this project
3 for this reasons that I have specified. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. SANYAL: Thank you. I have a quick
6 question. So earlier in your statement you
7 mentioned there are three turbine accidents and
8 you noted Timber Road and Blue Creek Wind Farm.

9 MR. SCHREINER: Yes.

10 MS. SANYAL: Which one was the third
11 one?

12 MR. SCHREINER: The third one was the
13 Blue Creek in Van Wert County, and it's in my
14 testimony.

15 MS. SANYAL: And Timber Road was
16 another one. And then --

17 MR. SCHREINER: Yes. Timber Road II,
18 Hog Creek, and Blue Creek.

19 MS. SANYAL: Hog Creek?

20 MR. SCHREINER: Yes. And they all -- I
21 have it open to here.

22 MS. SANYAL: Thank you very much.
23 Mr. Chairman has a question.

24 MR. RANDAZZO: Mr. Schreiner, you
25 indicated in your testimony that your view of the

1 setback should be no less than 1660 feet?

2 MR. SCHREINER: 1640.

3 MR. RANDAZZO: 1640?

4 MR. SCHREINER: Yes.

5 MR. RANDAZZO: I assume, based upon
6 your testimony, that you would measure that from
7 property line; is that correct?

8 MR. SCHREINER: Yes.

9 MR. RANDAZZO: And with regard to your
10 testimony, could you give us a sense of what your
11 qualifications and background are?

12 MR. SCHREINER: My professional career
13 started as being a draftsman in the Vietnam War and
14 I was assigned as a nuclear reactor on a spy
15 submarine. And I got out of the Navy and went to
16 work at Davis Besse. And I worked at Davis Besse
17 until June of this year. So I was there for 43
18 years. I was there when they built the plant and
19 I put together decommission plans for the plant,
20 however, we're not using those right, so that was
21 a good thing. I was also the reliability
22 engineer for about 20 years. Also I was in
23 charge of the Independent Safety Engineering
24 Group. I was a shift supervisor. I started up
25 the plant. I ran the plant for a number of

1 years. And I taught operators how to operate the
2 plant.

3 The other thing I did is, in my job and
4 in chivalry job, is I worked with the Nuclear
5 Regulatory Commission when we had things that
6 happened at the plant, so I'm very knowledgeable
7 about what the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
8 requires for incident reporting for when you need
9 to do cause analysis and when you need to take
10 corrective actions to prevent reoccurrence. And
11 I would be more than happy to work with you or
12 your staff. As you well know, there are rules,
13 because I said this at testimony for the rule
14 making, there are already reporting rules for the
15 wind industry on their turbines, yet there is
16 only 3 percent compliance with those rules,
17 because there are not mandatory. And I would
18 think Ohio, being the 7th largest economy in the
19 United States and the 27th largest in the world,
20 we should surely have a good, clean set of rules
21 so that we know what are happening at these
22 industrial complexes and why the public should
23 feel safe being near them, or not.

24 MR. RANDAZZO: Thank you.

25 MS. SANYAL: Jan Sampson, if you'll

1 come up and wait on deck at the middle podium.

2 And then Mr. Siesel, right hand.

3 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
4 the testimony you're about to provide is the
5 whole truth?

6 MR. SIESEL: I do.

7 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And then your
8 address, whether you're in the project area, and
9 what township you reside in.

10 MR. SIESEL: I'm kip Siesel, K-I-P
11 S-I-E-S-E-L, 2412 South Reynolds Road, Toledo,
12 43614, in Lucas County. I do not reside in the
13 footprint of the Republic Wind project. Am I
14 good?

15 MS. SANYAL: Yes.

16 MR. AGRANOFF: Proceed.

17 MR. SIESEL: On behalf of the Operating
18 Engineers Local Union 18, I am here to support
19 the approval of the Republic Wind Farm project.

20 The members of Local 18 and the State
21 of Ohio have benefited greatly from the wind farm
22 projects built in Northwest Ohio for the past
23 several years. There have been several phases
24 and years of work for our members as a result of
25 these projects, and the Republic Wind Farm will

1 help contribute to the creation of jobs. In turn
2 high paying wages, healthcare benefits and
3 training programs can continue to grow because of
4 the wind industry.

5 The areas in which these projects have
6 already been constructed have seen numerous
7 benefits in the townships and the counties
8 involved. If approved the Republic Wind Farm
9 will not only create jobs, but you can expect an
10 economic impact, additional tax money, and clean
11 energy for Ohio as a result from the project.

12 The members of Local 18 have the
13 experience to build this project safety and on
14 time from their involvement on the other wind
15 farm projects. They also have been provided the
16 proper training required to build a project of
17 this size safely and on time. The ongoing
18 maintenance of the Republic Wind Farm would also
19 continue to employ our members during the
20 project's existence.

21 We encourage the Ohio Power Siting
22 Board to support the jobs of men and woman of
23 Local 18 by approving the Republic Wind Farm
24 application. That's all I got.

25 MS. SANYAL: Thank you. Questions?

1 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

2 MS. SANYAL: Paul Jones, if you'll wait
3 up at the podium.

4 Ms. Sampson, right hand.

5 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
6 the testimony you're about to provide is the
7 whole truth?

8 MS. SAMPSON: Yes.

9 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Name, address,
10 township, and what project area or not.

11 MS. SAMPSON: My name is Jan Sampson,
12 J-A-N S-A-M-P-S-O-N. I live at 6305 South
13 Township Road 151, Tiffin, Ohio, I'm in Seneca
14 County, in Eden Township, and I am not part of
15 the footprint for Republic Wind.

16 I recently spoke the opposition to
17 Seneca Wind Case No. 18-0488-EL-BGN, whose
18 developer has since withdrawn his application for
19 certification. I'm here today at this public
20 hearing to speak in opposition to Republic Wind,
21 Case No. 17-2295-EL-GGN, which would impact
22 properties of my neighboring property owners in
23 Seneca County.

24 Beginning in April of 2017, I began
25 researching industrial wind turbine projects.

1 Based on many research articles I have read and
2 videos available online about this issue, I do
3 not think these projects belong anywhere near
4 populated areas. Although I have other reasons,
5 here are six of the most compelling reasons that
6 I submit for my opposition to industrial wind
7 projects in rural Seneca County: No. 1, the
8 setback distances between industrial turbines and
9 neighboring properties and homes, as permitted by
10 Ohio Law, are unsafe. Statical studies of blade
11 failure have proven that debris throw, whether
12 from ice or mechanical failure, exceed the
13 current minimum setback distance by hundreds of
14 feet putting people in Ohio at risk. These
15 statistics were presented to the Ohio Power
16 Siting Board at a workshop the Board hosted in
17 the spring of 2019. In Europe and in various
18 states in the United States, the minimum setback
19 distances are increasing because of these
20 concerns. The setbacks proposed for Republic
21 Wind are unsafe.

22 No. 2, Ohio Law and authority of the
23 Ohio Power Siting Board supersedes any local
24 zoning ordinance in the various townships, which
25 forces Ohio residents to reside in industrial

1 zones that they do not approve. It is similar to
2 the idea of no taxation without representation.
3 The voice of Ohio residents has been stripped
4 from them by developers whose sole purpose is to
5 make money, regardless of whose rights they
6 trampled. Property owners seeking income and
7 government entities seeking tax revenue also need
8 to remember that they cannot and should not force
9 this burden on Ohio residents who do not approve.

10 No. 3. In addition to the issue of
11 safety because of blade throw, numerous other
12 safety concerns are not being adequately
13 addressed. The audible noise of industrial
14 turbines and the shadow flicker in too many cases
15 exceeds the maximum recommendation of the World
16 Health Organization. The existence of
17 infrasound, that is inaudible noise and pressure
18 waves from industrial wind turbines on an ongoing
19 24 hours a day, 7 days per week has been shown to
20 create adverse health conditions for many people.
21 Also, various reports exist indicating that it is
22 not possible, or at a minimum it is hazardous for
23 Life Flight emergency helicopters to safely land
24 in areas near industrial wind turbines.

25 No. 4. Studies by forensic real estate

1 appraisers demonstrate that property values for
2 homes of nonparticipating property owners are
3 negatively impacted, in many cases by more than
4 25 percent reduction in their market value. For
5 many rural residents their home is their primary
6 investment and it is simply wrong to permit wind
7 developers and a relative few property owners to
8 negatively impact the property rights of others
9 who are have no hope or voice in the matter.

10 No. 5. The environmental impact to
11 bats, migratory birds, and other birds such as
12 bald eagles is naturally being minimize by wind
13 developers. Also, when industrial wind turbine
14 projects are repowered after only about 10 to 15
15 years, the environmental impact on local
16 landfills is not being taken into consideration.
17 In 2017 MidAmerican Energy began repowering 200
18 turbines they owned in Iowa for projects
19 constructed in 2004 and 2005. To me, this seems
20 to be a short lifespan for the original
21 construction. MidAmerican Energy says they will
22 be repowering a total of 706 turbines by 2020
23 with increased blade lengths. This sounds very
24 costly and sends lots of materials to landfills.
25 I suspect the wind developer can only afford to

1 do this because the economic advantages are made
2 available to them from Federal, State, and Local
3 tax breaks. Please see the 2017 article from
4 Urbandale, Iowa entitled "MidAmerican Begins
5 Repowering Hundreds of Wind Turbines" available
6 at this internet net website. The website is
7 listed in my printed material, which I'll make a
8 copy available to you.

9 No. 6. The amount of electrical
10 capacity added to the electrical grid is minimal
11 for all the negatives above. When the wind
12 capacity is insufficient to generate, back-up
13 power must be available in the electrical grid to
14 avoid what is known as brown outs or black outs.
15 At this time there is no economically feasible
16 way to use batteries to store sufficient energy
17 generated by wind turbines for use when the wind
18 is not capable of meeting the electrical needs.
19 Currently all back-up generating capacity must
20 come from fossil-fueled generation, that is coal
21 or gas, or nuclear generating plants. These
22 sources cannot be eliminated to "save the
23 environment." Well, I suppose they could be if
24 we all want to risk sitting in dark.
25 Additionally, new studies are showing that grid

1 instability is often created by the inclusion of
2 more and more electricity brought into the grid
3 from industrial wind turbines.

4 I will not take more of your time and I
5 thank you for affording the public this
6 opportunity for input, since it is our only voice
7 in this entire project. Please take a few
8 minutes to go online and at link I provided under
9 Item No. 5 and review the article about
10 repowering the industrial wind project in Iowa.
11 Please consider this when thinking about what is
12 in the overall best interests of Ohio and it's
13 residents.

14 In light of the above reasons, I
15 respectfully ask that you deny approval of the
16 Republic Wind project, Case No -- I'm sorry, I
17 have the wrong case number on there -- Case No.
18 17-2295-EL-BGN in Seneca County. Thank you.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

20 MS. SANYAL: Katherine Smith, if you'll
21 come and be on deck in middle podium.

22 And Mr. Jones, correct?

23 MR. JONES: Correct.

24 MS. SANYAL: Do you solemnly swear or
25 affirm that the testimony you're about to provide

1 is the whole truth?

2 MR. JONES: Yes.

3 MS. SANYAL: And your address,
4 township, and if you're in the project area.

5 MR. JONES: I live at 9140 East
6 Township Road 122, Republic, Ohio, a few miles
7 from the Seneca East schools.

8 MS. SANYAL: And you may proceed. Go
9 ahead.

10 MR. JONES: Yes. Thank you. Snicker
11 if you'd like. I don't really mind. So
12 whatever. What I'd like to do is, I'd like to
13 tell you that. Free napkins, free table
14 settings, free workdays no -- oh, I'm sorry,
15 those are my notes for a Bernie Sanders rally. I
16 got the wrong one.

17 Recently, I'd say about a year ago, I
18 was having coffee with an ex-fried, a very
19 intelligent, hardworking man, and he questioned
20 my reasons for speaking no wind turbines in
21 Seneca County. And he had three valid points,
22 and they are as follows: 1, the Seneca East
23 School system needs the tax revenue from those
24 turbines. 2, how can you and others, a pillar of
25 the community, be against of renewable energy?

1 Planet earth is being destroyed. His third was
2 this, a man has the right to build or lease
3 whatever he wants on his own land. I hope that I
4 can show you I differ with all three.

5 But I have to tell you, after I spoke
6 the last time I visited Seneca East schools about
7 the second week of school, and the principal
8 directed me down to the third grade. When I
9 walked through the door this little third grader
10 said, "Oh, you're Mr. Jones." And I said, "Yes."
11 She said, "I heard one of mom's friends refer to
12 you as a dumb hillbilly from Kentucky. Are you?"
13 You don't answer a question from a third grader
14 without some thought. So I said, "Am I dumb or
15 am I from Kentucky?" She said, "Oh, I know
16 you're not dumb. But are you from Kentucky?"
17 Another little girl saved me from having to
18 answer further. She said, "So you're Mr. Jones?"
19 And I said, "Yes." And you can find an attitude
20 in the third grader, you don't have teach for
21 years. And I said, "Yes, I am." She said
22 "You're grandmother's favorite teacher." Now, my
23 ego was deflated. And before it got too far a
24 little boy over by the door said, "Mr. Jones,
25 grab a spare Mac Book Pro, I want to send you an

1 Apple document. It's my research paper, the
2 title is "The life-style of the operations in
3 Southern Australia." What I want you to do, is I
4 want you to check my thesis statement and see if
5 it is ambiguous or could you suggest some writing
6 means of clarifying?" I was out the door.

7 I got outside and I have to tell you
8 this, I thought I could have been at Saw Mill
9 Creek having lunch with my daughter. You see, my
10 daughter is Vice President of Cedar Fair, Cedar
11 Point. They just bought the Saw Mill Golf Course
12 and all that, and that's not bad for a father who
13 is a dumb, actually I prefer to be called or
14 referred to as a southern sophisticated
15 gentleman, or better yet, in this politically
16 world, I would like for you to call me a blue
17 grass American. Thank you.

18 I just I just thought I'd brag on my
19 daughter a little bit there. Actually her mother
20 deserves all the credit. I know that.

21 Seneca East Schools. Did you realize
22 that Seneca East Schools had more than a million
23 dollars carryover into this school year?
24 Actually, I didn't write it down, it was public
25 knowledge. I think it was closer to a million

1 and a half.

2 Now, the Seneca East Schools, only five
3 schools in our area rated a bronze medal in
4 educational merit. Seneca East was one, along
5 with Edison, Huron, Vermilion, and Ontario.
6 Principal Don Vogt at a recent board meeting said
7 only 2 percent of schools in Ohio made gold. 11
8 percent made silver. Seneca East is in the top
9 16 percent of the State of Ohio, enrollment is
10 up. Open enrollment. Dr. Laura Kagy, her staff,
11 the school board, the employees of Seneca East
12 deserve all the credit.

13 I can tell you, said the first myth, we
14 do not need wind turbines lording over our
15 school. Certainly open enrollment would
16 certainly be affected. We are doing quite well
17 without wind turbines. Thank you.

18 Now, his second point was, how can, you
19 a pillar of the community, be against renewable
20 energy? We're not against renewable energy.
21 That's a myth. We're against nonfunctional,
22 nonworking renewable energy.

23 Now, I have to tell you this, that my
24 son called me last night from Dallas, Texas, he's
25 Vice President of the Niagara Corporation located

1 in Dallas. His mother deserves all the credit
2 for that too, I understand that. But that's not
3 bad for a blue grass American. In two weeks he's
4 going to Europe, he's going to Munich, Germany,
5 and he's going to go on to Florence, Italy. He
6 said, "Dad, you want to go to Europe with me?"
7 No, I lied, he didn't say that. He's not going
8 to take me there, he's going to go. But listen
9 to this, last year, two weeks before Christmas,
10 he gave his mother and I a great Christmas gift.
11 He sent us to Hawaii. We toured Pearl Harbor.
12 We toured the Space Observatory, and on the way
13 up we spent a whole day watching turbines rust
14 out on the barriers and on the reefs. They don't
15 work. They're 10 years old. Now, you know, I
16 didn't spent a whole day watching them rust, but
17 when you're 75 years old watching turbines rust
18 actually is more important than having a free day
19 at Cedar Point, which I can get.

20 The third myth is this, a man has a
21 right to build at lease whatever he wants on his
22 own land. No, he doesn't. You have to have
23 consideration for your neighbors. You have to
24 understand the health issues that these things
25 get. I've read, you know, I knew nothing about

1 them until a third grader asked me, "Mr. Jones
2 what's your take on wind turbines?" I said, "You
3 got to be good." And then I realized that I
4 shouldn't said that. So he told me, he said, and
5 this is when we stopped having coffee with each
6 other, he said, "I should be able to build
7 anything. I can lease anything I want." And I
8 said, "Okay, so I'm your neighbor, I'm going to
9 start a free range rattlesnake farm right next to
10 you. I'm going to go to Texas and get 1,000
11 rattlesnakes and we're going to raise them for
12 meat." And he said, "That's not the same." And
13 I said, "You're right. You can see a
14 rattlesnake. They even warn you and you can hear
15 them, and if you wear those big hip boots that
16 come to your knees you're probably not going to
17 get bitten." That's not true with all the health
18 issues that face our neighbors and our kids in
19 school. It's real. And I implore you to read,
20 please, the letters that I submitted from my
21 former students. And I thank you for listening,
22 but please don't show up Heidelberg looking for
23 me at a Bernie Sanders rally. I'm not going to
24 be there.

25 MR. PARRAM: Mr. Jones, do you reside

1 within the project area?

2 MR. JONES: Yes.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Which township do you
4 reside in? Mr. Jones, which township?

5 MR. JONES: Scipio.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Scipio. Okay. Thank
7 you.

8 We're going to take a break right after
9 we have Ms. Smith's testimony.

10 Do you solemnly swear or affirm that
11 the testimony you're about to provide is the
12 whole truth?

13 MS. SMITH: I do.

14 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And then name,
15 address, whether you're in the project area, and
16 what township area.

17 MS. SMITH: My name is Katherine Smith.
18 My husband and I own farmland at our home in
19 Thompson Township, Republic, Ohio. Our address
20 is 12199 East Township Road 148, Republic, Ohio.
21 And we are in the footprint.

22 MS. SANYAL: And I'm sorry, I didn't
23 catch it, what township are you in?

24 MS. SMITH: We're in Thompson Township.

25 MS. SANYAL: Thank you.

1 MS. SMITH: I'm going to make this
2 short and sweet. We also love our farm and we
3 have a deed signed by Andrew Jackson. My
4 husband's family has resided on the family since
5 the time of Jackson. I see many strangers in
6 this room today, I also see quite a few
7 neighbors, and I see some very good friends who
8 are on the opposite side from me. Isn't this
9 America a wonderful country where we can give our
10 opinions that may not agree, but we can still be
11 respectful of one another.

12 After we get our wind turbines I hope
13 that we can still be friends. I support the
14 project. I think it is very exciting and I look
15 forward to seeing the windmills and having a new
16 type of energy in our area. I think there is
17 room for all types of power in our country and we
18 should put up windmills.

19 I also would like to address an issue
20 that several people have mentioned about bats.
21 We have a woods on our farm and several years ago
22 the scientists came in and did a study on the
23 bats. We talked to the these folks. They put up
24 nets every 15 minutes through the night and said
25 there were no bats in our woods and in the area

1 where wind turbine would be.

2 I would also, just for your
3 information, like to let you know that Thompson
4 Township is not zoned. Thank you.

5 MS. SANYAL: No questions.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Ms. Smith, if you could
7 come back for just a second.

8 MS. SANYAL: Do you have a copy of your
9 comments?

10 MS. SMITH: No.

11 MS. SANYAL: Were there any questions?
12 I'm sorry, I didn't quite catch that.

13 MR. PARRAM: There were no questions.

14 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Thank you. I'm
15 sorry to make you walk back. Thank you very
16 much.

17 MR. AGRANOFF: We're going to take a 10
18 minute break and then when we return it will be
19 Mr. Ronald Smith and then Steve Shuff.

20 MS. SANYAL: And I know quite a few
21 people want to know what number we are on. We
22 just finished No. 20 and I believe we have 69
23 people.

24 **THEREUPON, there was a brief recess.**

25 MR. AGRANOFF: Mr. Smith, please raise

1 your right hand.

2 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
3 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
4 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
5 truth?

6 MR. SMITH: I do.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please state
8 your full name, your address, your township, and
9 whether or not you reside in the project area.

10 MR. SMITH: My name is Ronald Smith,
11 12199 East Township Road 148, Republic, Ohio,
12 Thompson Township. And yes, I do reside within
13 the imprint of the Republic Wind Farm.

14 I want to address a little different
15 subject matter than the other people have
16 addressed. Basically I'm going to do so, because
17 I have the background of 47 years experience as a
18 lawyer, licensed in Ohio, as well as the State of
19 Florida. I am semi-retired, but I feel that the
20 Siting Board should be aware that there are
21 certain laws that must be followed and I'm going
22 to address some of the comments made by some of
23 the people made here, especially pertaining to
24 property rights.

25 I just want to remind the Siting Board

1 that the property rights are important because
2 it's protected by the Constitution of the United
3 States under Article 1, Section 10, Clause 1.
4 But more importantly the Ohio Constitution also
5 protects the property rights of citizens. The
6 Ohio Constitution under Article 1, Section 19
7 states: "Private property shall ever be held
8 inviolable." That means owners of private
9 property can enters into a legal agreement
10 without fear of it being interfered with any way
11 by the State.

12 Now, when APEX and their predecessors
13 first came to our community and Thompson Township
14 and throughout the area I was skeptical, and I'm
15 a person who delves into things factually and
16 prepared my cases over the years, over 100 jury
17 trials, I made sure the facts are correct before
18 I do anything.

19 Since I am a landowner and own farm
20 ground, I was very concerned about the wind
21 turbines coming to our vicinity. And yes, I'm
22 very familiar with the karst regions, because I
23 have over a half a dozen sinkholes throughout my
24 farm, and they're large ones, 15 feet deep, 25
25 feet across. Yes, they hold water and, yes, the

1 water does go down to the Sandusky Bay. But I
2 have done my research and done due diligence and
3 I feel that they have also done their homework
4 when he came here. I pointed out to them very
5 earlier, when they first came to Thompson
6 Township, that the karst reason may be a problem
7 and they should look into it very thoroughly. So
8 they proceed to do so. So in that respect though
9 I've looked at some of the results of their
10 research, and I find that the foundation that
11 they're going to put down would certainly be
12 sufficient enough to hold the large turbines that
13 we're talking about. I do not believe, in my
14 experience with the karst region of the sinkholes
15 I have on my farm, that the sinking of these
16 large bottoms of the turbines would cause any
17 issue with our karst area and our sinkholes.

18 So I feel they have done their homework
19 and I feel basically working with them over the
20 years and observing them, that they have crossed
21 all the T's and dotted all the I's. So I feel
22 basically that not only do we have to keep in
23 mind the property rights of the farmers, which I
24 do have farmers by the name of Hummer farming my
25 farm for the last 40-some years. They farm over

1 2,000 to 3,000 acres and they own 1,000 acres
2 themselves, that they are very much for the wind
3 turbines in the area, because of the fact that
4 they would help generate income to the community,
5 as well as the county. So under those
6 circumstances, I feel that the property rights
7 would still be important.

8 And I'm just going to point out
9 basically what Mr. Jones said, that, yes, the
10 property owners should be able to lease and
11 contract with APEX, which I have done. If I felt
12 that that was not proper I would not have done
13 so, based on my homework and due diligence. And
14 I think the farmers have the same ability and the
15 same attitude as I do, in order to do their
16 homework ahead of time to make sure everything is
17 proper.

18 As far as some the dangers or concerns,
19 that will be left up to the experts that will be
20 testifying down in Columbus. So I would ask that
21 you accept the application. Thank you.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

23 MR. PARRAM: No, questions, Your Honor.

24 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Thank you,

25 Mr. Smith.

1 MR. RANDAZZO: I do have a question.

2 MS. SANYAL: Mr. Smith, we do have one
3 question.

4 MR. RANDAZZO: Thanks for your
5 testimony. And you indicated you do have
6 sinkholes on your property?

7 MR. SMITH: I have over a half a dozen
8 sinkholes on my property.

9 MR. RANDAZZO: And are all of them
10 about the same size?

11 MR. SMITH: No. They're different
12 sizes. I didn't indicate, there are two large
13 ones. I had one sinkhole that I had put down a
14 large tile, since it's a working sinkhole. In
15 fact, all of them are working, but when you have
16 high water that's when you have a lot of water
17 there standing around.

18 MR. RANDAZZO: You indicated that you
19 felt the applicant had done its homework with
20 regard to the potential risks associated with the
21 karst and the sinkholes in this area?

22 MR. SMITH: Yes. Because they had
23 informed they would have, obviously, experts come
24 in, geological experts, to make sure there's
25 going to be no interference with the karsts or

1 anything that's erect.

2 MR. RANDAZZO: If you know, are you
3 aware of whether or not the applicant has
4 completed geotechnical drilling, subsurface
5 drilling to identify potential --

6 MR. SMITH: I'm not aware of that.
7 They indicted they would have that done before
8 anything with it is being constructed.

9 MR. RANDAZZO: So your understanding
10 is, is that would be done sometime in the future?

11 MR. SMITH: Yes, that's my
12 understanding.

13 MR. RANDAZZO: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. SMITH: You're welcome.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

16 MR. SHUFF. And Mr. Bishop, Frank
17 Bishop, would be on deck.

18 Please raise your right hand.

19 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
20 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
21 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
22 truth?

23 MR. SHUFF: I do.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. State your
25 full name and your address, your township, and if

1 you reside in the project area.

2 MR. SHUFF: Steve Shuff, S-T-E-V-E.
3 Shuff is S-H-U-F-F. I live at 91 Golf View,
4 Tiffin, Ohio, Eden Township. I am not in
5 Republic Wind, I am in Seneca Wind, but I'm in
6 the viewshed of Republic Wind.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

8 MR. SHUFF: As I said, I'm Steve Shuff,
9 and so the record is clear, I'm here as a private
10 landowner and a private citizen, not in any
11 official or professional capacity, but in a
12 private capacity.

13 I've lived in Seneca County all my
14 life. I'm a 5th generation Shuff in this County.
15 And I'm testifying on aviation issues. The
16 Republic Wind project will adversely affect the
17 Seneca County Airport. Let me repeat that. The
18 Republic Wind project will adversely affect the
19 Seneca County Airport. Where are the facts for
20 that statement? Brad Newman and Kim Newman have
21 operated the Seneca County Airport for 30 years.
22 They have indicated clearly that these industrial
23 wind turbines adversely effect the Seneca County
24 Airport and the operation of the airport. In
25 fact, they went in so far as to do a full page ad

1 in the Tiffin Advertiser Tribune dated July 20,
2 2019. I co-authored that with them. And along
3 with them and their statement in the Advertiser
4 Tribune, which I'd like to mark as an exhibit at
5 this hearing, were various industrial, business,
6 and professional leaders of our communities
7 supporting the airport.

8 So why do they feel that it effects the
9 airport? Why do we feel that it effects the
10 airport? The Mansfield approach control for the
11 Seneca County Airport is being merged with
12 Cleveland Approach Control, which will effect
13 radar coverage under 3,000 feet. This will
14 effect line of site, LOS.

15 The next point, Bowling Green State
16 University has an active flight training program.
17 300 students that practice instrument approaches,
18 VFR take off and landing all at the Seneca County
19 Airport. 33 of the proposed wind turbines, their
20 location and height will exceed the obstruction
21 limit set forth in 14CFR part 77.1783. It would
22 constitute an obstructions to air navigation for
23 various instrument flight rules procedures. This
24 would require an increase in various instrument
25 flight rule terminal minimum altitudes. The

1 proposed wind turbines would exceed the
2 obstructions standards and cause the initial
3 approach altitude and the midst approach altitude
4 to increase. This increase will cause less
5 operations for the Seneca County Airport.

6 In the event of bad weather, in the
7 event of icing conditions single engine aircraft
8 flying under VFR would be adversely effected.
9 Where I know Life Flight is adversely effected.
10 We also know crop sprayers are adversely
11 effected.

12 The Seneca County Airport conducts over
13 60,000 operations per year. Well, what's an
14 operation? One flight is one operation. One
15 landing is one operation. Our airport does
16 60,000 of those in a year. Over 60,000, okay?
17 Here's the ironic thing. Funding, Federal
18 funding for our airport is based on how many
19 operations. If we reduce the operations because
20 of industrial wind turbines, we reduce the
21 opportunity for Federal funding to help
22 strengthen and improve our airport, including
23 extending our runways to 4,000 feet. Future
24 investment in the Seneca County Airport would be
25 effected, economic development for the area would

1 be effected, and all the years since 1968, under
2 Governor Rose, 1968, all the improvements made to
3 the airport and all the tax payer investment
4 would be lessened by not having the ability to
5 have operations, substantial and adequate
6 operations of the airport. How ironic that we
7 put all the money into the airport through
8 Federal money and local money, and now because of
9 subsidies and tax credits by the Federal
10 Government we're getting a less airport.

11 Because of these aviation issues, which
12 I'm sure will be expounded upon more at the
13 adjudicatory hearing, I ask you deny the
14 application of Republic Wind for Certificate.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: Any questions?

16 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

17 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

18 We have now Mr. Frank Bishop.

19 MR. BISHOP: I'll pass on mine. I
20 think it's been covered.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you, sir.

22 MS. SANYAL: You want to sign your
23 rights.

24 MR. BISHOP: Okay. I handed in my
25 file. My comments upfront and signed. Is that

1 good?

2 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Yes.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

4 Next, we have Mr. Jim Schumacher. If
5 you could come to the microphone to my left. And
6 then on deck would be Mr. Bob Risener. Is
7 Mr. Risener here? Then how about Jane Fox.

8 Mr. Schumacher, please raise your right
9 hand.

10 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
11 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
12 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
13 truth?

14 MR. SCHUMACHER: I do.

15 My name is James Schumacher,
16 S-C-H-U-M-A-C-H-E-R. I live at 16094 Township
17 Road 104, Attica. That's Venice Township. And I
18 am not in the Republic Wind footprint.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Which township was that?
20 I'm sorry.

21 MR. SCHUMACHER: Venice Township.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Venice?

23 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please
25 proceed.

1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Thank you. My Jim
2 Schumacher. I'm a resident of Venice Township
3 and within the proposed Seneca Wind project area.

4 My family has been a member of this
5 community for over 57 years. I've been involved
6 in farming all my life. I strongly support the
7 Republic Wind project.

8 This project will help provide economic
9 boost, especially our schools, our libraries, and
10 our county, and our Local communities. Our
11 schools will get much needed funding to
12 continually improve the education of our
13 students. These students are our future. You
14 should give them what is needed for them to excel
15 in the world today. This economic boost to our
16 schools could help relieve the financial burden
17 that our homeowners and property owners are asked
18 to bare. This is a win win for everyone.

19 This project will help provide clean
20 energy and diversify our electric needs. We
21 cannot just depend on energy sources of the past.
22 We have a natural resource of abundant wind in
23 this area and we should use this resource for
24 help in our electric energy needs for the future.

25 Many people in the area will benefit

1 with jobs during the construction and operation
2 of the Republic Wind project. These are jobs
3 that will help families and businesses.

4 This project will produce clean energy
5 that does not pollute the air or contribute to
6 global warming. We all need to protect the
7 environment for future generations. Thank you.

8 MR. AGRANOFF: Any questions?

9 MR. PARRAM: No questions, Your Honor.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: On deck will be Sally
11 Norman.

12 And Ms. Fox, please raise your right
13 hand.

14 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
15 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
16 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
17 truth?

18 MS. FOX: I do.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
20 name, your address, the township in which you
21 reside, and whether or not you're in the project
22 area.

23 MS. FOX: My name is Jane Fox, J-A-N-E
24 F-O-X. I reside at 8236 State Route 269,
25 Bellevue. And I'm a resident of Thompson

1 Township in Seneca County. And I am not within
2 the project, but I'm within view shot.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

4 MS. FOX: Okay. Being a resident of
5 Thompson Township, in Seneca County, I oppose the
6 development of the Republic Wind project.

7 I am recently retired. My husband and
8 I build our house 41 years ago. We raised our
9 family in the peaceful countryside not far from
10 Bellevue. Our home is an investment in our
11 future, or so we thought.

12 We have maintained and improved our
13 house and property. We never assumed our home
14 could be devalued due to the close proximity to
15 industrial wind turbines. Nor did we imagine
16 that our health and safety may be compromised by
17 the development of these projects. We do believe
18 that landowners should be able to do what they
19 want with their property, as long as there is no
20 potential to compromise the wellbeing and safety
21 of others.

22 I've been involved in education for 43
23 years. I have been an early childhood teacher
24 for over 30 of those years. I do know the
25 negative effects that light flicker and constant,

1 as well as intermittent noise can have on
2 children. Some children, especially those with
3 sensory disorders, whether they're diagnosed or
4 undiagnosed, may cry, scream, hit, complain of
5 headaches, cover their ears, and/or crawl under a
6 desk or a table trying to get away from the site,
7 sound, or other stimulants that is making them
8 uncomfortable in their own skin. These behaviors
9 that I've witnessed over the years are real and
10 they are not imagined. It has been shown that
11 living with noises pollution can have adverse,
12 cognitive, as well as behavioral and emotional
13 effects on children.

14 As an educator, it was my obligation to
15 help provide a safe learning environment in my
16 classroom by acting to reduce no stressors on my
17 students. I provided soft lighting in order to
18 minimize the use of overhead fluorescent bulbs.
19 I utilized paper towels instead of air dryers.
20 And if needed, I encouraged students to wear
21 headphones to lessen the effects of nuisance
22 noise. By supporting the health and welfare of
23 all students I was enabling each to work and grow
24 to their full potential.

25 The same basic theory holds true for

1 adults. In order to live a healthy productive
2 life, stressors need to be eliminated or greatly
3 reduced, not enhanced. Industrial wind turbines
4 situated in close proximity to residents are
5 known to produce negative health and safety
6 concerns resulting from the swoosh and hum of
7 blades and engines, infrasound, vibrations,
8 shadow flicker, and ice debris throw. No longer
9 can it be said that shadow flicker and noise
10 pollution are mere annoyances. These can and
11 have adversely impacted the health and safety of
12 people and that is why many parts of the country,
13 and other countries as well, discussions are
14 taking place recommending more restrictive
15 setbacks from industrial wind turbines in order
16 to reduce the chance of ill-effects.

17 I sought out and I continue to seek
18 information regarding wind turbines to better
19 understand what I've become a part of. One
20 difference that holds true for me is that I am
21 still pursuing information both pro and con;
22 while most wind turbine lease holders were
23 pursued. I'm not bound by a gag order
24 prohibiting me from expressing my concerns and my
25 thoughts. And with regard to wind turbine

1 projects, can there ever be an accurate report on
2 citizen health and safety impact due to wind
3 lease agreement holder's code of confidentiality;
4 their inability to express adverse health,
5 safety, and property concerns without the
6 possibility of negative ramifications being taken
7 against them?

8 Industrial wind turbines do have the
9 potential to be devastating and cause damage that
10 can be harmful and costly. It is not acceptable
11 to allow a wind turbine project in an area based
12 on the fact that fewer people are at risk due to
13 rural areas being less populated than urban
14 areas. Nonetheless, these areas are populated.
15 It is not acceptable to consider the wellbeing
16 and safety of some citizens as major priority,
17 but not value all citizens the same. A trade-off
18 of quality of life should not be justified.

19 Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,
20 you do have the means to promote safety measures.
21 And it's time to update the one true safety
22 measure of industrial wind turbines and that is
23 setbacks. You have the means to greatly increase
24 setbacks to reduce negative impact for the health
25 and safety of all life, especially

1 nonparticipating residents residing in and near
2 projects.

3 Please err on the side of caution for
4 the health and safety all of these things. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Next we'll have Sally
7 Norman and Tami Andrews is on deck.

8 Please raise your right hand.

9 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
10 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
11 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
12 truth?

13 MS. NORMAN: I do.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
15 name, your address, your township, and whether or
16 not you reside in the project area.

17 MS. NORMAN: My name is Sally Norman,
18 S-A-L-L-Y N-O-R-M-A-N. I live at 6647 Young
19 Road, Lyme Township, Huron County. I do not live
20 in the Republic Wind project, but I live across
21 Route 269 South of Bellevue and I'm within a mile
22 of the project. My property does abut the
23 Emerson Creek Wind.

24 I have many reasons to voice my opinion
25 against these industrial wind turbines, but I

1 will keep it short and to a minimum.

2 At this hearing I would like to address
3 the effect of the karst on our well water if
4 these projects are approved. We do know that we
5 have had people that live very close to me that
6 have lost their wells just in the quarries that
7 are being -- used to be near us when they would
8 use the dynamite to blast for them. People lost
9 their wells, they were contaminated. Since we
10 we're on very edge of the karst we probably would
11 be in the area that would have impact on our
12 wells.

13 If our wells are destroyed or
14 contaminated by the building of these complexes,
15 will the developer or subsequent owners of the
16 project guarantee our future water supply at no
17 cost to us? I refuse to call these wind farms,
18 because they're about as far as from being a farm
19 as you can get.

20 We build our dream home about a mile
21 and a half south of Bellevue on a three and a
22 quarter acres of land 26 years ago. We did this
23 after living on Route 20 in Bellevue for 20
24 years. And we moved to the beautiful area for a
25 quiet rural life-style. And I often take

1 pictures of the beautiful sunrises and sunsets
2 from my backyard, which will no longer be
3 possible with the landscape covered with 600 foot
4 turbines to the west and 655 foot turbines to the
5 north, east, and south in another project. Many
6 sleepless mornings I look to the east and I see
7 this beautiful starlit sky about our row of pines
8 and spruces. The constellation Orion is so
9 beautiful. But with flashing red lights of the
10 wind turbines that site will be lost forever.

11 Our home is one our most important
12 investments, and despite the claims of the winds
13 companies, we will almost certainly lose value in
14 our home and property. Will the wind companies
15 or their successors guarantee our home values?

16 Industrial wind turbine may have their
17 place, but it is not in populated rural areas
18 situated so closely to homes.

19 I ask that the Power Siting Board not
20 approve this or any other project in our area.
21 Let them be located in areas where no one lives
22 for miles and miles. Thank you.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: Next we have Tami
24 Andrews, and Beth Walliser will be on deck.

25 Do you solemnly swear the testimony

1 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
2 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
3 truth?

4 MS. ANDREWS: I do.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
6 name, your address, and your township, and
7 whether or not you're in the project area.

8 MS. ANDREWS: My name is Tami Andrews,
9 T-A-M-I A-N-D-R-E-W-S. I live at 1178 East U.S.
10 Highway 224, in Attica. I live in Venice
11 Township, three miles south of this project area
12 in the Seneca Wind project area. And I am very
13 concerned about infrasound.

14 For those of you that remember the TV
15 show Golden Girls, I would like to borrow from
16 Sophia Petrillo, the oldest of the four main
17 characters. "Picture it! Downtown Columbus,
18 summer of 2019. Traffic. Shops. Tall
19 buildings. Traffic. Restaurants. Busy
20 sidewalks. Traffic."

21 You decide to spend part of your lunch
22 hour in a brisk walk to help you meet your daily
23 goal of 10,000 steps. You have enough time to
24 walk four blocks. You enjoy the sights as you
25 walk and do a little window shopping on your way.

1 Suddenly at the end of your four block walk you
2 are confronted with a 60 story machine, four city
3 blocks away.

4 Picture it! You are a citizen of rural
5 eastern Seneca County. The current setback for
6 wind turbines from property lines is
7 approximately 1,330 feet, which according to a
8 conversion chart at convertunits.com, is 4 city
9 blocks, for Midwest U.S. You now are facing this
10 real possibility, an industrial wind turbine is
11 planned for 4 city blocks from your property.
12 Easy walking distance.

13 You are not a country bumpkin and
14 realize that machines break down. What happens
15 when a 60-story machine breaks down? You know
16 how to do research and discover that when these
17 machines break down it's not a pleasant scenario.

18 There have been documented blade throws
19 at varying distances, as some of your neighbors
20 have shared. Some, like one in Ontario, have
21 flown the equivalent of 5.6 city blocks.

22 You are not a hayseed. Other neighbors
23 share the information they found in their
24 research that shows that these machines catch on
25 fire. You have to watch the episode of "Dirty

1 Jobs" where Mike Rowe goes up in a nacelle to
2 clean out all the accumulated grease and oil, to
3 help prevent such fires. Sadly, you learn that
4 Mike Rowe will not be not part of any wind
5 turbine in Seneca County. You know that these
6 massive machines would be located in fields of
7 potentially dry crops near or around your
8 property. You also know that your local fire
9 department, as wonderful as they are, have no
10 capability to fight a 60-story fire.

11 You are not a rural rube. You know
12 that machines can make noise, and you figure that
13 60-story machine, four city blocks away, with
14 turning blades could do just that.

15 One of your neighbors finds a recording
16 of turbine noise from a homeowner living near an
17 actual turbine, and you hear the actual
18 unpleasant noise they make. The World Health
19 Organization has determined safe and unsafe
20 decibel levels. Sadly, there will be homes in
21 this project in the unsafe levels due to the
22 location of the turbines near them. Others do
23 excellent research on the sound you can't hear,
24 infrasound. One neighbor does his research at
25 the National Institutes of Health, where he looks

1 into Soviet research in the 70's and 80's on
2 infrasound. The then travels to Germany to talk
3 with a doctor whose researched he studied.
4 Another neighbor translates an article written in
5 German about the dangers of infrasound. Rural
6 rubes indeed!

7 Because you did not check your IQ at
8 the county border when you moved to rural Seneca
9 County, you surmise that 60-story machines could
10 interfere with aircraft. More research supports
11 this. These machines have prohibited crop
12 dusting in some areas. They will prevent Life
13 Flight from being able to land in some areas for
14 the ultimate effect on your health and safety.

15 Because your neck did not turn red the
16 minute you moved to your rural area, you theorize
17 that 60-story machines will have some effect on
18 your property value. Several neighbors have
19 looked into this and found that property values
20 in areas overrun with these machines have gone
21 down, and some places anywhere from 12 percent to
22 55 percent. You start to question whether why
23 now you are asked to make such sacrifices, when
24 all you wanted to do was live out in the country
25 in Seneca County.

1 Because hick is not a word that
2 describes you, you marvel at the combined
3 research conducted and knowledge gained and
4 wisdom shared by all of your neighbors in the
5 same boat as you. And you realize that not once,
6 not ever, at any meetings where you all have
7 gathered, has anyone ever said, "Hey, let's spend
8 these untold hours and hours of time away from
9 our families and daily lives in research and
10 tedious work because we want to prevent our
11 lease-holding neighbors from making extra money."
12 It is all about, and has only been about
13 protecting the health, safety, and property
14 values for you and your neighbors.

15 You realize that you cannot remain
16 silent. You must speak and share and share and
17 share. The sacrifice you are being forced to
18 make, against your will, is too great. You need
19 to be heard.

20 And so in closing, I asked one thing,
21 please hear us. Really, really hear us. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: Next on deck would be
24 Chris Aichholz.

25 Please raise your right hand.

1 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
2 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
3 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
4 truth?

5 MS. WALLISER: Yes.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
7 name, your address, the township in which you
8 reside, and whether or not you're in the project
9 area.

10 MS. WALLISER: My name is Beth
11 Walliser, W-A-L-L-I-S-E-R. I live at 40 Thomas
12 Street in Tiffin, Ohio, in Clinton Township. And
13 I am not in the footprint.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

15 MS. WALLISER: Hello. I would like to
16 thank the Ohio Power Sighting Board for traveling
17 up here to Tiffin to hold this forum.

18 I'm am here not only for my friends and
19 family who could potentially live under the
20 industrialized wind turbine, but as a concerned
21 citizen. There are pros and cons to any issue we
22 may confront. I believe the cons to
23 industrialized wind turbines are far worse than
24 the pros known.

25 The industrial wind turbine folks say

1 our townships will receive a small X amount of
2 money per year. That each property owners who
3 signs a lease will receive a small X amount of
4 dollars per year. This small amount of monies
5 does not balance out at all of the negative
6 consequences.

7 There is documented dangers, side
8 effects, that those industrialized wind turbines
9 concrete. No human, livestock, or wildlife
10 should be forced to live near these dangers.
11 Other rural areas are to populace. Our health
12 and quality of life should come first.

13 I do have a few questions that I still
14 have yet to be answered. If these industrialized
15 wind turbines are given the go ahead the who's
16 going to pay for all the damages to our rural
17 roads cause caused by their huge machinery?
18 Who's going to pay to inspect every single
19 turbine the ensure that all aspects of the
20 infrastructure is up to code? Who is going to
21 pay for the ongoing inspections that each turbine
22 will require? Who is going the pay to
23 investigate any complaint filed in regards to
24 adverse side effects people, livestock, or
25 wildlife may obtain? Who is going to pay the

1 damages caused by the side effects? Who is going
2 to pay for the demolition of these turbines when
3 they become obsolete? Who is going to pay to fix
4 someone's contaminated well? How many of the
5 property owners that will or do receive a check
6 would still be in favor if the money was taken
7 away?

8 In closing, I must say I am an
9 environmentalist. I truly believe we need to
10 lessen our dependence on fossil fuel. I truly
11 believe we need to develop more green energy,
12 including turbines. However, the key to success
13 for these turbines is location, location,
14 locations. These industrialized wind turbines
15 should not be near our homes, our schools, our
16 barns, and/or our parks and native preserves.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Any questions?

19 MR. PARRAM: No.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: On deck is Deborah
21 Didion.

22 Please raise your right hand.

23 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
24 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
25 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the

1 truth?

2 MR. AICHHOLZ: Yes, I do.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
4 name, your address, the township in which you
5 live, and whether or not you're in the project
6 area.

7 MR. AICHHOLZ: My name is Chris
8 Aichholz. I live at 5739 East Township Road 58.
9 You spell my name C-H-R-I-S A-I-C-H-H-O-L-Z. I
10 live in Bloom Township. I do not live in the
11 footprint of Republic Wind project; however, I am
12 in the viewshed of the project and have other
13 concerns and that is why I am here today.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

15 MR. AICHHOLZ: So as previously stated,
16 my name is Chris Aichholz. I'm a life-long
17 resident of Seneca County and I would like to
18 talk to you today about one of the major reasons
19 why I am in opposition of Republic Wind project
20 as proposed.

21 As an Eagle Scout and avid outdoorsman,
22 and advocate for conservation, I was appalled to
23 see the Republic Wind plan to completely inundate
24 Bowen Nature Preserve with 600 foot tall
25 industrial wind turbines. According to the

1 coordinates that APEX and Republic Wind submitted
2 to the Federal Aviation Administration, they plan
3 to put 21 industrial wind turbines within a two
4 and a half mile radius of Bowen Nature Preserve.

5 Up here, I know it's tough for everyone
6 to see, I have the map with coordinates of the
7 turbines and I'm to going each one of you a
8 laminated map of that, too.

9 Per the website "Birding in Ohio" their
10 description of the preserve of --

11 MR. AGRANOFF: One minute, sir.

12 Did counsel want a --

13 MR. PARRAM: Thank you.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

15 MR. AICHHOLZ: Per the website "Birding
16 in Ohio" their description of the preserve is as
17 follows: The Bowen Nature Preserve is a 65-acre
18 nature preserve with 58 acres restored
19 grassland/prairie, a restored wetland, hardwood
20 and pine woodland areas, abundant wildlife, a
21 variety of wildflowers, picnic tables, resting
22 benches, and a combination of 2.7 miles of hiking
23 and equestrian trails.

24 The preserve became a reality in 2007
25 with a gift of 58 acres of land from Jonathan E.

1 Bowen. In 2008, 6 acres of woodland was donated
2 to the park district through his parents Yvonne
3 J. And Norman Bowen. The Bowen name was well
4 known in West Lodi, which is the area where the
5 park preserve is locate, because of Jonathan's
6 great-grandfather Dr. Albert Bowen. Jonathan
7 lived on this farm in his early years with his
8 parents and grandparents. After his
9 grandparents, Merle and Louise Bowen died he
10 acquired the farm. As manager of the property,
11 Jonathan developed the grasslands and reinstalled
12 a wetland to encourage the development of
13 wildlife.

14 Also listed on the "Birding in Ohio"
15 website there's a section where qualified birders
16 know 42 different bird species, some of it which
17 include wood duck, great blue heron, turkey
18 vulture, coopers hawk, red tailed hawk, yellow
19 warbler, and the yellow-rumped warbler. This
20 shows that this preserve is a high attractive
21 area for birds.

22 I also think that the definition of
23 "nature preserve" should also be noted as well.
24 "A nature preserve is a protected area of
25 importance for flora, fauna or features of

1 geological and other interest, which is reserved
2 and managed for conservation and to provide
3 special opportunities for study or research.

4 Now, if you refer to the map, as
5 mentioned earlier, Republic Wind looks to place
6 21 industrial wind turbines within 2.5 miles of
7 Bowen Nature Preserve. Of these 21 industrial
8 wind turbines, 17 of them will be within two
9 miles of the preserve, 13 of them will be within
10 1.5 miles of the preserve, 10 of them are within
11 one mile of the preserve, and last but not least,
12 there are eight 600 foot tall industrial wind
13 turbines that are planned to be cited under 2700
14 feet of this nature preserve. This is completely
15 unnecessary and defies all logic when it comes to
16 safe and sensible siting of industrial wind
17 turbines. If.

18 This project is allowed to proceed as
19 proposed, the Ohio Power Siting Board would be
20 egregiously going against almost every core
21 reason for establishing a nature preserve such as
22 Bowen Nature Preserve. This is why I believe the
23 experts at the Seneca County Park District have
24 come out in opposition of these proposed
25 industrial wind turbine locations. The Seneca

1 County Park District is intervening in the
2 Republic Wind project all in an effort to try and
3 protect our preserves. They have asked for a
4 more than reasonable two and a half mile buffer
5 to protect this preserve from being completely
6 rendered useless.

7 The Seneca County Park District also
8 submitted a letter as well that was written by
9 Park Director Sarah Betts. It states that, "less
10 than 10 percent of Seneca County exists as
11 natural areas, which are found in fragments
12 across the landscape of the county. Adding
13 industrial sized turbines in close proximity to
14 the nature preserves would cause additional
15 extreme vertical fragmentation of the landscape
16 and further fragmentation of habitat on a
17 landscape and a macro-landscape scale. This is
18 for wildlife migrating from Canada to South
19 America. Protecting nature preserves, these
20 natural gems, and safe corridors between them is
21 crucial for the wildlife that use them for access
22 in their most essential components of life, food,
23 water, shelter, and space."

24 She also goes on to say, "We've been
25 entrusted by the public with the care of the

1 Seneca County Nature Preserves, and are bound by
2 our mission statement to act in the best
3 interests of the parks, wildlife, and patrons.
4 Therefor, we feel it is our duty to request a
5 minimum turban-free buffer of two and a half
6 miles to be incorporated all around Seneca County
7 Park District Nature Preserves for any industrial
8 wind turbine project proposed in Seneca County.
9 We believe that the proposed buffer zone will
10 allow Seneca County Park District and the
11 industrial wind turbine projects to meet the
12 needs of their respective stakeholders, and
13 strongly urge you to consider adopting this
14 propose buffer zone.

15 The preserve was entrusted to the
16 Seneca County Park District by generous
17 individuals to care and protect it. It has been
18 taken care of by countless volunteers and Park
19 District employees. The preserve has been
20 enjoyed by the people of not only this area, but
21 out of the area visitors as well. And finally,
22 the preserve is home to many birds, insects,
23 animals, native grasses and flowers, and it would
24 be an absolute shame if it was not protected from
25 completely unnecessary and reckless siting of

1 many industrial wind turbines.

2 In addition, this preserve and all of
3 our preserves under the Seneca County Park
4 District are funded by the tax payers and
5 property tax. In November 2016 the Park District
6 was able to pass a first tax levy to help support
7 and build and grow our existing preserves. After
8 voters approved the county's first ever parks
9 levy big changes have happened for the part
10 district. They previous managed their 10 parks
11 with a budget of less than \$50,000 per year and
12 only the two part-time employees. The rest of
13 the parks needs and operations were all covered
14 by volunteers. The Park District used to operate
15 out of a small office in the basement of a
16 downtown Tiffin building. With the levy they now
17 generate around \$571,000 per year for the
18 district. Lee Martin, who was the co-chair of
19 the levy said that when the levy passed "those
20 funds are transformational" and "they're going to
21 really allow us to become the park district that
22 we'd like to be." Since passing the levy the
23 district has been able to hire a director, a
24 natural resource coordinator, a naturalist, a
25 naturalist assistant, a part-time preschool

1 teacher, a part-time business manager, and a
2 seasonal maintenance crew.

3 The reason I bring all this up, is that
4 I also want to highlight another risk to our
5 County Park District. The Republic Wind project
6 will negatively impact property values in our
7 area. This in turn will negatively impact the
8 amount of money the Park District is currently
9 receiving.

10 This project aims to place 600 foot
11 tall wind turbines as close to 1330 feet
12 non-participants homes. Set-aside the fact that
13 the Ohio Power Siting Board has documented cases
14 of blade failures in which wind turbines have
15 thrown chunks of blade over 1800 feet. There are
16 many, many negatives with living close to these
17 massive industrial turbines.

18 There will be many people who will see
19 a dozen or so wind turbines within a two mile
20 radius of their homes. This will lead to
21 excessive sound levels, shadow flicker amounts,
22 the negative impact on their local nature
23 preserves, potentially unsafe hazards from wind
24 turbine failures. How could anyone question that
25 there would not be some level of negative impact

1 to peoples property values? Republic Wind will
2 employ many so called experts on this topic that
3 without a doubt has little to no experience with
4 Seneca County. The Republic Wind has already
5 cited studies that have little specific relevance
6 to what we are facing here in our County.

7 I, on the other hand, have spoken with
8 several real estate agents in the area who either
9 own an agency or employed by some the area's most
10 premier real estate agencies. These folks are
11 without a doubt experts on the local real estate
12 market and therefore their insights are far and
13 away more relative to this topic than the people
14 Republic Wind have and will utilize. They have
15 contacted me personally through our Seneca
16 Anti-Wind Union Facbook page regarding the
17 proposed projects. They wanted to know where
18 certain properties fell in the industrial wind
19 turbine projects, how close their clients would
20 be to the nearest wind turbine, and other
21 information regarding leases, good neighbors
22 agreements, and several of them made it
23 abundantly clear that their clients did not want
24 a home that would be anywhere close to the
25 proposed wind turbines.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Sir, I don't mean to be
2 disrespectful to cutting you off. But if you
3 could more or less try to get to the major points
4 so that we can continue to get through --

5 MR. AICHHOLZ: This is a major point.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Oh, it is. Oh, I
7 understand.

8 MR. AICHHOLZ: I'm just confused why
9 I'm the first one that's been cut off.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: Well, because --

11 MR. AICHHOLZ: I guess I'll just
12 continue on.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Well, if you could do
14 more of a synopsis that would just help in terms
15 of being able to get through the list.

16 MR. AICHHOLZ: I have a little bit of a
17 page left.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay.

19 MR. AICHHOLZ: The first real estate
20 agent's gave me a statement that I was able to
21 read tonight, it says, "As a local real estate
22 agent I see no positive impact on the real estate
23 community if wind turbines are to become a part
24 of our landscape. We, as realtors, must do our
25 due diligence when showing properties in these

1 areas by letting our clients know of the
2 potential upcoming projects. More times than not
3 buyer do not want to take a chance of purchasing
4 a home that may lose its value or have an
5 obstruction to look at each day. A home is
6 supposed to increase in value, correct?

7 I would have a hard time selling a
8 property or even a lot that I knew that there
9 were going to be huge turbines hindering the
10 beautiful landscape that we have here in
11 Northwest Ohio. Not to mention selling a lot
12 only to find out that they can't build due to
13 different restrictions.

14 I'm going to skip ahead to the next
15 real estate statement. This gentleman is the
16 owner of a real estate agency. He says in
17 regards to your question of the proposed wind
18 turbines affecting home values in our area we can
19 speak to the following. The current market
20 situation favors the seller and even with the
21 scarcity of home many of our home buyer clients
22 are very reluctant to or are not willing to list
23 their homes or look at homes that would be close
24 to any of the proposed wind turbines. Although
25 it's too early to put an actual percentage or a

1 dollar figure to the effect the seller's home
2 value, it stands to reason that limiting the
3 potential buyer pool for a seller's home would
4 have a negative effect on the home's value. If a
5 purchaser client is looking for a home in one of
6 the proposed wind turbine installation area this
7 is one of their first questions, "How close would
8 the projects be?"

9 I guess -- I was going cite the issues
10 with studies that Berkeley studied how only 10
11 percent of homes that are in it are close to wind
12 turbines, but I'll skip all that.

13 So in closing, I would just like to say
14 that the Republic Wind project, as proposed, is
15 an all-around bad deal for Seneca County and its
16 residents, the County Park District, The Bowen
17 Nature Preserve, and therefore I am asking the
18 Ohio Power Siting Board deny the Republic Wind
19 application. Thank you.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: Next we have Deborah
21 Didion. And on deck is Mary Musco? Is Mary
22 here?

23 MS. SANYAL: She's right there.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

25 Please raise your right hand.

1 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
2 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
3 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
4 truth?

5 MS. DIDION: Absolutely.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please state
7 your full name, your address, your township, and
8 whether or not you reside in the project area.

9 MS. DIDION: Okay. My name is Deborah
10 Didion, D-E-B-O-R-A-H, Didion, D-I-D-I-O-N. 6040
11 County Road 113, Bellevue, Ohio, York Township.
12 I most certainly reside in this area. And I have
13 copies. Don't get threatened, they're just
14 pictures. There's one for her. You're going to
15 want to open this up so you can see.

16 MR. AGRANOFF: You should have been in
17 management.

18 MS. DIDION: I should have. The
19 booklets are for your reading pleasure. I'm all
20 about it.

21 With respect to the Ohio Siting Board,
22 I would like to start by reading you mission
23 statement. I know you guys already know it, but
24 maybe some of them don't. "Our mission is to
25 support sound energy policies that provide for

1 the installation of energy capacity and
2 transmission infrastructure for the benefit of
3 the Ohio citizens, promoting the state's economic
4 interests, and protecting the environment and
5 land use."

6 That is a strong, powerful statement,
7 especially "protecting the environment and land
8 use." If you permit these wind turbines to be
9 built over one of the most expansive karst in the
10 state you will fall short of your mission
11 statement.

12 There are many reasons to oppose the
13 proposed wind turbines in Seneca, Sandusky, Erie,
14 and Huron Counties. I have not separated the
15 counties, because the karsts that underlays those
16 counties are one and the same.

17 Our water supply from Seneca goes
18 filtered all the way through those counties and
19 end up if Lake Erie.

20 According to the American Geological
21 Institute, karst areas are among the world's most
22 diverse fascinating, resource-rich, yet
23 problematic terrains. They contain the largest
24 springs and most productive ground water supplies
25 on earth. Many critical processes in karst

1 underground, require monitoring of groundwater
2 flow and exploration. They are also the
3 landscapes most vulnerable to environmental
4 impacts. Their groundwater is the most easily
5 polluted.

6 Karst reasons require special care to
7 prevent contamination of vulnerable groundwater
8 supply and to avoid building in geologically
9 hazardous areas. Living in karsts environments
10 may result in destabilization of a delicate
11 equilibrium between surface and underground
12 components of karst resulting in alteration of
13 drainage patterns and increasing incidents of
14 catastrophic sinkhole collapse, particularly in
15 areas of planned urban growth.

16 One of the best resources is our own
17 Department of National Resources, which has
18 studied the karsts in Ohio and especially the
19 four county area where the turbines are proposed
20 to be built. The ODNR have multiple resources
21 available to the public to learn about the karst
22 area. If that were not enough, they have done a
23 remarkable job putting an interacted karst map on
24 their website that shows how extensive the karst
25 area is.

1 There are hundreds, if not thousands,
2 of articles explaining that building over a karst
3 with be catastrophic. I have brought two
4 different resources for your viewing pleasure.
5 They explain the fragility of a karst system, how
6 the aquifer system works within the karst system,
7 and high risk of collapse and contamination to an
8 ecosystem.

9 The aquifer that is within the karst
10 area directly flows into Lake Erie. We already
11 have seen the algae bloom. That is what happens
12 when farm chemicals, animal waste, and other
13 pollutants make their way into a very delicate
14 ecosystem.

15 On the next page you're going to see a
16 screen shot of the ODNR's interactive karst map.
17 This screen shot includes Seneca, Sandusky, Erie,
18 and Huron Counties. Underneath all those dots
19 with either a field verified karst, suspected
20 karst, and natural springs. This map is
21 wonderful, as it shows the magnitude of the karst
22 area that covers our four counties. APEX would
23 like them to be divided by area, but that is
24 impossible because the four county area is one
25 big karst.

1 The next page shows one dot of the many
2 dots above. With the interactive program from
3 the ODNR you can see that each dot has the
4 potential to be massive. Each dot is
5 interconnected in ways that you can't see from a
6 dot on a map. This is a close-up of
7 approximately three of the proposed wind
8 turbines. They sit in my backyard. The stars on
9 this indicate private wells that draw off the
10 karst area. So this is one little dot and I want
11 you to see how large that karst area is. Most of
12 the karst is unseen. You can't see it. It's
13 fractured rock underneath the soil.

14 On the next page, the two pictures that
15 are there, are of some water that is lying on the
16 surface of the karst. That is the small part of
17 the underground karst stuff. The blue dots shows
18 where this picture was taken from. But the
19 biggest thing I want to say is these sinkholes.
20 This is a great explanation of how our -- this is
21 our fractured rock. It's all over the four
22 counties. This is where the aquifer runs
23 through. You start drilling down in those
24 railing pilings you're going to fracture, even
25 though it might not look like a karst on the

1 karst map. This aquifer system runs all the way
2 through. The following are excerpts from the
3 Fremont News Messenger article that was written
4 by Daniel Carson and it was published August 2 of
5 2019. And I enclosed that article with your
6 packet.

7 The APEX clean energy spokesperson was
8 interviewed via email and she stated that a
9 'series of steps were laid out to detect karst
10 and avoid groundwater sources." Had APEX checked
11 out with the ODNr they would have found extensive
12 research regarding the karst region and how the
13 groundwater is affected with the karst is
14 disturbed. And then she also said that "APEX is
15 developing projects in Oklahoma and Texas that
16 has karst features." Kenneth S. Johnson,
17 Williams J. Bangsund, Neal A. Hines published an
18 article regarding the risk in siting wind
19 turbines in Blaine County, Oklahoma.
20 "Catastrophic collapse of a wind turbine is
21 clearly unacceptable, and minor settlement could
22 also be a risk. Differential settlement by even
23 3 centimeters across a 15 meter wide turbine
24 foundation could lead to the turbine tilting out
25 of tolerance."

1 I have done extensive research on the
2 developing projects that is stated above, but
3 have not found one turbine located over a karst
4 in Oklahoma. There were some that were planned
5 in 2017, but have never come to fruition. APEX
6 is welcome to correct me if I'm wrong.

7 "If a turbine location is
8 determined" -- this is the spokesperson again.
9 "If a turbine location is determined to be a
10 potential karst area additional testing is
11 conducted." Hello. Did they not even look at
12 our Ohio Department of Natural Resources?
13 Because they have mapped the karsts. They
14 started mapping them in 1980. This is so --
15 there are so much information on karsts that I
16 was able to gain multiple government sources
17 stating that building over a karst can be
18 catastrophic. Why would APEX choose one of the
19 largest, most vulnerable areas in Ohio to place
20 600 feet turbines on? That's my question.

21 Oh, this is another one. She said,
22 "The typical and expected foundation of the
23 turbine models under consideration in northern
24 Ohio wind projects extend to a maximum depth of
25 approximately 10 feet, as not significant enough

1 to impact groundwater. Turbines have
2 intentionally sited away from wells and other
3 water sources."

4 Well you can tell by the close-up
5 that's not true. And you do not understand how a
6 karst in aquifer works. The soil filters the
7 groundwater, it then filters through the karst
8 into the aquifer system. Our state -- our Ohio
9 National Resources states, "The many passageways
10 formed in karst terrain allow for high
11 connectivity between the land surface and the
12 water table." The pilings that APEX will have to
13 put in to stabilize the turbine can be up to 30
14 feet deep with multiple pilings for each turbine.
15 Imagine the damage that will do to the karst
16 system and aquifer system. You visually can see
17 it by the sinkholes what that will do.

18 Also existing turbines are 400 feet
19 tall. Ours will be over 600 feet tall. You
20 cannot compare foundations or make a claim the
21 same type will work. That is physics. When
22 something goes up the foundation must be bigger.

23 Our own Department of National
24 Resources has wonderful information for all of
25 us. All academia versed in karst specifically

1 mention how unstable the limestone is and how
2 easily it is to destroy or contaminate an aquifer
3 system. We have some of best experts in the
4 country, specifically the ODNR, versed in karst
5 and aquifer systems and yet we're not even
6 listening to them.

7 Sinking pilings into the ground will
8 only fracture the karst even further and
9 compromise the drinking water by letting
10 groundwater go directly into the aquifer. You
11 see how massive our karst is and it supplies
12 fresh drinking water to thousands of residents
13 within a four county area. How much will it cost
14 to repair the damage that these turbines will do
15 to the aquifer system? Once an ecosystem is
16 destroyed you can't bring it back. There's no
17 bringing that back. How has this project even
18 gotten this far in the process with the locations
19 that they have proposed? We are talking the
20 entire four county area and Lake Erie is at a
21 critical risk. It's concerning to me that we are
22 taking something that could be detrimental to our
23 quality of life, water, and compromising its
24 integrity. It's also concerning that we are
25 talking about the money this project will bring.

1 What will it cost be if hundreds, if not
2 thousands of wells and Lake Erie are
3 contaminated? What will the cost be if the 600
4 foot turbines subside? I guarantee it will cost
5 the state more money than these wind turbines
6 will ever contribute to the State of Ohio.

7 I respectfully ask that you deny the
8 application of 17-2295-EL-BGN, Republic Wind Farm
9 for the reasons stated above. And I included
10 websites and there are hundreds of them. And far
11 as I know, there are no known wind turbines built
12 over a karst area because of the fear of the
13 ground subsiding.

14 MR. PARRAM: I don't have any cross.

15 MS. SANYAL: I just have one for you, a
16 clarification. You are in the project area,
17 correct?

18 MS. DIDION: I am in project area. I'm
19 in the footprint.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: I have no questions.

21 MS. DIDION: I absolutely am. But it's
22 one big thing. It's one big karst area. So all
23 these little ones that they're trying to --
24 Emerson Creek and Seneca Wind and Republic Wind,
25 that karst affects me and thousands of others.

1 If they drill in Republic, it will effect Huron,
2 it will effect Seneca, because a karst is
3 interactive. That aquifer runs beneath the rocks
4 and it's all one thing. And to put these
5 turbines is going to be catastrophic, I can tell
6 you, because I did lots of research on this. And
7 the ones in Oklahoma was denied because of it,
8 and I have that. I have that.

9 MR. PARRAM: Your Honor, I have a
10 question with respect the scheduling.

11 MR. AGRANOFF: Yes.

12 MR. PARRAM: It's my understanding
13 there are a number of witnesses that actually
14 live in the project area who had sort of a --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Step up to mike.

16 MR. PARRAM: Your Honor, it's my
17 understanding that there are number of witness
18 here in support of the project that had a hard
19 stop at some point tonight that actually live in
20 the project area. I want to respect everyone's
21 timing, but I wanted to get a sense of how many
22 more people are testifying and if there's a way
23 have those individuals that may need to leave
24 come up and testify.

25 MR. AGRANOFF: Excuse me. We need to

1 maintain the quorum, please. How many
2 individuals are you aware of that have a time
3 issue that reside in the project area?

4 MR. PARRAM: Your Honor, I could double
5 check, but I believe it's approximately ten. And
6 I just raise the issue, because yes, I don't want
7 to limit anyone's time, Your Honor, but just
8 there's been a number of individuals that did not
9 reside within the project area. I want to make
10 sure everyone has a enough time to testify
11 considering we don't a hard stopping point.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: I understand.

13 **(Conference between the three Board Members.)**

14 MR. RANDAZZO: Here's what we're going
15 to do. We're obviously running long in terms of
16 expected time, which is fine. We're here as long
17 as we need to be, within a reason. But what we'd
18 like to do is to give a priority to those folks
19 that are in the project area, regardless of
20 whether you're for or opposed to the project.
21 Try to get those folks' testimony in this
22 evening, as best we can. And if we have time
23 after that we will entertain comments from folks
24 who are outside the project area. And I
25 recognize that may be a little bit frustrating

1 for those of you that have been here since 3:00
2 and want to testify. But we need to be
3 respectful of the time that's available and also
4 to try to focus on the folk that are more
5 directly effected, which are those that are in
6 the project area. So that's our sense. We're
7 not going to give a priority to the opponents or
8 the proponents.

9 But anybody that's in the project area
10 that wishes to testify, we're going to try and
11 identify you as best we can. We'll call your
12 name in the order you signed in. If you're --

13 MS. SANYAL: Or we could have them line
14 up if you're in --

15 MR. RANDAZZO: We'll call the name in
16 the order you signed in, if you're in the project
17 area, come up, if you're not, then we'll come to
18 you later on. Thank you.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Mary Musco, are you in
20 the project area?

21 MS. SANYAL: Your Honor, it's my
22 understanding that Ms. Musco actually has her
23 written testimony and prepared.

24 (Disruption by someone in the audience.)

25 MR. AGRANOFF: Excuse me.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry.

2 MR. PARRAM: It's my understanding she
3 has her testimony written, prepared, if she's
4 allowed to go up. She can just submit that in
5 writing, if that is fine with you? She already
6 has it prepared. She was standing here, so we're
7 trying to be as quick as possible.

8 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay.

9 MS. MUSCO: Do you want me to say it or
10 give it?

11 MR. PARRAM: We can submit it to you in
12 writing. Thank you very much.

13 MR. RANDAZZO: Anybody that wishes to
14 submit a statement, can avoid coming up here and
15 testifying. You can sign-in outside and submit
16 your written statement. You don't have to go
17 through this process. It will have the same
18 effect as you doing the testimony. So, again,
19 we've got a lot to do here, we just want to try
20 and make sure we get as many people as possible
21 within the time period.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Chris Holpop --
23 papa.

24 MS. HOLPOP: I'll just submit mine.

25 MR. AICHHOLZ: She said she would

1 submit hers.

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Could you please
3 bring it up so we can have it.

4 Next would be Dominic Miller. Do you
5 have a statement or are you part of --

6 MR. MILLER: I'm in the footprint, but
7 I would to read it.

8 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Are you in the
9 project area?

10 MR. MILLER: No, I'm not.

11 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. If you could
12 simply provide us with that statement then.

13 MR. MILLER: I don't get to read it
14 then?

15 MR. AGRANOFF: In order for us to be
16 able to do things in an expedient manner.

17 MR. MILLER: I'll wait.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Next is Dennis
19 Alt.

20 MR. ALT: I'll wait.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Next is Greg Smith.

22 MR. SMITH: I'll wait.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: Next a Valerie Myers.

24 Yes.

25 MR. RANDAZZO: Are you in the project

1 area.

2 MS. MYERS: Yes, and I'd like to speak.

3 MR. RANDAZZO: Okay. Please come
4 forward.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Please raise your right
6 hand.

7 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
8 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
9 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
10 truth?

11 MS. MYERS: I do.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
13 name, address, and --

14 MS. MYERS: My name is Valerie Myers.
15 Valerie, V-A-L-E-R-I-E. Myers, M-Y-E-R-S. My
16 address is 1858 County Road 270, Clyde, which is
17 York Township. I also have owned -- we own and
18 operate farmland in the northwest corner of
19 Seneca County Road 34 and Thompson Township Road
20 80, which is in Thompson Township.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: And, again, you are in
22 the project area?

23 MS. MYERS: Yes. Okay. I am speaking
24 in opposition to the Republic Wind project.

25 My husband and I own approximately 150

1 acres of farmland in Thompson Township. And this
2 farm is within approximately one to two miles of
3 four of the wind turbines and probably within
4 three to five miles of another seven turbines.
5 And, of course, all of those turbines, along with
6 several others that are proposed, as mentioned
7 several times tonight are sitting within the
8 Bellevue/Castalia karst plain. Obviously an area
9 that's characterized by underground aquifers,
10 caves, and sinkholes.

11 The ODNR karst map, which Deb so
12 elegantly referenced earlier, identifies 12 areas
13 of karst suppression on our farm alone. And as
14 the owners of this farm since 1974, we can
15 definitely verify the presence of these
16 sinkholes.

17 The main problems of farmland that have
18 sinkholes is that in extremely wet conditions the
19 water from the underground aquifers rises up
20 through the sinkholes and it actually creates
21 areas of flooding. We have one particularly
22 large depressed area with two sinkholes within
23 the area. And that did flood for years during
24 the spring rain and then it would typically dry
25 up in time for planting and -- or at worse case

1 scenarios might cause the loss of one to four
2 acres that would be remain wet, something that
3 only happened four times within the first 20
4 years when my husband was farming it himself.

5 Before we understood the nature of
6 karst terrain my husband actually contacted the
7 Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation
8 District and asked about whether there's a way
9 that we could plug some of these sinkholes in
10 order to prevent this rising water from flooding
11 our farmland. He was told at that time that
12 plugging sinkholes was something he definitely
13 should not do. But that was an unacceptable soil
14 and water practice. And so as people tried to be
15 conservationists we did not plug the sinkholes.
16 Unfortunately, as construction of various
17 facilities around the area has occurred there
18 have been many sinkholes plugged in order to
19 prevent flooding on those building sites. One
20 particular building complex, which is
21 approximately three miles north of our property,
22 was allowed to plug several known sinkholes.
23 Since the construction of that facility the
24 flooding in our sinkholes has gotten much greater
25 than we had ever seen before, including the loss

1 last year of about 95 crop acres out of the 150,
2 and this year with the extremely wet conditions
3 with experience all 150 acres were lost. To help
4 me understand why this happens, I think it's
5 important to consider an analogy that was
6 provided to me by an Ohio Department of Natural
7 Resources karst expert mentioned earlier several
8 times, Doug Aiden. When I talked with him about
9 it he said you need to think of the analogy of a
10 sponge. The aquifers that flow underneath the
11 ground are like the channel in a sponge. If you
12 put pressure on one end of the sponge the water
13 is going to travel through the other channels and
14 escape up through the surface openings. Think of
15 washing your car. After you dip a sponge in the
16 water, you squeeze on the sponge to force the
17 water out onto your car. If sinkholes and
18 aquifers were plugged in one part of our karst
19 sponge, the water is going to be forced out the
20 other sponged channel openings, or, in other
21 words, the other sinkholes that exist all over
22 the area.

23 A large percentage of Republic Wind
24 turbines are to be built into the cars plain.
25 According to APEX's own geotechnical report that

1 was done by Hull Engineering, karst areas may
2 include sinkholes, solution cavities and cave
3 systems. These voids may need to be grouted in
4 order to provide adequate foundation support. So
5 that is Hull Engineering saying you'll probably
6 have to be filling in aquifers and sinkholes.
7 Okay?

8 So if it's squeezed in these turbine
9 foundations that's going to cause higher surface
10 water in areas that are already containing
11 sinkholes. And it could potentially decrease
12 water flow into aquifers where people dig their
13 wells. This obviously has potentially serious
14 consequences for our farms and for the City of
15 Bellevue, which is already known to be subject to
16 flooding.

17 We need the OPSD to take into
18 consideration the unique terrains that our farms
19 and towns are built on and to ensure that water
20 systems that underlie our land are not disrupted.
21 This is not just a property rights issue. The
22 impact of turbines that disrupt our underwater
23 aquifers is a critical issue for whole community
24 of people who live on the Bellevue-Castalia karst
25 plain.

1 And in addition, although I did not
2 plan to speak to the issue of decreasing property
3 values, I would like to point out that as
4 farmland becomes wetter the value of that land
5 decreases. So there's a large potential to
6 impact peoples' property values if sinkholes and
7 aquifers are grouted. Thank you.

8 MS. SANYAL: Questions?

9 MR. PARRAM: No.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: Jack, and I can't see
11 the last name, is it Growed, Growney?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's Jack Ryan.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Ryan. I'm sorry.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He had to leave.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He left a couple
17 hours ago.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Evelyn Snavely. Do you
19 live in the project area?

20 MS. SNAVELY: Yes, I do.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Is that a yes? Ma'am,
22 do you live in the project area?

23 MS. SNAVELY: Yes, I do.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please raise
25 your right hand.

1 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
2 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
3 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
4 truth?

5 MS. SNAVELY: I do.

6 I'm not going to dwell on my report,
7 plain and simple.

8 MR. AGRANOFF: If you could please
9 state your full name.

10 MS. SNAVELY: My name is Evelyn,
11 E-V-E-L-N, Snavely, S-N-A-V-E-L-Y.

12 My husband and I live in Adams township
13 and we are from a family that came to our area
14 four generations before.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: What is your address?

16 MS. SNAVELY: 9735 East Township Road
17 138, Republic, Ohio.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: And do you live in a
19 township?

20 MS. SNAVELY: Adams Township and we are
21 in the footprint of the wind turbine.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

23 MS. SNAVELY: Before I really -- I know
24 we're trying to, in the interest, time keep
25 moving, but wasn't it ironic the train that we

1 heard -- how many times? Our forefathers, would
2 they have talked about, the way we're talking
3 about a silent wind turbine if they knew what
4 those trains were going to do? We live with it.
5 And I think we can live with the wind turbine,
6 too, because of what it would do for us.

7 I feel -- my reasoning is that I think
8 the schools, the County, and the Townships in our
9 area would greatly benefit from this wind
10 project. And it would be an economic boom to
11 Seneca County like no other economic boom we've
12 ever seen.

13 And I don't have a problem looking at
14 the wind turbines. I think they're kind of --
15 and I've seen them. We have gone to the sites.
16 I've not heard the noise. I haven't experienced
17 the stuff they're talking about. And I think I
18 put my trust in the group that is doing this that
19 they will look at the safety issues in the
20 construction of these turbines.

21 I live in Adams Township, so I don't
22 deal with the what they're dealing with in
23 Thompson. I don't know how that effects it. But
24 personally, my husband and I, feel that you
25 should vote yes for the project of the Republic

1 Wind turbine. And that's all I have to say.

2 MS. SANYAL: No questions.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Michal Shumway. Do you
4 live in the project area?

5 MR. SHUMWAY: I do.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: And just for those that
7 are concerned as to where we are relative to the
8 number of witnesses. Right now we're on witness
9 No. 40 based on the list that you signed in on.

10 Please raise your right hand.

11 MR. SHUMWAY: I do.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
13 name, your address, the township in which you
14 reside, whether or not you're in the project
15 area.

16 MR. SHUMWAY: Michal Shumway.
17 M-I-C-H-A-L, S-H-U-M-W-A-Y. I am in the
18 footprint of the project. I live in Thompson
19 Township at 14568 East County Road 34, Bellevue,
20 Ohio.

21 I did not prepare anything for this
22 today. I came here because I've been silent for
23 much to this project. I've been a supporter for
24 it in the background. When someone asked me, I
25 spoke about it. I give my honest opinions. I

1 did a little research in the beginning of it and
2 found endless amounts of conflicting data, which
3 I see piled up in front of you. I trust and hope
4 that you can sort through all that data and find
5 the factual information to lead us in the
6 direction that we need to go.

7 I believe that it is the right
8 direction. Clean energy that's renewable and
9 doesn't impact our community in negative ways,
10 like nuclear power.

11 I'm a fourth generation owner of
12 property in this county and I intend to leave
13 this property for my family and I would not do
14 something I believe would destroy it, because
15 this is all I have to give to them.

16 So it is my belief that you should go
17 forward with the wind project and I thank you for
18 the time.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Any questions?

20 MS. SANYAL: No questions.

21 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Robert Manz.

23 MR. MANZ: Manz. I will wait.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

25 Shanna Price.

1 MS. PRICE: I will wait as well.

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Cheryl Mira.

3 MS. MIRA: Right here, and I'll wait.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: Zachary West. Do you
5 reside in the project area?

6 MR. WEST: I'll get to the Mike here.
7 So I do not reside in the project area, but I'm a
8 quarter mile away. And I would like to object to
9 the change that was made this far into the
10 proceeding, because there are plenty of
11 individuals that were here before the rule
12 change.

13 And let me stop right here and say that
14 a quarter mile away from the project boundary, 12
15 years those that are financially to gain from
16 this are the developers or the lease holders. 12
17 years they had planning this. Five hours we have
18 to give testimony. So I call into the legitimacy
19 the actual change that was made. I think that
20 that should have been put in as a ground rule to
21 begin with. Making everyone wait until the end
22 so folks can go ahead is wrong. I will be
23 writing my Congressman, both the House and the
24 Senate, and calling into question the legitimacy
25 of that change. I'll be glad to wait, but I

1 think that that change should not have been made.

2 MR. RANDAZZO: All right. I appreciate
3 your perspective. You can write letters to
4 whoever you wish, that's your right, as is to
5 come up here and say whatever you want to say.
6 But we want to try and give to priority to the
7 folks that are in the project area.

8 If you're willing to wait and speak
9 your issues or speak your concerns, that's great.
10 So I just would ask everybody to respect that
11 ruling. We've made it and we're going to proceed
12 in that fashion.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Deon West. Is that
14 individual here?

15 MS. WEST: It's Diane.

16 MR. AGRANOFF: I'm sorry. Diane.

17 MS. SANYAL: It's J. Diane West.

18 MS. WEST: Diane.

19 MS. SANYAL: Okay. Sorry.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you live in the
21 project area?

22 MS. WEST: I live one quarter mile
23 outside the project area.

24 MR. RANDAZZO: Ma'am, as we explained
25 previously, we're going to first get to the

1 individuals that live in the project area and
2 then if times allows we'll provide --

3 MS. WEST: I'm going to ditto what he
4 said. Pulling out the Ohio Power Siting Board
5 Rules and Regulations, it clearly states that
6 this is for people to give testimony. And
7 there's nowhere in there that it talks about who
8 gets to go first.

9 MR. RANDAZZO: Here's a practical
10 project. We're scheduled to be here from 3:00 to
11 8:00, all right?

12 MS. WEST: Sure.

13 MR. RANDAZZO: All right. So we've
14 been letting everybody testify in the order that
15 they signed in.

16 MS. WEST: Absolutely.

17 MR. RANDAZZO: We can do that. But
18 what is going to happen, is lot of folks that
19 live in the project area are going to get bumped
20 out of the opportunity to testify. So if --

21 MS. WEST: Then maybe we need to make
22 it a two-day event. They've got 12 years and we
23 get 5 hours.

24 MR. RANDAZZO: I'm really asking you to
25 please respect the ruling that we made. I

1 understand your frustration with the change, but
2 we need to move forward.

3 So those folks that are in the project
4 area, we're going to prioritize their testimony.
5 And if you're willing to wait to testify, great.

6 MS. WEST: So one quarter mile outside
7 isn't relevant enough?

8 MR. RANDAZZO: Ma'am, please.

9 MS. WEST: That's all I'm asking.

10 MR. RANDAZZO: Yes. We've made the
11 ruling. We're moving on.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Theresa, is it
13 Cleveland?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She left.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She also had to
16 leave. She left two hours ago.

17 MR. AGRANOFF: Chris Beckman.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The same thing.

19 Mr. AGRANOFF: Linda Schubach.

20 MS. SCHUBACH: Yes.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you reside in the
22 project area?

23 MS. SCHUBACH: Yes.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.

25 Please raise your right hand.

1 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
2 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
3 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
4 truth?

5 MS. SCHUBACH: Yes.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
7 name, your address, the township in which you
8 reside, and if you're in the project area.

9 MS. SCHUBACH: My name is Linda
10 Schubach, L-I-N-D-A S-C-H-U-B-A-C-H. I reside at
11 5921 North Township Road 169, Green Springs,
12 Adams Township. And I'm in the project.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

14 MS. SCHUBACH: Okay. Members of the
15 Ohio Power Siting Board, thank you for allowing
16 me to address you regarding my support of
17 Republic Wind project. My name is Linda Schubach
18 and I am a lifelong resident of Seneca County.

19 As someone who has lived in the
20 Republic Wind area for 50 years, I can tell you
21 there is plenty of wind blowing all year long.
22 Why not harvest this national source of energy?
23 This project will produce enough energy to power
24 over 5,200 homes. That is enough for all of
25 Seneca County. The project will be a step

1 forward in fighting climate change by providing
2 renewable energy of electricity grid.

3 Wind energy production does not produce
4 any toxic fumes or product. The wind is free,
5 let's use it.

6 Please approve the Republic Wind permit
7 application. Thank you for hearing my support of
8 the project.

9 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Any
10 questions?

11 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Kim Root. Do you reside
13 within the project?

14 MS. ROOT: Yes.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.
16 Please raise your right hand.

17 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
18 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
19 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
20 truth?

21 MS. ROOT: I do.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
23 name, your address, the township in which you
24 reside, and whether or not you're in the project
25 area.

1 MS. ROOT: Okay. I am Kimberly Root.

2 I reside at 14801 East County Road 34, Bellevue

3 Ohio. I live in Thompson Township, Seneca

4 County. We are in the project.

5 All right. We do own property in the

6 town -- or in the incorporated town of Flat Rock

7 as well as 100 acre farm, but we will not be

8 receiving a wind turbine, okay? I am here to

9 support Republic Wind project. I believe, just

10 as our ancestors gave us the progress of

11 automobiles, phones, electricity, running water,

12 and so many other conveniences that we have at

13 our hands now, this is a time for us to give and

14 prepare for our future generations that will be

15 coming after us. The wind turbine project is

16 only preparing us and future generations to have

17 another secure resource in addition to our fossil

18 fuels for energy.

19 I am sure there was opposition back in

20 the day when automobiles, phones, electric,

21 running water, et cetera came into existence at

22 their birth, but think about all taking all those

23 things away from us now. Where would we be if

24 our ancestors didn't have a foresight to see into

25 the future that things we now take for granted.

1 I believe wind turbine fall into the same
2 category. Where will we be if the Wind project
3 is not able to go forward?

4 And in all reality aren't we seeing
5 history repeat itself? The windmill to generate
6 energy is not a new idea. Our ancestors actually
7 came up with it.

8 I always want to add, that as I've been
9 sitting here to data and statistics I have become
10 confused. And one of the statements that was
11 mentioned, I ended up texting my brother. He
12 lives in the state of Iowa in a wind turbine
13 area. And so I said, "Don't you have a turbine?"
14 And he said, "Yes. They will probably say they
15 kill birds. They don't. They will probably say
16 they make too much noise. They don't. A large
17 percentage of Iowa's electricity comes from wind
18 turbines."

19 I thought that's a different take on
20 what we've been hearing tonight. Thank you.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

22 MR. RANDAZZO: Ma'am, have you read the
23 application that's been filed in this proceeding?

24 MS. ROOT: Not completely.

25 MR. RANDAZZO: Have you read the staff

1 report that was submitted in this proceeding?

2 MS. ROOT: Not completely.

3 MR. RANDAZZO: Are you aware that the
4 applicant's information indicates that on an
5 annual basis the applicant estimates that there
6 will be 980 to 2,200 bat deaths per year as the
7 result of this project?

8 MS. ROOT: Well, I understand that's
9 why they do their pre-investigation as far as
10 different areas that will be effected and so that
11 they honor those areas.

12 MR. RANDAZZO: Are you aware that
13 that's their estimate of the number of bats that
14 will be killed each year?

15 MS. ROOT: Yes.

16 MR. RANDAZZO: Now, and did your
17 brother know that?

18 MS. ROOT: Well, he's in another state,
19 that's where as far as data -- you know, we are
20 the State of Ohio, so listening to data from
21 Africa and Brazil, that's not going to be the
22 same for us.

23 MR. RANDAZZO: Thank you, very much.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Is Wynn Schubach here?
25 Do you reside within the project area?

1 MR. SCHUBACH: Yes.

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward and
3 raise your right hand.

4 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
5 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
6 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
7 truth?

8 MR. SCHUBACH: I do.

9 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state you're full
10 name, your address, the township in which you
11 live, and whether or not you're in the project
12 area.

13 MR. SCHUBACH: My name is Wynn
14 Schubach, it's S-C-H-U-B-A-C-H. My address 5921
15 North Township Road 169 Green Springs, Ohio.
16 That's Adams Township and in Seneca County. And
17 I am within the Republic Wind Farm.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please
19 proceed.

20 MR. SCHUBACH: I live within the
21 Republic Wind Farm in Seneca County and my
22 property has been in my family for generations.
23 I've lived here 75 years now. The Wind project
24 has been in development for at least 10 years.
25 I've been here for all of it and I'm ready to see

1 the project built.

2 I know what this wind farm will do the
3 community. This community means everything to
4 me, my livelihood, my family, and we're all here
5 for the long run.

6 There are many reasons why my family
7 and I support the wind turbines, but one of the
8 reasons for my being here today is express my
9 absolute detest for how the opposition has
10 dismantled APEX Clean Energy's and my family's
11 mission not only to provide additional income
12 into my family farm. But I feel this project is
13 a very positive change for our county. Not only
14 will the turbines bring money to our suffering
15 economy, but it will provide jobs to residents
16 who will spend that money right here in the
17 county.

18 Please seriously consider granting this
19 permit and help bring this money to our area.
20 That's it.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Is Ed Clark
22 here?

23 MR. CLARK: Yes, I am. I'd like to
24 submit my testimony. I find it very interesting
25 to be here in the construction phases.

1 MR. RANDAZZO: Is a lot of it in the
2 construction phases?

3 MR. CLARK: Yes, sir.

4 MR. RANDAZZO: Some of it.

5 MR. CLARK: That's all new. That's all
6 new data.

7 MR. RANDAZZO: Great. Thank you.

8 MS. SANYAL: Barbara Baldosser.

9 MS. BALDOSSER: Yes.

10 MS. SANYAL: Are you in the project
11 area?

12 MS. BALDOSSER: Yes, I am.

13 MS. SANYAL: Okay.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Raise your right hand.

15 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
16 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
17 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
18 truth?

19 MS. BALDOSSER: I do.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
21 name, your address, the township in which you
22 live, and whether or not you're in the project
23 ara.

24 MS. BALDOSSER: My name is Barbara
25 Baldosser, that's B-A-R-B-A-R-A

1 B-A-L-D-O-S-S-E-R. My address is 5393 Township
2 Road 78, Green Springs, Ohio. And I do reside in
3 Adams Township and I'm within the footprint of
4 the project.

5 MS. SANYAL: You can go ahead.

6 MS. BALDOSSER: All right. Thank you.
7 I want to thank the Committee for making some
8 relaxations of some rules here to allow to all to
9 present our side of the issue.

10 My name is Barbara Baldosser and I am a
11 resident of Adams Township. I'm here in support
12 of the Republic Wind project. My husband's
13 family has lived and farmed in this township for
14 80 plus years, generations back, and the care of
15 the land has always been a priority, as well as
16 the welfare of the township.

17 We currently are on our fifth
18 generation on our farm and we're so pleased that
19 the young ones can be a part of the farming
20 operation. Adams Township is an entity without
21 any industry and relies solely on real property
22 tax to fund our schools. This wind project is an
23 opportunity to fund the education system for our
24 children, our grandchildren, and in my case
25 great-grandchildren, without adding a greater

1 financial burden on the tax payers of this
2 township, be it a farmer a landowner or a house
3 owner, they all bear that burden. It also
4 provides an opportunity to upgrade to our
5 infrastructure.

6 Yes, landowners, who are not all
7 farmers, will recognize some financial
8 compensation if they have a wind turbine on their
9 property or are signed in as a project neighbor.
10 This is how capitalism works. Is it wrong for a
11 landowner to determine how the property which he
12 owns and controls is to be used in a way that he
13 or she desires? We are talking now about
14 renewable fuel in a time when it is becoming
15 clearer across the globe that it's necessary to
16 have renewable fuels to benefit our community.

17 I have researched wind turbines and I
18 find many studies that are sited, but are not
19 scientifically proven to be accurate, that are
20 being used to support some of the arguments
21 against this project. It's interesting how we
22 pick and choose to ignore studies by reputable
23 universities and scientists because they don't
24 say what we want them to say.

25 I find a wind turbine more esthetically

1 pleasing to look at than say a cell tower or an
2 electric tower. And as for setbacks, extremely
3 tall electric poles have been installed on the
4 right-of-ways along a major highway in our
5 county. There is no setback for these poles and
6 if a storm happens that is strong enough to bring
7 down, it's more than likely to bring down these
8 poles also, and they're close to many homes and
9 buildings.

10 If you're a person who has had the
11 benefit of travel in the United States or abroad,
12 you know that wind turbines have been around for
13 a long time across the world and they have not
14 affected the ability to live a good, long life.

15 We've heard plenty of testimony today
16 from the opponents, but very few of these people
17 live within our project. They don't speak for my
18 community. I live within the Wind project.

19 In summary, I do support the Republic
20 Wind project for the good I can see it's doing
21 for our schools, the good for our community, the
22 good for our township, and the good for our
23 overall economy. This is a clean source of
24 energy for all. Thank you for listening to my
25 point of view.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Is Vernon
2 Burkhalter here?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Dan, is it
4 White?

5 MR. WHITE: I'm out of the footprint,
6 but in the viewshed.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. If you can wait
8 until we get through everybody, unless you'd like
9 to submit your testimony now in writing.

10 MR. WHITE: I will wait.

11 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Suzanne Hopple,
12 do you reside within the project area?

13 MS. HOPPLE: Yes, I do.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.
15 Please raise your right hand.

16 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
17 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
18 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
19 truth?

20 MS. HOPPLE: Yes, I do.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
22 name, your address --

23 MS. HOPPLE: My name is Suzanne Hopple,
24 S-U-Z-A-N-N-E H-O-P-P-L-E. I live at 29569 North
25 Township Road 179, Republic, Ohio 44867.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: And which township do
2 you reside in?

3 MS. HOPPLE: I am Scipio Township.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: And you do reside within
5 the project area?

6 MS. HOPPLE: Yes. I'm in the footprint
7 of the project. I did not bring any papers. I
8 did not write it out, because I figured that with
9 your knowledge that you have already done your
10 homework. You know what has been going on here,
11 I believe.

12 My husband and I had bought our farm in
13 1963. We farmed that all these years, until
14 three years ago, and sadly he passed away.

15 We were very excited when the original
16 people came and talked to us about wind turbines,
17 because we had been on a wind farm in California
18 and stood under the wind turbines there, drove
19 through them in a small bus, and talked to the
20 people there. Subsequently, we went to a wind
21 farm in Pennsylvania and one in Michigan. We
22 have driven through Van Wert, Ohio, and in
23 Rochester, Minnesota so that we feel like we were
24 acquainted with wind turbines. We stood under
25 them. We did not hear a lot of noise, like we've

1 been told.

2 And also another thing that's been
3 brought up today, is about the flicker from the
4 wind turbines. And I think that anyone that
5 knows, the earth rotates. The flicker is not
6 going to be there very long.

7 We have a windmill on our farm and when
8 the sun is at a certain point, at a certain time
9 of the year, if the sun is out there is a
10 flicker, you can see it, but it's a pretty
11 pattern, according to me, and it does not, you
12 know, it does not disrupt anything. And I think
13 the wind turbines would be comparable.

14 I'm fully in involved in wanting this
15 wind farm, because I believe we need more of a --
16 we need solar and wind and all the kinds of
17 electricity that we can get, because demand is
18 increasing every year. Thank you.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Is Charles Growth here?

20 MR. GROWTH: I'll wait.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Donna Huddoll.

22 MS. HUDACEK: Hudacek.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: I'm sorry.

24 MS. HUDACEK: We're a half a mile
25 outside the footprint.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. If you can wait.

2 William Hudacek, again. That's my wife.

3 MS. SANYAL: It looks very different up

4 here. We live in the same house, so I'll wait.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Different

6 handwritings.

7 Keith Moyer.

8 MR. MOYER: Yes.

9 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you reside within the
10 project area?

11 MR. MOYER: No, I do not. I'm within
12 the viewshed. This is a shortcoming of
13 application. I'm part of the viewshed. I just
14 want you to have some consideration.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. MOYER: Thank you.

17 MR. RANDAZZO: You'd be giving similar
18 testimony you offered before?

19 MR. MOYER: Yes.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: Stephanie Miller.

21 MS. MILLER: I'll wait.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Bob Rine.

23 MR. RINE: I will pass right now.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Jason Bowers.

25 MR. BOWERS: Yes.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you reside within the
2 project area?

3 MR. BOWERS: I sure do.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.

5 MS. SANYAL: And just for the record,
6 for those of you who are keeping count, we're on
7 No. 63 on the list and we have 75 total signed
8 up.

9 MR. AGRANOFF: Please raise your right
10 hand.

11 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
12 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
13 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
14 truth?

15 MR. BOWERS: I do.

16 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
17 name and your address.

18 MR. BOWERS: Jason Bowers, J-A-S-O-N
19 B-O-W-E-R-S. 8797 East Township Road 148,
20 Republic, Ohio 44867.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: And which township do
22 you reside in?

23 MR. BOWERS: Adams.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: And do you live within
25 the project area?

1 MR. BOWERS: I sure do, unfortunately.

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

3 MR. BOWERS: My wife and I live in the
4 proposed project area and we are in opposition of
5 Republic Wind Farm, Case No. 17-2295-EL-BGN. We
6 are in opposition for several reasons.
7 Infrasound, consent sound levels, blade throw,
8 shadow flickers, these are some of our reasons.
9 These are health and safety issues that will
10 decrease the quality of life of those living
11 within and around the footprint of the project.
12 The World Health Organization has deemed constant
13 sound levels above 40 decibels, they say that
14 will lead to diminished health.

15 What else could ruin the quality of
16 life for residents? Well contamination most
17 certainly would ruin the quality of life for the
18 residents and our property. Regarding turbine
19 foundations, the Ohio Power Siting Board staff
20 report states, "An alternative that could be used
21 is a rock anchored pile-supported foundation."
22 Also the reports states, "The Applicant has noted
23 that 27 of the 64 wind turbines are situated in
24 areas exhibiting karst features. Where the
25 Applicant conducts future geotechnical studies

1 that identify karst features, those areas would
2 be avoided for siting wind turbines." So why is
3 okay for 27 turbines to be sited on top of karst
4 and not 28 or more? To the logical person, it
5 sounds like siting turbines on karst is a
6 problem. Karst is not stable ground and
7 therefore APEX would likely have use to their
8 alternative foundation method of anchored pile
9 foundations. Using this alternative method could
10 cause wells in our area to be contaminated.

11 Driving piles to anchor turbines in the
12 Chatham, Ontario region, which lies just across
13 Lake Erie, is believed to have contaminated those
14 wells there. In July of this year charges have
15 been filed against industrial wind companies, the
16 environment minister, and his staff. The Ontario
17 Court of Justice in Chatham-Kent determined there
18 were reasonable and probable grounds for these
19 charges.

20 According to the Chatham Daily News, a
21 group of citizens banded together after the
22 announcement of a wind farm being constructed in
23 their area back in 2018. Many of these citizens
24 expressed concerns that the vibrations of the
25 construction and operation of the wind turbines

1 would cause damage to private water wells in
2 their area. Sound familiar, doesn't it? Well,
3 more than a year later it seems that this may
4 have been the case. Hopefully our group of
5 citizens doesn't have the same fate. It is
6 simple for us not to come to that same fate as
7 our neighbors to the north. You, the Ohio Power
8 Siting Board, can deny APEX's application for
9 this industrial wind farm. We ask as Seneca
10 County residents that you deny APEX's
11 application. Thank you.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Is Melissa Clapp here?

13 MS. CLAPP: Yes.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you reside within the
15 project area?

16 MS. CLAPP: Yes.

17 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.
18 Please raise your right hand.

19 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
20 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
21 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
22 truth?

23 MS. CLAPP: Yes.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
25 name and address.

1 MS. CLAPP: My name is Melissa Clapp,
2 C-L-A-P-P. I live at 8355 County Road 29,
3 Bellevue.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: And which township is
5 that?

6 MS. CLAPP: Thompson.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: And you do live within
8 the project area?

9 MS. CLAPP: I do.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

11 MS. CLAPP: Okay. Currently where I
12 live, if this does go into effect, there will be
13 five turbines across the street from my house and
14 two behind my house.

15 MS. SANYAL: Can you use the mike?

16 MS. CLAPP: I'm sorry.

17 MS. SANYAL: It's okay.

18 MS. CLAPP: Do you want me to state
19 that again?

20 MR. RANDAZZO: Please. Yes.

21 MS. CLAPP: Okay. Currently where I
22 live, if this is approved, I will have five
23 turbines across the street from my house and two
24 turbines behind my house. And I'm sure you guys
25 know this, but I did look up your mission

1 statement and it is to support sound energy
2 policies that provide for the installation of
3 energy capacity and transmission infrastructure
4 for the benefit of Ohio citizens, promoting the
5 state's economic interests and protecting the
6 state's environment and land use.

7 The OPSB website states wind farms must
8 be designed to avoid unreasonable adverse shadow
9 flicker at nonparticipating residents within
10 1,000 meters of any turbine. What do you
11 consider unreasonable shadow flicker? I
12 personally consider any shadow flicker
13 unreasonable.

14 Also, the OPSB website says that
15 nonparticipating residents within one mile of the
16 project boundary must not exceed nighttime
17 average sound levels by 5 decibels. According to
18 a sound study submitted to the OPSB in June this
19 year there will be homes that experience sound
20 levels considered dangerous by the World Health
21 Organization. How can you guarantee that the
22 sound levels be kept within safe limits?

23 Also, there is a high probability Ohio
24 residents living near wind turbines can become
25 ill from the unsafe noise levels. I believe that

1 nonparticipating residents should not have to
2 listen to any sound noise from wind turbines.

3 Bellevue and its surrounding area is
4 situated on karst. Even if wind turbine
5 foundations do not go down into the ground to
6 disturb the karst, the pilings that will
7 stabilize and support the wind turbines will go
8 into the karst levels. There si a high
9 probability the pilings for the turbine will ruin
10 some peoples well water. If this happens how
11 will this be for their benefit?

12 There's also a high probably the wind
13 turbines can cause sinkholes to form and cause
14 flooding. How can public safety be maintained if
15 that happens? The OPSB, there proof in your
16 files of wind turbines having blade throw and
17 what the safety setback distance is for wind
18 turbines. Knowing this information, how can you
19 allow this project to go through knowing this
20 product does not follow public safety protocols
21 for blade throw? How can the high probably of
22 blade throw damage to animals, humans, and
23 probability benefit Ohio citizens? If damage
24 occurs to my property from wind turbines, who
25 will pay for this? Most insurance companies do

1 not cover damage from wind turbines.

2 Life Flight has limits on how high in
3 the air they can fly and close to a wind turbine
4 they can land. There is an intersection a half a
5 mile down the road from my house where there have
6 been accidents, and even someone killed. The
7 wind turbines would be located between my house
8 and this intersection. How can the public safety
9 of Ohio motorists be guaranteed when Life Flight
10 has limits on how close they can land to a
11 turbine?

12 The OPSB also states that its mission
13 is to protected the environment. If this is
14 true, how many birds and bats have been killed by
15 the wind turbines? I'm sorry, I didn't know that
16 before.

17 If the OPSB wants to protect the
18 environment, how can you allow turbines to kill
19 any wildlife?

20 There has been a study showing the
21 possible side effects on children who are exposed
22 to continuous noise. The study shows that
23 children who are constantly stimulated do not
24 develop all their brain vessels, which then
25 causes developmental delays. This issue is

1 personal to me since I am a mother to young
2 children. I have two girls, one is six, the
3 other is two. Both of my girls were premies and
4 born six weeks early. Both of my girls had
5 issues with breathing when they were born. My
6 older daughter has overcome her breathing issues,
7 while my younger daughter still struggles with
8 it.

9 My youngest has been diagnosed with
10 Reactive Airway Disease. She gets bronchitis
11 very easily and was hospitalized last Christmas
12 when she had pneumonia and RSV at the same time.
13 My older daughter has trouble with her eyes
14 floating and loses her vision.

15 You see, my children do not need to be
16 exposed to anything else that can hinder their
17 development or put their health at risk.

18 Recently there has been a cardiologist
19 in Iowa who has shown there is a possible
20 connection between wind turbine and affecting the
21 electrophysiology of the heart. My dad had
22 congestive heart failure and atrial
23 defibrillation. He has recently passed away, but
24 his house is within one mile of my house.

25 My family, my dad's family comes from a

1 family of farmers. My third great-grandpa this
2 house and land and we've been here for a long
3 time. If he was still alive he would be living
4 near these wind turbines. I would not have
5 wanted him to be exposed to something that could
6 possibly give him heart disease or worsen it.

7 If all of the possible issues in this
8 speech are not enough to be concerned about, I
9 also have live with the fact that the wind
10 turbine issue is personal. You see, I have
11 family members and friends who have signed lease
12 agreements with the Wind companies. I also have
13 family members who are for wind turbines. This
14 issue has caused heated discussions, unpleasant
15 and uncomfortable conversations, strife and a
16 division in my family.

17 You are forcing wind turbines on us
18 without giving us a say. OPSB, how can you
19 support and energy policy without protecting the
20 citizens of Ohio first? Every member of the OPSB
21 has family and friends who are precious to them.
22 How would you feel if your family and friends were
23 being forced to live near unwanted wind turbines?
24 Before you go to a vote, I urge each of you to
25 think of every person that's your family and

1 friends who is near and dear to you, then decide
2 would I want my family and friend to live with
3 wind turbines knowing the possible negative
4 effects caused by them? How will shadow flicker,
5 turbine noise, blade throw and pilings driven
6 into karst benefit Ohio citizens? OPSB, if you
7 care about supporting the sound safe energy that
8 benefits Ohio citizens, protecting the
9 environment and protecting the public safety you
10 will not allow these turbines in Ohio. The
11 answer to wind turbines is no.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Any questions?

13 MR. PARRAM: No.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Don Voyt.

15 MR. VOYT: I'll wait.

16 MR. AGRANOFF: Nathan Root. Is Nathan
17 Root here?

18 MR. ROOT: I am.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you reside within the
20 project?

21 MR. ROOT: I do.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.

23 MR. ROOT: And I would be more than
24 happy just to submit my testimony and to save
25 time.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay.

2 MS. SANYAL: Thank you.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Ashley

4 Beaver? Is Ashley here?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She had to
6 leave.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Robert Voska.

8 MR. VOSKA: Outside the area.

9 MR. AGRANOFF: Don Zieber.

10 MR. ZIEBER: Here.

11 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you reside within the
12 project area?

13 MR. ZIEBER: Yes, I do.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Please raise your
15 right hand.

16 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
17 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
18 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
19 truth?

20 MR. ZIEBER: I do.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
22 name, your address, and the township in which you
23 reside.

24 MR. ZIEBER: My name is Don Zieber,
25 Z-I-E-B-E-R. I reside at 8327 North Township

1 Road 82, Bellevue, Ohio. Thompson Township,
2 Seneca County. Yes, I live within the Republic
3 Wind project.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

5 MR. ZIEBER: First, I'd like to say, I
6 respect all of the opponents' views. This is a
7 great country. I respect their opposition.

8 I am not only speaking for myself, but
9 I'm speaking for my brother Jerry, my nephew
10 Scott, and his son Cory. That is four households
11 within the project. They were not able to be
12 here tonight.

13 I am a farmer. I own farmland.
14 Farmers are proud people. They don't want
15 handouts. They want to harvest their crop and
16 they want to harvest the wind. This would help
17 with the payment. It would help diverse their
18 income, so in bad years they can make it better
19 living.

20 It would not only help schools, county
21 and township, there wouldn't be additional
22 levies. We all know how hard it is for levies to
23 be passed. So this money would not be coming out
24 of my neighbor's pocket or out of my pocket.

25 There's a wind turbine next to the

1 Bellevue High School, but I've not heard of a
2 petition to remove it. Where are these good
3 peoples' concerns for the student safety and
4 health? We hear about the safety and health
5 issues, but there's one right next to the
6 Bellevue High School.

7 I visited an industrial turbine project
8 in Michigan a few years ago with my brother. It
9 was located just 1,100 feet from the road. When
10 we got out of our vehicle we listened -- we
11 didn't listen, we, you know, we were looking at
12 it 1,100 feet away, and someone says, "You need
13 to listen for the noise." This was 1,100 feet,
14 which is closer than what the regulations for
15 this project. And if they didn't tell me to
16 listen for it, I would not have noticed it. And
17 if someone also said the trains, the whistles you
18 hear for miles. And that's all I have. I thank
19 you.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

21 Thomas Buffington. Do you reside
22 within the project area?

23 MR. BUFFINGTON: I don't. I support
24 the project and I'd like to deliver a written
25 statement.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

2 MR. BUFFINGTON: Thank you.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Sherry, is it Rouse,

4 Rice?

5 MS. SANYAL: Rike?

6 MS. RIKE: I'm not in the project, but
7 I'll just submit my papers right now.

8 MS. SANYAL: I'm sorry, we can't hear
9 you. Did you want to submit testimony?

10 MS. RIKE: Yes.

11 MS. SANYAL: Okay.

12 MS. RIKE: I have a lot to say about
13 bullying us and that's why none of us are here.
14 We got bullied and our yards got tore up.

15 MS. SANYAL: Albert Myers. Brenda
16 Greed. Bradley --

17 MS. GREED: Brenda.

18 MS. SANYAL: Okay. And are you in the
19 project area?

20 MS. GREED: I personally don't live in
21 the project, but our family farm is and our
22 windmill was going.

23 MS. SANYAL: So would you mind waiting
24 until we --

25 MS. GREED: I think there are three

1 things in mind --

2 MS. SANYAL: I think that would be
3 unfair for the people who are already waiting.

4 MS. GREED: Well, what I was going to
5 say is --

6 MS. SANYAL: No. Ma'am --

7 MS. GREED: -- my brothers and sisters
8 live in the project.

9 MS. SANYAL: Ma'am. Ma'am, you haven't
10 been sworn in and it would unfair to the people
11 who are waiting.

12 Bradley Rine.

13 MR. RINE: I don't live in the project
14 area.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Is Robert Manz
16 still here?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He left.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. How about Shanna
19 Price?

20 MR. PRICE: Yes. Are you calling me
21 forward?

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Yes.

23 MR. PRICE: I think you missed some
24 people.

25 MR. AGRANOFF: I'm sorry.

1 MR. PRICE: Greg Smith.

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Yes, you are correct.

3 Dominic Miller. Is Dominic here?

4 MR. MILLER: Yes.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.

6 Please raise your right hand.

7 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
8 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
9 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
10 truth?

11 MR. MILLE: I do.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
13 name and your address, please.

14 MR. MILLER: I am Dominic Miller,
15 D-O-M-I-N-I-C, Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R. I live at
16 1582 State Route 4, Bellevue, Ohio; Huron County,
17 Sherman Township. I do not live in the footprint
18 of Republic Wind, but I do live in the footprint
19 of the proposed Emerson Wind Creek Wind project,
20 which is adjacent to Republic Wind. I live
21 within four miles of the nearest proposed
22 Republic Wind turbine.

23 Tonight I'm going to talk about weather
24 radar interference from industrial wind turbines.
25 This information was taken from article written

1 by Anthony Watts on April 29, 2018, titled
2 "NOAA/National Weather Service document: Wind
3 turbines affect weather radar, create false storm
4 impressions."

5 "How Rotating Wind Turbine Blades
6 Impact The NEXRAD Doppler Weather Radar."

7 Rotating wind turbine blades can impact
8 the radar in several ways. Wind turbines can
9 impact the NEXRAD radar based data, algorithms,
10 and derived products when the turbine blades are
11 moving and in the radar's line of sight, (RLOS);
12 and, if turbines are cited very near to the radar
13 their large nacelles and blades and also
14 physically block the radar beam or reflect enough
15 energy back to the radar to damage the radar's
16 receiver hardware.

17 Turbines in the RLOS can reflect energy
18 back to the radar and visually contaminate the
19 reflectivity, velocity, and spectrum width data.
20 Forecasters look for certain signatures in the
21 data that indicate the severity of the storms.
22 The wind farm clutter can sometimes look just
23 like showers or thunderstorms, or can alter the
24 appearance of a storm such as hook echoes. This
25 visually corrupted data adds uncertainty to the

1 analysis and could forecasters to delay or miss a
2 severe weather warning or to warn unnecessarily.

3 The base reflectivity, velocity, and
4 spectrum-width data are also used by many
5 algorithms in the radar processor to determine
6 certain storm characteristics, such as
7 mesocyclones, relative storm motion, hail,
8 turbulence, et cetera. Corrupted data can cause
9 the radar algorithms to generate false alerts or
10 to miss alerts. The radar also generates many
11 additional product using this data, such as wind
12 profiles and rain estimates. Wind turbine
13 clutter can impact the accuracy of these derived
14 products.

15 You may wonder why we can't filter out
16 this clutter since we know where the wind farms
17 are located. The NEXRAD has a sophisticated
18 clutter removal scheme. Since weather is usually
19 in motion, the scheme was designed to filter out
20 returns that have essentially no or very low
21 motion. This is effective for removing the
22 return signals from terrain buildings and other
23 nonmoving structures. However, the radar sees
24 rotating wind turbine blades as targets having
25 motion, hence processes these returns as weather.

1 At this time, there is no filtering scheme
2 available to identify and remove wind turbine
3 clutter while preserving real weather returns.

4 Wind turbine clutter has not had a
5 major negative impact on forecasting weather
6 operations yet. However, with more and larger
7 wind turbines coming on line radars in some parts
8 of the country will have multiple wind farms in
9 their line of sight. Cumulative negative impacts
10 should be anticipated, which, at some point, may
11 become sufficient to compromise the ability of
12 radar data users to perform their missions.

13 Most, if not all of us, that live in
14 the footprints of these industrial wind projects
15 live in rural areas that do not have any tornado
16 warnings sirens that they can hear. We rely on
17 TV, radio, cell phones to get warnings for severe
18 weather. Any delays or inaccurate forecasts
19 could prove to eventually have deadly
20 consequences. The more industrial wind projects
21 that are built in an area will cause a bigger
22 area that have scramble signals and blocks the
23 area behind the turbines from the radar. We have
24 the possibility of being in the midst of Republic
25 Wind, Emerson Creek, Emerson Creek West, Buck

1 Springs, Seneca Wind, and Honey Creek Wind
2 projects. If all these are built, the weather
3 forecasting for the entire area will likely be
4 thrust back to pre-Doppler era accuracy.

5 This falls back into the hands of you,
6 the OPSB, that are required to site these project
7 in a safe manner. This and all other issues
8 brought here tonight all end up in the same
9 overflowing basket of public safety. If you were
10 to site all these projects it would make a large
11 part of Ohio not a very safe place to live. This
12 part of Ohio is our home. It's where we live.
13 We have all worked our entire lives to make our
14 homes in this area a place that we are extremely
15 proud of. Please do not destroy it. Please do
16 not approve Republic Wind or any other project in
17 this area.

18 Thank you for your time in listening to
19 my opinions.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: Do you have any
21 questions?

22 MR. PARRAM: No.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

24 Dennis Alt. Please raise your right
25 hand.

1 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
2 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
3 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
4 truth?

5 MR. ALT: Yes, I do.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
7 name and your address.

8 MR. ALT: Dennis Alt, A-L-T, Dennis,
9 D-E-N-N-I-S A-L-T. I live at 1448 State Route 4,
10 Bellevue, Ohio, Huron County, Sherman Township.

11 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. And are you
12 part of the footprint?

13 MR. ALT: I am not part of the Republic
14 Wind footprint. I live on the Seneca-Huron line
15 and the nearest turbine from Republic Wind is
16 within several miles.

17 Before I start, I would like to state
18 that the Bellevue High School turbine is 125 feet
19 tall. And I have been in Bellevue and I have
20 heard the wind noise. It turns, it clunks, and
21 here -- I don't know, they had commencement there
22 several years ago, a turkey buzzard was hit by it
23 and the pieces flew all over. So I don't where
24 they get their idea that it's not there, but it's
25 there.

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

5 My concerns are the negative effect of
6 noise and the effect it has on the public safety.
7 Noise is measure in decibels and has a wide range
8 as to our hearing the noise. Some people can
9 hear very low audible noise and some people
10 can't, and others can hear it all. You might ask
11 why, and this has to do with exposure to certain
12 noise levels at extended periods of time. Also,
13 some individuals have small but different anatomy
14 structures, so this explains some of the
15 difference in noise tolerance and recognition of
16 different noise levels.

17 The great State of Ohio does not have a
18 State Plan, which means not a plan approved by
19 the Federal Occupational Safety and Health
20 Agency. This means Ohio follows Federal safety
21 standards for private sector workplace employees,
22 but not State workers, they have their own
23 standards. The standard of noise decibels starts
24 around 10 to 15 decibels and it goes all the way
25 up to 140 and above. Noise can and will damage

1 your ability to hear sound. Also, according to
2 the CDC noise can harm more than your ears and
3 your ability to hear sound. It has conducted
4 studies and found links that exposure to loud
5 noises or high decibels can affect other body
6 systems. It has found links in 14 percent of
7 hearing loss people to have higher blood pressure
8 and cholesterol levels. Both of these conditions
9 are some of the leading causes of death, strokes,
10 and heart attacks in the U.S.A. This has also
11 been found to be true by the World Health
12 Organization, especially with long continuous
13 exposure times. The longer the time exposed, the
14 greater the chance of doing lasting damage. The
15 Federal standards with regard to this is not more
16 than eight hours continuous exposure and 90
17 decibels, which is city traffic. Most people
18 don't to hear city traffic noise in the country.
19 The higher the number, decibels, the shorter the
20 exposure time allowed. This means your body
21 needs a longer time away from the noise to undo
22 the harmful effects. APEX's new model turbine
23 that they are proposing has listed on it as a 110
24 decibel noise. This could be continuous for
25 days. Wouldn't that be great.

1 How does one escape the noise? Built a
2 wall 30 feet deep and 10 feet tall and insulate
3 it, as one study suggested. It's not very
4 feasible. This makes as much sense as pulling
5 down your shades to block shadow flicker.

6 In APEX's application for sound
7 propagation they show numerous houses that will
8 be impacted by the decibels of 35 to 55 and
9 because of turbine will not shut down after an
10 eight hour run time, these houses will be
11 impacted beyond the World Health Organization
12 limits for health safety.

13 The people of Germany have found that
14 noise generated by industrial turbines to be a
15 health risk to the people around them. Max
16 Planck, a leading independent researcher, came to
17 find long exposure to continuous noise levels
18 leads to sleep disruption, which causes stress,
19 which leads to hypertension and other heart
20 related problems. You might ask why this is so
21 important, Germany was on the leading edge of
22 industrial wind turbine farms and development.
23 They have been able to collect the data because
24 of a number of turbines and also the years in
25 use. Germany is also heavily populated, much

1 like the area of the Republic Wind farm. Max's
2 research has found that the noise travels much
3 farther than suggested, and that the more
4 turbines there are the greater the distance, they
5 amplify the sound.

6 In the USA, Number Three Wind, which is
7 in New York I'm pretty sure, has been told to
8 comply with the World Health Organization
9 recommendations, in noise. It has been suggested
10 that they change the setbacks standards to 1.5
11 miles from residences, and to shut down the
12 turbines for the entire night if the conditions
13 warrant it so the people can get a good night's
14 sleep so their body would adjust.

15 Will industrial turbines be shut down
16 during the night so affected people can get a
17 good night sleep, or will they be forced to
18 become midnight shift workers without being
19 asked? I hope not. Will the State or Ohio make
20 wind farms follow Federal standards of noise.
21 They call them industrial. Will I be made to
22 install an alarm to notify me of over exposure to
23 continuous noise levels? Will the Ohio Power
24 Siting Board look to the West and see the
25 problems of other states have had to address?

1 Will all these be addressed? Maybe. Will I or
2 others be compensated for illness caused by the
3 noise of the turbines? Maybe. Will I or other
4 become a marginal minority because of the turbine
5 noise? Don't know. Will we the citizens of Ohio
6 become test dummies so the answers to 655 foot
7 tall turbines can be known? I hope not.

8 I urge the Ohio Power Siting Board to
9 follow the guidelines for the safety of all
10 residents and not approve the application for
11 Republic Wind. Thank you.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: Any questions?

13 MR. PARRAM: No.

14 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

15 Is Greg Smith here? Please come
16 forward, sir.

17 MR. SMITH: I'm giving you some maps
18 here.

19 MR. SANYAL: And if you want to give a
20 copy to counsel.

21 MR. SMITH: Yes. I got another one.

22 MS. SANYAL: Thank you.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: Please raise your right
24 hand.

25 Do you solemnly swear the testimony

1 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
2 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
3 truth?

4 MR. SMITH: I do.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
6 named and your address.

7 MR. SMITH: Greg Smith, 5139 East
8 Township Road 44, Bloomville, and it's in Bloom
9 Township. I'm not in the footprint of the
10 Republic Wind project.

11 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir.

12 MR. SMITH: I'm going to focus my
13 testimony on three specific points that I think
14 should be the primary points for Ohio Siting
15 Board's consideration.

16 The first point is public safety. The
17 current minimum setbacks in Ohio are shorter
18 distance than the distance agreed that has been
19 thrown and documented blade failure cases. The
20 fact that we have politicians at the local and
21 state levels who want to reduce setbacks is
22 especially frustrating rating when you consider
23 that the turbines being today are much taller
24 than what was built previously. Instead of
25 considering shorter setbacks, we should be

1 talking about increasing the setbacks.

2 The Ohio Power Siting Board does not
3 have the authority to modify the setback law.
4 However, the board does have the ability to site
5 turbines at any distance greater than the minimum
6 distance dictated by law in the name of public
7 safety. Public safety should be the first
8 priority.

9 The second point I'd like to raise is a
10 concern with heavy conservation of karst in the
11 project footprint. I've provided you with tow
12 different maps that will help define the
13 extensiveness of the karst in area the. The
14 first map from the Ohio EPA that designates a
15 large portion of the project footprint as high
16 risk of ground water contamination.

17 The Board needs to seriously consider
18 the risk and the consequences that this project
19 poses to the areas ground water.

20 The other map is from the ODNR, which
21 was just recently updated. This map shows the
22 tremendous concentration of karst relative to the
23 proposed locations of the Republic Wind turbine.
24 If you look at the large amount on that map, the
25 little pink circles with the pluses on them are

1 the proposed turbine sites relative to all the
2 dots that represent the different karst areas.

3 In addition to the risk with public
4 drinking water, the stability of the wind turbine
5 foundations in this area should be a primary
6 concern to the Board. When you look at these
7 maps, common sense would suggest that this area
8 would be the last place that would you ever want
9 to build a project like this.

10 As a reminder, the directors of the
11 Ohio EPA and the ODNR are two of the seven voting
12 members of the Siting Board. So that's their
13 maps and their votes.

14 The third point that I'm making
15 tonight, is whether there is a basis of need for
16 the Republic Wind project. By law the Board must
17 evaluate eight points when considering a project.
18 Point No. 6 is for the Board to determine whether
19 the facility will serve the public interests,
20 convenience, and necessity. I am questioning
21 whether there is a need for the Republic Wind
22 facility in the State of Ohio.

23 Ohio is served by the PJN electrical
24 grid that serve all or parts of 13 states in the
25 District of Columbia. Per PGM statistics over

1 the last 12 months, the actual efficiency of an
2 installed base of wind power sources within the
3 grid is only 29.6 percent. That's over 12
4 months.

5 The dataset included a sample size of
6 over 8,600 data point. So that's meaningful. In
7 recent testimony regarding House Bill 6, I'm
8 going to mispronounce this, Asim Haque --

9 MR. RANDAZZO: Yes.

10 MR. SMITH: -- who previously was the
11 Chairman of the Ohio PUCO, is now PJM's Executive
12 Director of Strategic Policy and External
13 Affairs, stated that the two nuclear power plants
14 in Ohio would be shut down. The loss of 2,100
15 megawatts of power generation would not, in
16 quote, "adversely affect the liability," end
17 quote, of the PJM grid.

18 So the case of Republic Wind, the Board
19 needs to consider that A, PJM stated that they
20 weren't concerned about losing 2,100 megawatts
21 of 90 percent plus efficient carbon free power
22 generation, and B, Republic Wind will only
23 generate approximately a net of about 60
24 megawatts of power generation.

25 So I have to ask the Board, if PJM

1 didn't feel it needed 21 megawatts to carbon
2 freely highly efficient nuclear power generation,
3 where is the basis of need for 60 megawatts of
4 additional wind power generation, especially when
5 you consider the strong public opposition against
6 it?

7 Based on these three points, I
8 encourage the power Ohio Power Siting Board to
9 deny this application. Thank you.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: Robert Manz.

11 MR. MANZ: Yes. Copy that -- oh, I'm
12 sorry.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Please raise your right
14 hand.

15 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
16 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
17 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
18 truth?

19 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
20 name and your address.

21 MR MANZ: My name is Robert Manz,
22 M-A-N-Z. I live at 225 East Township Road 42,
23 Tiffin, that's in Eden Township.

24 You have asked us, do we live in the
25 project area? I take that as a general term. I

1 do not live in what's deemed the footprint, but I
2 am most certainly within the area.

3 I will divert a little bit of the
4 written testimony I'm going to present to you,
5 because I'd like to address some recent comments.
6 There was a comment made by turbine that's
7 located at the Bellevue High School. In June of
8 2011 a high school student decided to crawl up
9 such a turbine and was killed. Please note that.
10 A safety issue for sure.

11 I'm a retired audit manager from the
12 Ohio Department of Taxation. I have heard many
13 times the statement that I will make to you. I
14 welcome you to Tiffin, but I hope I never have to
15 see you again in this function.

16 I'm totally opposed to the placement of
17 any industrial wind turbine in the proximity of
18 our homes, as this area's population density is
19 no place for industrial machines like those
20 proposed. As members of this Board, you've been
21 very diligent in turning and acknowledging those
22 who speak to you. But how much of what is said
23 do you actually hear? There's no doubt anyone in
24 your position can "zone out" after a few
25 speakers. I asked that you hear the pleases

1 before you, as your decisions will affect the
2 lives of all of this area's residents. I
3 respectfully ask of you to ponder what this
4 decision will entail. We speak before you not
5 with a battery of attorneys and representatives,
6 but as individuals who have to live with these
7 things.

8 You, as a Board member, moved into the
9 area that you live knowing the negatives of that
10 vicinity. Those of us in Seneca and surrounding
11 counties did the same. However, now we have an
12 out of state entity attempting to change our
13 entire life-style by making it an industrial
14 zone. How would you feel if that happened where
15 you live? This project creates many detrimental
16 effects upon people who should not have any such
17 thing placed upon them. Most of those who speak
18 in favor of these projects, rather than most, I'd
19 say almost the majority, are lease holders.
20 You've heard from a union rep seeking short-term
21 jobs and others with a monetary interest.

22 As a retired law manager, it's all
23 about the money. While those opposed to this
24 project, I'm merely asking to be able to maintain
25 a life-style we sought when we purchased and

1 built our homes. This Board has the
2 responsibility to the citizens of Ohio, not to
3 out of state companies with no other interest
4 than to use to make some money.

5 Please put yourselves in our position.
6 I respectfully ask you to vote no on Republic
7 Wind. Thank you.

8 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

9 Shanna Price. Please raise your right
10 hand.

11 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
12 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
13 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
14 truth?

15 MS. PRICE: I do.

16 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
17 name and your address, please.

18 MS. PRICE: Yes. My name is Shanna
19 Price. S-H-A-N-N-A, my last name is Price,
20 P-R-I-C-E. My address is 6438 South Township
21 Road 159, Tiffin, Ohio 44883. And I have live
22 in Seneca County and I'm a resident of Eden
23 Township.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: And you are not
25 residing within --

1 MS. PRICE: I am not within the project
2 area.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: -- the project area?
4 Thank you.

5 MS. PRICE: But I am within the
6 viewshed of the Republic Wind project. And I
7 also wanted you to know that I had previous plans
8 at 7:00 p.m. tonight and I chose to cancel those
9 plans to stay here. Even though I may not be in
10 the footprint, this project impacts all of us.

11 So as I stated, I'm a lifelong resident
12 of Eden Township in Seneca County. My home was
13 in the footprint of Seneca Wind project. Like
14 many people testifying here tonight, I am
15 involved in my community, I read the newspaper,
16 and I try to stay informed on local issues.
17 Also, like many of the people here tonight, I was
18 completely blind-sided by the industrial wind's
19 project being proposed in the areas in which we
20 live and call home, highlighting the huge issue
21 of absolutely no transparencies with these wind
22 projects until the projects are well underway.

23 If law and our law in Ohio gives an
24 advantage to the big wind companies allowing them
25 to slither into our communities and closing in an

1 amenity, getting wind leases signed, good
2 neighbor contracts signed, people are -- 99
3 percent of us have any clue that a wind project
4 is being proposed in our home.

5 Needless to say, I've become very
6 educated if the past year and a half on what
7 living with a 600 foot wind turbine project would
8 mean for me and my family.

9 Like many people have testified here
10 tonight, I took a trip to Van Wert, to the Blue
11 Creek Wind project. I had a very different
12 experience then those people who have previously
13 testified tonight. I met with four individual
14 families. All of these families had very similar
15 complaints and issues with living in the
16 footprint of a wind turbine project. The first
17 issue was noise. And they talked about noise
18 being constant when these turbines are running.
19 I, like many of those who testified tonight, did
20 not stand under the turbine, but I stood in the
21 yards of these people' homes, I stood on their
22 front porches and I could hear a constant noise,
23 like a jet plane circling but never landing.

24 I don't know about you, but I didn't
25 choose to build my house beside a big airport

1 like Columbus or Detroit. They also talked about
2 noise, clunking and clanging, that started late
3 at night when the air temperature changes and
4 early in the morning when that atmosphere changes
5 as well. They described this as clunking noise
6 they hear, a vibration and a thumbing that they
7 feel in their chest. The sound and the vibration
8 prevents them from going to sleep at night and
9 often times wakes them up the impairing their
10 sleep patterns.

11 Another effect they talked about was
12 shadow flicker. They talked about not be able to
13 escape the shadow flickers during times when it
14 is at its heaviest. I can't imagine not being
15 able to go any place in my home to escape the
16 shadow flicker.

17 They talked about the obnoxious
18 blinking lights that are almost as bad as the
19 shadow flicker that happens every night. They
20 have the darkening blinds on their windows, but
21 that is not enough at times to stop this blinking
22 that they see at night.

23 They talked about the inability of Life
24 Flight to land in a project. They all had
25 stories about having to transfer patients to

1 Route 30 or even over to the hospital to get them
2 transferred and picked up by Life Flight. And
3 that is, you know, risking the patient's life and
4 risking precious moments where you could be
5 getting the patient care that they needed,
6 besides transferring them to a safe area for Life
7 Flight to land.

8 They discussed decrease in home values.
9 After visiting with these families I asked each
10 of them, "If it is so bad being in the middle of
11 a wind project why don't you move?" They all had
12 the same response, "Who is going to buy my home?"
13 All of them talked about looking at selling their
14 home and having to take such a financial loss of
15 their house that it wasn't worth selling. That
16 they'd rather live with the effects of the wind
17 turbine than suffer that financial loss.

18 And finally, they discussed seeing
19 birds of pray and large birds being killed buy
20 these wind turbines. And that was something that
21 I wanted the address after hearing many of
22 testimony. That birds will be killed. We see
23 this in the application and it's even stated that
24 they are going to be applying for an eagle take
25 permit.

1 So with all of these issues, and some
2 that I didn't even address tonight, I am opposed
3 to these projects. But glaringly, the safety
4 issues are what have me concerned the most. As
5 the Ohio Power Sighting Board, you have
6 documented evidence that the current wind
7 turbines in Ohio have blade throw incidences
8 greater than 1,500 feet, which is further than
9 the minimum setback requirements here in Ohio.
10 Mind you, these blade throw incidences are for
11 turbines that over 450 feet tall. How far do you
12 think the 600 for the industrial wind turbines
13 can throw debris in the event of a blade failure?

14 As a nurse practitioner, health,
15 safety, and wellbeing of my family, my friends,
16 and my community are of the utmost importance.
17 As the members of the Ohio Power Siting Board,
18 you are the government entity given the authority
19 to approve or deny industrial wind projects.
20 Please use your authority to protect Ohio
21 residents from the safety issues posed by
22 industrial wind turbine projects. Please
23 remember that money never justifies harm to other
24 humans and harm to their safety. You have a
25 responsibility to protect the residents who are

1 in the footprint of the Republic Wind project.
2 Republic Wind project is proposing too many
3 industrial wind turbines in a densely populated
4 rural area too close to residential homes.

5 Please consider the residents in the
6 footprint of this project who are not lease
7 holders and have nothing financially to gain and
8 whose health, safety and wellbeing depend on
9 their future. We are asking you to do your job.
10 Please protect the safety of those in the
11 footprint of the Republic Wind project and deny
12 the Republic Wind project.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Is Cheryl Mira here?

14 MS. MIRA: I'm here. In the interest
15 of time, and the young lady ahead of me spoke so
16 elegantly on so much of the same wind stuff, I
17 only have -- well, here. I don't have a speech,
18 because I've changed it so many times, but I have
19 all the documents.

20 I just wanted to say -- if it's okay, I
21 wanted to say one thing. Do I need to swear?

22 MR. AGRANOFF: But first I have to
23 swear you in.

24 MS. MIRA: If you make sure that my
25 entire speech gets in, I'll be quiet, and after

1 the three things. I keep changing it. Cheryl
2 Mira.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: First I have to --

4 MS. MIRA: Oh, sorry.

5 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
6 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
7 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
8 truth?

9 MS. MIRA: Yes, it is.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: Now please state your
11 full name.

12 MS. MIRA: My full name is Cheryl Mira.
13 I live at 11110 State Route 269, Bellevue, Ohio.
14 I am inside the Emerson Creek Wind project. And
15 I have wind turbines eight-tenth of a mile from
16 my house, and nine of them within two and a half.

17 My whole presentation is about property
18 value -- I'll move back -- property value. And
19 what I really want to say is, if you approve
20 these wind turbines in this area you could say
21 goodbye to the cities of Bellevue, Flat Rock,
22 Monroeville, and Republic. There is no way.
23 You're surrounding this whole area with so many
24 turbines, it's going to be a ghost town in five
25 years. Thank you.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Zachary West.

2 Please raise your right hand.

3 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
4 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
5 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
6 truth?

7 MR. WEST: I do.

8 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
9 name and address.

10 MR. WEST: Zachary West, W-E-S-T. My
11 legal residing address is 3040 North Township
12 Road 155, Tiffin, Ohio. The property in question
13 of which I have concern is 5724 North County Road
14 15, Green Springs, Ohio.

15 And I'll explain the significance of
16 that property. That property belonged to my
17 grandmother who was deceased in 2017. Her name
18 Ellen Gibson. That was left to her youngest
19 daughter, my mom's sister, younger sister, and
20 she is deceased as of December 2018. And now
21 that's been left to both my parents. And that is
22 the property of interest, because the intent of
23 me moving back to the area was to take over that
24 property and move in.

25 And so I'll open by saying, you heard

1 about individuals talk about next generations
2 coming in and moving back. You've heard
3 testimony about the property values. I've been
4 sitting, standing idling for 20 months at this
5 point since I first became aware of these
6 projects. I'm not really wanting to invest in
7 that property, to expand it, to renovate it. And
8 I'm currently residing with my parents, which is
9 not ideal.

10 So like I said, I'm a third generation
11 Seneca County resident in Pleasant Township. So
12 what did I do in the last 12 years? Well, I was
13 throughout Ohio pursuing a higher education. I
14 went to grad school, med school, residency
15 training. I'm board certified in internal
16 medicine, a licensed physician in the State of
17 Ohio, with a graduate degree in public health.
18 My roots run deep in this area and I've always
19 considered Seneca County my home, even though
20 I've been throughout the entire state at times.
21 It was always my goal to return here and practice
22 medicine, perhaps start a family of my own,
23 taking care of my friends and neighbors.
24 However, during those 12 grueling years of my
25 intense training I and many others were left

1 unaware of developing wind projects in Seneca
2 County by nature of the various process in which
3 the projects are unfolded. So it wasn't until
4 the public information hearing officially
5 announcing Republic Wind when we all became
6 aware.

7 I would observe that it was during
8 those same 12 years that an absolute decision on
9 the matter of wind turbines in this county could
10 have been given to the people, but it has not
11 done such. During those 12 years, I guess you
12 could say while I was away the jackals were at
13 play.

14 My professional oath charges me with
15 the responsibility to preserve the health and
16 wellbeing of others and to aid in the general
17 welfare of my community. As a contributing
18 member of the overall health of my community, I
19 wish to express my concerns as it pertains to the
20 proposed industrial wind project.

21 A growing bed of evidence exists with
22 regard to the health effect of industrial wind
23 turbines. The World Health Organization defines
24 health, which we must do, we must defined what
25 health is, quote, "a state of complete physical,

1 mental, and social wellbeing and not merely the
2 absence of disease or infirmity, end quote." The
3 effects of wind turbine on health can be
4 classified, or I like to classify them into three
5 different categories: Ecological impacts,
6 emergency services impacts, and those direct
7 threats to public health and safety.

8 The ecological impacts, you heard the
9 talks this evening, a lot of evidence presented
10 as far as karsts. The region in consideration
11 for Republic Wind has a large karst area by the
12 Ohio Department of Natural Resources own
13 evidence, evidence presented tonight. There is
14 concerns that those karst structures could be
15 impacted by the construction of this wind turbine
16 project. And the Ohio Department of Natural
17 Resources said the karst and the associated
18 sinkhole formation serves as a direct conduit to
19 the water table and are a high risk for
20 pollution. That very same concern was
21 acknowledged by testimony of those in favor of
22 the project.

23 Likewise, houses with a water well in
24 the karst area have a high risk of surficial
25 contamination from anything that enters a

1 sinkhole. So the World Health Organization
2 considers safe water supplies and good water
3 management to be fundamental to global health.
4 Unfortunately, wind turbine projects have already
5 effected the safe drinking water in wind
6 project's communities. On July 12, 2019, the
7 Ontario Court of Justice determined there were
8 reasonable and probable grounds to believe
9 environmental offences had been committed under
10 the Environmental Protections Act by the
11 environmental minister, ministry staff, and three
12 industrial wind companies as the charges stem
13 from contamination of residential well water for
14 those residing near an industrial wind project.
15 So we have the evidence there and it has
16 occurred.

17 Other ecological impact include the
18 direct effect on the health of our community with
19 regards to the bat population. You you've heard
20 those concerns expressed tonight as well. Bats
21 have been found to be worth, I'm talking about
22 the ecological impact, in the monetary impact
23 three billion U.S. dollars annually due to the
24 disruption of agricultural pests. That's what
25 they contribute. Likewise, bats are known to

1 assist in pollination and seeds disbursement.
2 Unfortunately, with the global increase of
3 industrial wind facilities, collisions with
4 industrial wind turbines are now the leading
5 cause of mass mortality events. In fact, this
6 poses a then indirect threat to the local food
7 supply and pestilence control.

8 Now, we've heard the concerns expressed
9 by impeding the access to air ambulance services.
10 Trauma related injuries is one of the leading
11 causes of death in America. Expeditious
12 treatment has long been a tenet of trauma care
13 and patients have been shown to have improved
14 survival. And then one study indicated a 57
15 percent decrease in mortality when transferred by
16 air compared to a ground ambulance.

17 Access to emergency services in Seneca
18 County continues to improve and a lot of
19 different multiple organization contribute to
20 that structure. The region is largely serviced
21 by Mercy Health Life Flight and the nearest adult
22 level one trauma center as being located in
23 Toledo, Ohio. In the unfortunate event that such
24 services are needed, and they often are, we've
25 had many instances just within the last week

1 where they've been air lifted from the scene and
2 transported to those trauma centers. It has been
3 concluded, You Honor, that these factors with the
4 wind turbine project that would then require air
5 ambulances services the need to arise and utilize
6 a Predesignated Landing Zone, which would require
7 patients to be transferred from the scene of the
8 incident to an area safe for landing. This poses
9 a potential increase in time as far as delaying
10 the care delivered to that patient.

11 The turbine structure itself poses a
12 potential direct threat to the health and safety
13 of the county residents. Fires is a potential
14 challenge to the regions first responders and I
15 have a genuine concern regarding the adequacy of
16 current emergency response teams to address such
17 incidents. We have had reports this year of
18 turbine fires already contributing to significant
19 wildfires covering hundreds of acreage damage.

20 Wind turbine blade failures occur, as
21 has been stated before, 3,800 times annually.
22 It's been repeatedly said tonight that the
23 current minimum setback distance as outlined in
24 the Ohio Revised Code is insufficient for these
25 wind projects. You have on your records

1 documented blade failures in State of Ohio that
2 have debris fields extending far beyond that.
3 And it should go without saying that that creates
4 discrepancy between a minimum setback distance
5 and the current risk of threats to those in the
6 immediate vicinity of a failing wind turbine.

7 So Seneca County, according to the US
8 Census Bureau, has a population density of 103
9 person per square mile. By comparison, Van Wert,
10 which is the host to the Blue Creek Wind project,
11 which is Ohio's largest wind project, has a
12 population density of 70 persons per square. If
13 you compare Paulding County, just to the north,
14 host to the greatest number of current or planned
15 wind turbines, has a population of only 47
16 persons per square mile. These discrepancies in
17 size between Van Wert, Paulding, and Seneca
18 Counties means that there are a great number of
19 citizens that are subject to risk and no effects,
20 a wind turbine.

21 Finally, the noise generated by them
22 currently is under review and is being debated in
23 literature. I know the wind companies and
24 developers will present their evidence and
25 conflicting evidence also in turn be reported.

1 I share in the concerns expressed by
2 the World Health Organization in its 2018 report
3 as it pertains to noise of wind turbines and the
4 impacts on health. They acknowledges that wind
5 turbines can generate infrasound or lower
6 frequencies of sound in addition to audible
7 noise. The World Health Organization maintains
8 the standard methods of measuring sound may not
9 capture the low-frequency sound and amplitude
10 characteristics of the wind turbine noise.

11 While the body of evidence is growing,
12 and limitation on a direct cause of infrasound
13 generated by wind turbines should not be
14 interpreted that exposure to such is safe. There
15 is research, as you've heard, about the impact of
16 infrasound cardiac, brain, and auditory tissues.
17 Cases have reported symptoms of stress,
18 headaches, dizziness, nausea, annoyance and
19 nuisance, motion sickness, sleep disturbance.
20 All of these symptoms are real to the patients
21 that are afflicted. All of these are legitimate
22 concerns overall in the health and quality of
23 life of that individual. And now, remember that
24 health and quality of life, and I'll come back to
25 that in a minute.

1 The debate on that matter, as far as
2 infrasound, might remain unsettle for the moment,
3 but as healthcare providers in the region, it
4 will be those of us, us responsible for taking
5 care of these individuals with which this occurs.

6 Entities and governing bodies tasked
7 with the review and siting of wind turbine
8 projects must take into consideration human
9 health and safety. The World Health Organization
10 makes the recommendation that, quote, "Proper
11 public input, communication, consultation of
12 affected citizens living in the vicinity of
13 industrial turbines during the planning state of
14 future installation is expected to be beneficial
15 as part of the health environmental impact
16 assessments," even quote. I'll remind you it's
17 been 12 years that they've been developing this
18 thing before it was announced publically. I
19 question whether that was involvement during the
20 planning state.

21 I personally and professional agree
22 with such a statement and request acknowledgement
23 by the Power Siting Board.

24 Now, Article 1, Section 1 of the Ohio
25 State Constitution, which was so conveniently

1 brought up by an individual testifying tonight,
2 they failed to mention all of the components,
3 quote, "All men are by nature, free and
4 independent, and have certain inalienable
5 rights, among which are those of enjoying and
6 defending life and liberty, acquiring,
7 possessing, and protecting property, and seeking
8 and obtaining happiness and safety," end quote.
9 These same rights extend to everyone of Seneca
10 County.

11 The diagnosis here is an uninvited and
12 unwarranted malignant wind project. The
13 treatment is the rejection of this application.
14 I thank you for your time.

15 MR. AGRANOFF: Dian West. Please raise
16 your right hand.

17 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
18 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
19 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
20 truth?

21 MS. WEST: I do.

22 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
23 name and address.

24 MS. WEST: My full name is the initial
25 J. Dian, D-I-A-N, West, W-E-S-T.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: And your address,
2 please.

3 MS. WEST: The property that I'll be
4 discussing will be one following Dr. West, who by
5 ironically enough, I house him currently. So
6 where he lives is currently with myself and his
7 dad.

8 Now, the property that we're discussing
9 is the home of 5724 North County Road 15, Green
10 Springs, Ohio 44836, which has now been left to
11 myself and my husband.

12 MR. AGRANOFF: And the township that
13 that is in?

14 MS. WEST: Pleasant Township, Seneca
15 County.

16 MR. AGRANOFF: And that is not inside
17 the project?

18 MS. WEST: It is less than a quarter of
19 a mile from the outskirts of the project. The
20 closest turbine is less than a mile.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

22 MS. WEST: I stand here today to
23 express a few of my concerns with the Republic
24 Wind project.

25 To be begin my story, I must share that

1 I did not become aware of this project until
2 December 2017. Just prior to public disclosure
3 of the project my mother, Dr. West's grandmother
4 that he referenced, had been involved in an
5 automobile accident. At a result of medical
6 negligence and the fortitude of an unfortunate
7 event, my mother succumbed to her injuries and,
8 again, the result of medical negligence after 145
9 days. It was during those darkest of hours
10 surrounding her unexpected death that the public
11 filing was completed for Republic Wind. I can
12 remember hearing of the wind project and was
13 astonished at the very notion that building such
14 wind turbines would even exist here in Seneca
15 County.

16 I began my independent research into
17 wind turbines. My higher level of education
18 affords me a very curious mind. Evenings turned
19 into weeks, weeks into months, and now I find
20 myself a year and a half later, I continue to
21 learn about wind energy, the details of this
22 project, and the implications. What presented to
23 me initially was the gut wrenching question of
24 why was this project hidden behind a dark curtain
25 for so many years? Only those who stood to

1 financially gain would know about this project.
2 The very same neighbors that I had gone to school
3 with, my parents had interacted with, had kept a
4 very dark secret; a secret which ultimately
5 impacts more than just them. While they get
6 financial gains, the rest of us are left with all
7 the negative impacts from these wind projects.
8 Where was my say in the determination of whether
9 to bring a project into my community? Where is
10 the local control? Where is the democracy and
11 the process in deciding the future of our
12 communities?

13 Shut out. Condemned if we speak.
14 Targeted as if we don't want green energy. In
15 today's current state of affairs, I would say
16 that we, anti-wind folks, have been the target.
17 We have nothing to gain and everything to lose.
18 We are misunderstood and significantly
19 underestimated. I believe just a mere presence
20 tonight of the yellow shirts show our
21 determination.

22 My childhood home, which is now my
23 home, again, is less than a quarter mile outside
24 the Republic Wind boundary edge and a mile from
25 the closest turbine. Yet I get no local vote, no

1 local say at the township level, no local say at
2 the county level. I tried to file as an
3 intervenor since my family will deal with the
4 negative effects of the project. However, as a
5 result of the current flawed process, and because
6 I live outside the project boundary line, the
7 very same wind project developer up for
8 consideration denied me that opportunity. Not
9 surprising considering it's the same developer
10 that has spent years working behind the scenes to
11 sign leases and actively has worked to block any
12 and all attempts of local control, including a
13 vote by the people.

14 I stand before each of you this evening
15 to ask for you not to just hear my voice, but to
16 truly listen, because there is a difference.

17 I am a second generation. My three
18 sons, third generation to the very community.
19 Professionally, my education affords me a license
20 by the Ohio State Nursing Board as a registered
21 nurse. I also maintain a master's of business
22 administration in healthcare administration. My
23 career consists of being a registered nurse for
24 more than 20 years in the intensive coronary care
25 unit at the hospital.

1 I know firsthand how important time can
2 be for sudden serious illness or life threatening
3 accident. Time matters. And time can make
4 clearly the difference between life, death, or
5 disability. Our local hospitals are not trauma
6 units. We have been blessed for many, many years
7 with air ambulance services through ProMedica,
8 Life Flight, and Cleveland Metro. The ability to
9 airlift patients from the scene of accidents we
10 largely take for granted. Air support from the
11 scene affords prompt medical intervention. With
12 wind turbines placed throughout the many
13 townships, this will obviously present the
14 inability and interference to fly when the
15 ceiling is decreased due to weather. Also
16 depending on the location of the accidents, the
17 area ambulance may have to land miles away from
18 the turbines, thus requiring duplicate transfer
19 and staging on the ground prior to getting to the
20 helicopter. This process takes time. Something
21 that can make the difference between life and
22 death. I ask, does anyone not hear about this?

23 The Seneca County area, as we've heard
24 tonight, is very populated for wind turbines of
25 the projected number and height of these

1 turbines. Hindrance to medical support should
2 never be compromised due to wind turbines. Where
3 is the local say or control in this? My life or
4 the lives of my family members could clearly be
5 in jeopardy with this wind turbine project.

6 I ask about the safety from the local
7 fire department as it relates to wind turbines.
8 The Republic Wind project projected to be built
9 in Seneca County also presents the issue of what
10 to do when a wind turbine fire occurs. You may
11 be saying, such an occurrence really doesn't
12 occur very often. I challenge you to research
13 that topic and some of that has been brought up
14 this evening. Beneath these monstrosities are
15 acres of fields and homes; innocent homes that
16 belong to folks just like me who had no say if
17 they even wanted these turbine projects. Do we
18 really believe that our local volunteer township
19 fire departments do not have the equipment,
20 probably nor the training to handle hundreds of
21 acres of fires or fire 600 feet in the air?

22 Now, I have raised my three sons in
23 Pleasant Township, just as my siblings and I have
24 also grown there. We've been amongst the
25 tractors, the pigs, the horses, the cows, fields

1 and fields of crops situated amongst the homes of
2 numerous families. We choose to live there where
3 the crops suck up the raindrops and dance in the
4 sunshine. We appreciate the hardworking farmers.
5 We value the country life. Wind turbines have no
6 place in Seneca County.

7 Some in this room may have had the
8 pleasure of knowing my mom. She was a homemaker,
9 a mother, a grandmother, and was left widowed at
10 a very young age. She would take care of many of
11 the elderly living in the community affording
12 them to opportunity and the ability to stay in
13 their homes as long as they could. Despite her
14 years of care, compassion, and consideration to
15 others, many of those very same families that she
16 helped care for, their loved ones, have brought
17 the decisive issue of wind turbines to our
18 community. My mom loved to talk and could start
19 a conversation with just about anyone. Although
20 she is not here in person, I assure you she would
21 have no trouble getting up here and making her
22 opinion in this matter clearly known.

23 My deceased parents, whose home lies
24 just outside the wind turbine project of Republic
25 Wind, would not approved of this project. My

1 family does not approve of this project. I do
2 not approve of the project. And for the plethora
3 of reasons given tonight, I ask that you also not
4 approve this project. Thank you.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Dan White. Is Dan here?

6 MR. WHITE: Yep.

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.

8 MR. WHITE: I appreciate everyone's
9 patience.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. Please raise
11 your right hand.

12 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
13 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
14 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
15 truth?

16 MR. WHITE: Yes.

17 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
18 name and your address.

19 MR. WHITE: My full name is Daniel
20 White. Address is 4080 East Township Road 58,
21 the sprawling metropolis of Bloomville. The
22 township is Eden.

23 MR. AGRANOFF: And you do not live
24 within the project area; is that correct?

25 MR. WHITE: I'm within the -- my notes

1 at top, okay? I'm not in the project, but I'm a
2 visual.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Viewshed?

4 MR. WHITE: Yes.

5 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

6 MR. WHITE: Okay. I have a lot of good
7 stuff, fortunately there were people far smarter
8 than myself covering it earlier and I do respect
9 the time of 9:04 and the additional time that
10 you've given us.

11 You can read what I've given you and
12 you hope that you do. But I'm going to read what
13 would be my last thought after giving you the
14 hard stuff.

15 That is the Native American people of
16 Iroquois had a way of making decisions that is a
17 robust testament to the long view. Long view.
18 When faced with a decision as a community they
19 asked themselves, "How will this course of action
20 effect our people seven generations from now?"

21 As the resident of Seneca County, I,
22 we, want to work towards what is good, right,
23 true, noble and just. Often times at great cost
24 in time, treasure and talent. I ask that you
25 consider at least our next 30 years, our next

1 generation and a half.

2 There is overwhelming opposition to
3 this project in both Seneca County and Sandusky
4 County, as attested by this evening's attendance
5 of my fellow yellow brothers and sisters. I'm
6 kind of curious, if you take a look at the
7 population right now at 9:05 and you were a
8 research biologist doing tissue sampling, you got
9 a lot of yellow shirts.

10 I strongly, strongly urge you to deny
11 the construction certificate for this specific
12 project, Republic Wind. Thank you. God Bless.
13 Have a safe drive. Tonight is almost a Harvest
14 moon, so no kidding, the deer are very active.
15 Please be careful. Any questions?

16 MR. PARRAM: No questions.

17 MR. WHITE: Thank you.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

19 Charles Groth.

20 MR. GROTH: Yes.

21 MR. AGRANOFF: Please come forward.

22 Please raise your right hand, sir.

23 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
24 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
25 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the

1 truth?

2 MR. GROTH: I do.

3 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
4 name and your address.

5 MR. GROTH: My name is Charles Groth,
6 C-H-A-R-L-E-S. Last name is G-R-O-T-H. My
7 address is 7245 South County Road 43, Bloomville.
8 I live in Bloom Township. I'm not in the
9 Republic footprint. I am in the viewshed. I'm
10 also in the Seneca Wind project footprint and
11 would be also in the upcoming Honey Creek
12 project.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Please proceed.

14 MR. GROTH: I would like to share some
15 statistics from the public comments filed with
16 Ohio Power Siting Board in the project. I have
17 here a list of comments filed through September
18 9th, and I have an extra copy that I will leave
19 with the Board following my testimony here today.

20 First, I will state that roughly the
21 equal number of people have filed comments
22 supporting and opposing this project. But beyond
23 that the similarity stops. One of the first
24 things noticeable when reviewing comment, is that
25 some of the comments on both sides have been

1 filed repeatedly. Of comments opposing the
2 project, six were filed in duplicate, meaning
3 that the same letter signed by the same person
4 filed two separate times with the OPSB. But
5 there is a much more noticeable pattern of
6 duplicate filing among comments in support of the
7 project. Overall, 24 comments have been filed in
8 duplicate with the OPSB. Four comments in
9 support have been filed in triplicate. And one
10 comment in support that's the same letter signed
11 by the same person was filed four times in a five
12 month period.

13 Another statistic I want to point to
14 the Board, is that fewer than half of the
15 comments in support of the project are from
16 Seneca County residents. By comparison, 90
17 percent of the comments in opposition are from
18 people who live in the county. And if you add
19 residents to neighboring Sandusky and Huron
20 County, that figures rises to 95 percent.

21 I understand why a union employee might
22 not object to this project. For them Republic
23 Wind is a paycheck for a few months and they get
24 to go home. They're not forced to carry the
25 burden for the next 20 to 30 years, like those of

1 us who lives will be.

2 A final pattern I want to point out,
3 that the overwhelming prevalence of four letters
4 among comments in support of a project. In fact,
5 93 percent of all public comments in support of
6 this project are form letters. By comparison,
7 only 23 percent of the comments are in opposition
8 are form letters.

9 One of the dangers on relying heavily
10 on form letters, is that you end up with
11 situations such as the gentleman from Crosby,
12 Texas who submitted a form letter stating that he
13 is a resident of the area surrounding Republic
14 Wind project. I suppose that depends on how
15 define the area surrounding Republic. But that
16 over 1,200 miles away, I think Crosby, Texas is
17 rather a stretch.

18 I would like to also point out that it
19 is much easier to simply sign your name to a
20 letter that someone else wrote and that someone
21 else will submit on your behalf, than it is to
22 take the time and effort to find your own words
23 and figure out to navigate the LPS fee system to
24 submit your comment yourself. There is a level
25 of time, effort, investment in the many heartfelt

1 comments in opposition that is lacking in the
2 form letters of support.

3 In closing, I would like to make the
4 following comments: To whom it may concern,
5 Seneca County is really my home and I have an
6 interest in decisions that impact our future.
7 Wind energy is a complex subject, but I've
8 educated myself over the last few years to
9 understand exactly what this project means to my
10 family, my community, and other legacy.

11 I'm not alone, as I've seen widespread
12 opposition to this project from my neighbors and
13 family. Most don't want it and I share their
14 opinions. As for me and my family, we will
15 welcome the denial of this project and the
16 avoidance of all the damage that the wind project
17 would bring.

18 We've been voicing our concerns on the
19 project for over a year. Now that the Ohio Power
20 Siting Board is finally here, I urge you to hear
21 the overwhelming opposition from the foundation
22 of this community, the people who really live
23 here. Thank you.

24 MR. AGRANOFF: Donna Hudacek.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She left.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Stephanie Miller.
2 Please raise your right hand.

3 MS. MILLER: I do.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
5 name and your address.

6 MS. MILLER: Stephanie Miller,
7 S-T-E-P-H-A-N-I-E, Miller, M-I-L-L-E-R. 13531
8 East County Road 36, Republic, Ohio. I live in
9 Reed Township. And I am not in the footprint.

10 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

11 MS. MILLER: Before I begin, I would
12 like to point out that there are many individuals
13 that are here, or were here, today and live in
14 the footprint that would like to speak in
15 opposition but legally unable to, because they
16 will be speaking in Columbus in the future.

17 Also, even though many here don't live
18 in the footprint, it doesn't mean they won't be
19 affected by these wind turbines any less than
20 several of us who live very close to this and the
21 surrounding projects.

22 Again, my name is Stephanie Miller and
23 I'm a resident of Reed Township in Seneca County.
24 My home is located in the proposed Seneca Wind
25 project and in the viewshed of the Republic Wind

1 project. Though the arguments of opposition of
2 these wind turbines are considerable here, one
3 hits very close to home for myself and my family.
4 And Mrs. West did a wonderful job pointing out
5 excellent points.

6 Should something happen to us or
7 another resident within our county lines, I worry
8 about the accessibility of emergency personnel,
9 the safety of those involved, and the precious
10 crucial seconds.

11 12 years ago, this past August, I was
12 in a horrible accident that almost took my life.
13 This accident occurred in Venice Township, which
14 is about four to five miles my hone, and I had to
15 be Life Flighted from the scene. The location of
16 my accident was proposed to have three wind
17 turbines located right there.

18 From my understanding of research that
19 I have done on Life Flight, the ability for them
20 to land and aid those in need is not guaranteed
21 and will be compromised by a variety of
22 obstacles. The height of these turbines and the
23 air pressure they create are just two of the
24 obstacles. Due to the air pressure around these
25 turbines I have read that Life Fight may have to

1 land anywhere from two to six miles or more away
2 from the actual site of the emergency. This is a
3 huge distance when these wind turbines are
4 widespread and located in clusters, which make it
5 difficult for emergency personnel to get close.

6 Also, this past November the Director
7 of Operations Life Flight in Toledo released a
8 comment that they do not have specific
9 regulations regarding wind turbines. However,
10 they do have to follow FAA regulations that
11 govern how Helicopter Air Ambulance helicopters
12 in the United States operate. Pilots must be
13 able to clear all obstacles by 300 feet during
14 the day or by 500 at night, while still seeing
15 500 feet below the cloud ceiling above them.
16 This becomes a major obstacle when Life Flight is
17 necessary to save a person's life.

18 These turbines proposed in the Republic
19 Wind project are much higher than the other wind
20 turbines in Ohio. Therefore, there is much more
21 of an issue surrounding the approximately 600
22 feet turbines proposed in this project when it
23 comes to Life Flight.

24 I have been in contact with local Life
25 Flight personnel and all I have been told is not

1 to worry, because Life Flight and the local fire
2 department will be in contact with one another if
3 something were to happen so that a decision can
4 be made as to how to proceed.

5 However, it is in these situations
6 where Life Flight is needed that every second
7 counts. Through discussions with local fire
8 department personnel, they too are looking for
9 answers to these same questions. There is not
10 time when something happens to discuss a plan
11 with the necessary local emergency personnel in
12 these life or death situations. If this had been
13 the case 12 years ago, I may have not be here
14 today with my family and I don't want this to
15 become a reality for someone else.

16 In conclusion, the citizens living in
17 and around this proposed project need to be
18 heard. Most importantly, it is time we stop to;
19 listen to the concerns of our local airports and
20 those that are experts in flight when it comes to
21 these wind turbines. The wind companies only
22 tell what we want to hear regarding these
23 emergency situations and not the entire truth.
24 It is time for us to take the citizen in the
25 surrounding area's safety into concern and make

1 sure these wind turbines don't become and
2 unwanted part of the next 30 plus years of our
3 life.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

5 MS. SANYAL: Thank you.

6 MR. AGRANOFF: Bob Rine. Is Bob here?

7 MR. RINE: Yes.

8 MS. SANYAL: Just so everyone knows, we
9 appear to have only about three people waiting to
10 speak after Mr. Rine.

11 MR. AGRANOFF: Please raise your right
12 hand, sir.

13 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
14 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
15 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
16 truth?

17 MR. RINE: Yes, I do.

18 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
19 name and address.

20 MR. RINE: My name is Robert Rine,
21 R-I-N-E. I live at 10442 County Road 34, Green
22 Springs, Ohio. That is Adams Township. I'm also
23 representing 10587 East County Road 32, Green
24 Springs, Ohio. That is a home farm and my other
25 farm.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: And you do not live
2 within the project area; is that correct?

3 MR. RINE: I live within the area that
4 was carved out because of the bat study. So to
5 answer your question, no, I do not. I was
6 involved in it until the study, okay?

7 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. Please proceed.

8 MR. RINE: So part of which I would
9 start with that. That we do not know. We were
10 not able to be told where the bat was. But
11 because of the tags left in the trees and the
12 markings left in the woods, we have about 20
13 tags, we can pretty much figure out where the bat
14 was. Okay.

15 Many different -- first off, I wanted
16 to address you, but I feel like I need to give a
17 little bit of pre-history, and I will deal with
18 the ramifications of that afterwards.

19 I am, I have been labeled as enslaving
20 people. I have been labeled as being greedy. I
21 have been labeled as a terrorist. And as
22 Dr. West just mentioned tonight, I've been
23 labeled as a jeckle.

24 I'm Bob Rine. I live in Adams Township
25 in Seneca. And I thank you for allowing me to

1 speak tonight.

2 I am really excited about the
3 possibility of Wind turbines generating power in
4 our community. I am a fifth generation that has
5 been raised on the same parcel of land, with the
6 same passion for the land that I have tried to
7 instill in the generation yet to come, that I
8 believe is one of the three speakers. We embrace
9 both the successes and challenges of managing a
10 family farm. We hope to pass our land on in a
11 better condition than we found it. We have to be
12 flexible and open to change to keep our operation
13 viable.

14 I plant cover crops and no till my
15 crops in an effort to be a good steward of the
16 land. This has certain costs to me, yet I
17 believe it is the right thing to do. We do
18 utilize three phase power on our farming
19 operations that is supplied by both Toledo Edison
20 on one end and North Central Rural Electric on
21 the other end. Keeping my farm operational is
22 not just about me or my family, it trickles down
23 to the dozen or so local businesses that work
24 with our family farm.

25 I see the wind turbines as being

1 similar. No sources of energy is perfect or
2 without cost. I think this type of power shows a
3 positive cost benefit ratio and is in the keeping
4 with the spirit of leaving things better than we
5 found them.

6 There has been quite a struggle in the
7 development of this idea, but the right thing is
8 not always easy. That is why I remain committed
9 to this process. Energy costs are high for my
10 business and I'm certain many others. Having a
11 renewable source that brings revenue to the
12 community is a win/win.

13 Monday through Friday finds me teaching
14 physics and math. I like numbers and facts. We
15 have to make a decision based on facts and not on
16 emotion or fear. I am not aware that many of the
17 studies mentioned are peer-review quality. I am
18 fully aware of the cost of a great education and
19 very clear that my tax dollars cannot climb any
20 higher to provide that. If this project can only
21 offset a portion of the rural tax burden that
22 would be huge.

23 Earlier this week I have a plane fly
24 cover crops on 600 acres. I discussed with the
25 pilot how turbines might affect my plan moving

1 forward. He replied that he must follow FAA
2 rules regarding flight patterns, but they would
3 not be prohibited to my farming operation
4 practice in general. This is an adjustment I can
5 make. And this is my choice as a landowner. And
6 it is my decision.

7 I will add in there, many people have
8 been concerned about that for me. Many people
9 have expressed that crop dusters cannot operate.
10 That is between me and the contract with my crop
11 duster. It does not affect across the fence
12 road.

13 I researched this topic and fully
14 understand what a wind farm would mean for this
15 community. I believe it would be a very positive
16 addition to our neighborhood. I would like to
17 see us moved forward responsible to ourselves and
18 generations to come.

19 Thank you again for your time.

20 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you, sir. Don
21 Voyt. Please raise your right hand.

22 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
23 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
24 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
25 truth?

1 MR. VOYT: I do.

2 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
3 name and your address, please.

4 MR. VOYT: My full name is Donald Dean
5 Voyt, Jr. My address is 13740 Township Road 136,
6 Bellevue, Ohio. I live in Seneca County and in
7 Thompson Township.

8 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you. And you're
9 not within the project area?

10 MR. VOYT: I am not, but unfortunately
11 for us, we live in a pocket that will surround
12 our house on three sides, to the north, east, and
13 west.

14 First of all, before I start, I just
15 wanted to thank you guys for going overtime with
16 us tonight. I know there was some frustration
17 early, but you guys have to realize that, besides
18 our elected officials, you guys are the only
19 voice that we have until we have a vote at the
20 township level, which we don't have right now.
21 So we do, I think on behalf everybody, appreciate
22 your time and going the extra mile with us this
23 evening.

24 I'm here really solely as a concerned
25 citizen, not necessarily living in the drawn

1 footprint of the Republic Wind project, but
2 surrounded by up to 12 turbines within a two mile
3 radius of our house.

4 We moved here seven years ago not just
5 for the change of my employment, but to enjoy the
6 duty of the country life here in North Central
7 Ohio than mimicked the rural area that I grew up
8 in in Indiana. I don't have precise the
9 statistics for you this evening, but many of my
10 neighbors can peers have already provided those
11 for you.

12 I want to take this opportunity to
13 express more human perspective as a person who
14 has read studies on various negative aspects of
15 the installation of wind turbines. Studies
16 relayed to us from agencies, like in Van Wert
17 County, have shown the decrease of property
18 values that accompany a building of wind farms.

19 Ten years ago I lost 80 percent of my
20 hearing in my left ear, so research on the
21 negative effects of infrasound caused by the
22 blade rotation concerned me, and should also be
23 concerning to those susceptible to hearing loss.

24 You've also heard testimony on setbacks
25 being too close to property lines and the

1 concerns of building on potentially unstable
2 bedrock topped with large karst formations.

3 In the early stages of our fight to
4 protect our land hear in Seneca County, I
5 attended meetings on both sides of the issue and
6 decided to see them for myself. I happen to be
7 taking my son on a college visit to Purdue
8 University in West Lafayette, Indiana near where
9 I grew up. And just north of West Lafayette
10 there are three little towns in White County that
11 are replicas of our hometowns here in Attica and
12 Republic.

13 Near Brookston, Chalmer, and Reynolds
14 there stands a gigantic mass of wind turbines
15 that stands just over 300 feet, half the height
16 of the proposed wind turbines in the Republic
17 Wind farm. This sounds a little crazy, and maybe
18 a little creepy, but I decided I was going to
19 find somebody would lived amongst the turbines so
20 that I could hear from a direct source who was
21 impacted by the wind farm.

22 In the middle of the countryside I
23 spotted a lady carrying in her groceries, so I
24 pulled up her lane and struck up a conversation
25 with her that lasted a good two hours. And what

1 I heard really horrified me, but backed up much
2 of th statistics and research on the negative
3 aspects that you have heard today.

4 As we talked the noise was overtly
5 noticeable and did interrupt our conversation
6 only because it caused me to lose my focus in
7 disbelief. I know you've heard from other people
8 tonight that they had to strain to hear it. That
9 was not my case. There were five or six turbines
10 right there in that general area and they were
11 very noticeable, and I'm half deaf. So for me to
12 hear it says something.

13 She was renting property and it was a
14 scenic piece of land and there was a fire pit
15 that was prevalent in the backyard. And I asked
16 her how she liked her outdoor space, noticing the
17 irritating shadow flicker at the same time. And
18 the if woman replied that she didn't use it
19 anymore because within a half mile of her house
20 not only did she have wind turbines, but there
21 was a substation there that had a noticeable hum
22 that she said went on 24/7 and 365 days a year.
23 It just never stopped. And so because of that
24 she could not go outside. It made her unbearable
25 to be there for extended periods of time.

1 She cited irritation levels that were
2 heightened in her three dogs. But really what
3 sadden my heart the most was that she was a
4 single mother raising an autistic child who
5 before the turbines was making so much positive
6 progress, but became overly agitated when the
7 turbines came.

8 In additional, her landowner allowed
9 power lines to cross the property, but had to use
10 a portion of the initial payment to restructure
11 the water source to the home. It seem by both
12 her and the property owner, who is in favor of
13 the wind turn turbine, that the construction of
14 the turbines caused the rerouting of the water
15 aquifer.

16 I left the home just as the flashing
17 red lights on the tops of the turbines began
18 pulsing at dusk, and I admit I was deeply
19 affected in ways that I don't think I could put
20 into words.

21 I am not against green energy, but I am
22 against property infringement, property
23 devaluation, and the infringement on the right to
24 live a life unburdened by unnecessary health
25 risks. Many of us here tonight, including

1 myself, are imploring to you as the Power Siting
2 Board, to err on the side of caution and make a
3 decision that protects us who lives in and near
4 the Republic Wind project, and in other wind
5 turbine projects in Ohio.

6 The effects, as I found out, are real.
7 I'm telling you straight as sure as long as I'm
8 standing here. Everything that these people are
9 telling you, the research. I doubted it to begin
10 with and I went out found out for myself, and it
11 exists. It's there.

12 Going ahead and improving the Republic
13 project puts us in adverse situations that
14 negatively impact our lives in various ways, just
15 it had for this woman and her son in Indiana. I
16 know she's only one person, but that should be
17 enough. Thank you.

18 MS. SANYAL: Sir, could you come back?
19 He's has a question. He has a question real
20 quick.

21 MR. PARRAM: I just want to clarify a
22 question. You indicated you are near 12
23 turbines; is that correct?

24 MR. VOYT: Correct.

25 MR. PARRAM: Are all 12 of the turbines

1 Republic Wind project turbines?

2 MR. VOYT: Yes, sir.

3 MR. PARRAM: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. AGRANOFF: Brenda Greeves. Is
5 Brenda here?

6 Bradley Rine. Please, raise your right
7 hand.

8 Do you solemnly swear the testimony
9 you're about to give in this proceeding is the
10 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
11 truth?

12 MR. RINE: I do.

13 MR. AGRANOFF: Please state your full
14 name and address.

15 MR. RINE: My name is Bradley Rine.
16 B-R-A-D-L-E-Y, last name R-I-N-E. I live at
17 10442 County Road 34, Green Spring, Ohio 44836.
18 And that is Adams Township.

19 MR. AGRANOFF: And you do not live
20 within the project area?

21 MR. RINE: I do not, correct. My
22 father just spoke three or four persons ago. As
23 he said, we were originally a part of the project
24 and then there was a bat study done to ensure
25 that there wasn't an abundance of any type of

1 aviation or endangered species in that area that
2 would prevent a wind turbine. Which they didn't
3 find. But they found enough evidence to carve us
4 out of it, so they had a big U in the map. So we
5 could not be a part of it. However I'm still in
6 favor of the wind turbines.

7 I just turned 21, so I don't have any
8 land in my name. Like I said, our family farm is
9 not entirely a part of the project. We are not
10 receiving a turbine, so we are not getting any
11 money from that. I heard several people
12 bickering in the back throughout the evening,
13 talking about "Oh, the farmers are just --
14 they're greedy. It's all about the money. This
15 is lazy farming." That's not the case.

16 I'm very passionate about farming and I
17 love what I do. I went to school in Columbus for
18 a year, I commuted home every weekend. I care
19 about the area. I don't want to do anything to
20 harm it. And my brother and my sister and I, we
21 are all looking to be the sixth generation in our
22 family farm and take it over. My grandpa was not
23 able to speak tonight. He is a landowner, and
24 two of our neighbors. With the filibustering
25 going on earlier, they had to leave and were not

1 given the chance to talk. They didn't want to
2 stay the full eight hours, which I appreciate you
3 guys doing whether its for or against. It's good
4 that we are heard and you guys are giving us that
5 chance.

6 And then I'm not going to bring up any
7 research tonight. There is -- I've been going to
8 these township meetings and for or against them
9 for three years now and there's a lot of people
10 that bring up research and it concerns me. I can
11 pull out my Smart Phone right now and in 30
12 seconds I can Google and find ten scientists that
13 argue 2 plus 2 doesn't equal 4.

14 So I just ask that you guys take into
15 consideration the research that you guys do. I
16 know you're all intelligent and capable of
17 figuring out what is creditable and not. That
18 was just another concern that I had on my part as
19 being for the project.

20 Oh. As I am arguably the youngest
21 person in this room, I understand there's been a
22 lot of people, for and against, talking about the
23 younger generation being involved in this. I
24 just want to ask that there are younger
25 generations of the opposing side that are saying,

1 "Well, what about me? I want to live in this
2 area, but." And that's kind of out of place,
3 that's why I brought that up earlier about me
4 going to school in Columbus and coming home every
5 weekend.

6 I grew up in Bellevue -- or Green
7 Springs, but I went to school in Bellevue. I
8 just consider that more of my hometown. I never
9 really want to leave the area and I never plan on
10 leaving the area. And I plan on eventually
11 having a future generations and taking over the
12 family farm and keeping the traditions that we
13 have. So I just ask that you also take into
14 consideration the people that don't want to move,
15 but they say that will if you build a wind
16 turbine. The people that will stay and continue
17 to take care of the land that we currently are
18 caretakers and passion about. You guys allow us
19 to harvest corn and harvest soybeans and harvest
20 wheat. I'm just not really sure why a few people
21 can't say that the farmers that farm a majority
22 of the farm can't harvest the wind as well. It's
23 their free will. The wind is free, it's there,
24 and it will always be there. Thank you for your
25 time tonight.

1 MR. AGRANOFF: Thank you.

2 That's all the names that I had on the
3 list. Is there anybody else that is here that
4 would like to provide testimony before we
5 conclude?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just want to
7 say kudos to the recorder. She has typed this
8 entire time. That's a lot of time for her.

9 MR. AGRANOFF: Okay. If there's
10 nothing else. On behalf of the Board, I would
11 like to thank you all for being here this
12 evening. I know it was a very long proceeding
13 and appreciate everybody's cooperation.

14 As I mentioned previously, the
15 evidentiary hearing in this matter will now take
16 place on November 4th at the Board's offices.
17 And I hope everybody has a good night. Thank
18 you.

19 THEREUPON, the Public Hearing conclude
20 at 9:45 p.m.

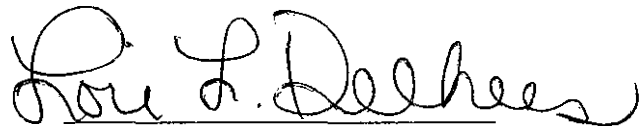
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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF OHIO)
) ss.
COUNTY OF OTTAWA)

I, Lori L. Delhees, Stenotype Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State aforesaid, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the foregoing, consisting of 292 pages, is a true and complete transcript as taken by me in stenotype and later transcribed under my direction of the proceedings conducted on the 12th day of September, 2019. I do further certify that I was personally present in the room during all of the proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office at Sandusky, Ohio this 17th day of October, 2019.



HUNTLEY REPORTING SERVICE
Lori L. Delhees
Notary Public
P. O. Box 1067
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

My commission expires 11/24/2022