

**BEFORE
THE OHIO POWER SITING BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Republic Wind, LLC for a Certificate to)	Case No. 17-2295-EL-BGN
Site Wind-Powered Electric Generation in)	
Republic and Sandusky Counties.)	

Direct Testimony of
Mike Kerschner,
Seneca County Commissioner

On behalf of

Seneca County

1
2 Commissioner Mike Kerschner
3

4 As an elected representative of the people of Seneca County, it is my testimony that the
5 overwhelming attitude of the general public is not in favor of the construction of large
6 industrial wind turbines in our rural countryside. While there is a small fraction of people
7 for these projects, the majority of Seneca County residents oppose them. This is
8 evidenced by a petition signed containing more than 3,000 residents' signatures, asking
9 the Commissioners for assistance by intervening in opposition to Republic Wind, LLC in
10 their attempt to seek approval for an Industrial Wind Turbine project.
11

12 There are multiple reasons we oppose this project including noise, flicker and the
13 destruction of our landscape. There is a real and present concern about the role Karst
14 will play during and after the construction of the turbines. We also share concerns with
15 our Park District as it relates to the negative impact on industrial wind farms would have
16 on our Park System. Another real concern relates to the impact the project would have
17 on birds and bats.
18

19 Having listed these previous concerns, I would concentrate my testimony on two distinct
20 areas. The first is the devaluation of real estate directly caused by these projects and
21 the second is the impact these projects would have on our own Seneca County Airport.
22

23 Real Estate Devaluation:
24

25 I have in my file multiple articles detailing the negative impact that wind farms have on
26 residential home values. They indicate that property values decrease by as much as
27 40% (forty percent). The average decrease in value is in the range of 20% (twenty
28 percent). A home within the footprint of these proposed wind farms, with a current value
29 of \$200,000 (two-hundred thousand dollars), would have a decreased value of
30 \$160,000 (one hundred and sixty-thousand dollars) upon completion of the projects. In
31 most cases the largest asset a family has is their personal residence and the direct
32 result of the wind farms close to their homes would be a material decrease in their net
33 worth. Not to mention the decreased real estate tax to the county as a result of lower
34 home values. It is wrong to stand by and allow this to happen to the citizens within the
35 footprint of the proposed projects.
36

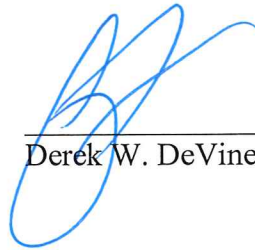
37 Impact on the County Airport:
38

39 We have been advised by the FAA & ODOT that a number of the turbines would disrupt
40 air travel in Seneca County. This could impact the Seneca County Airport as well as the
41 Fostoria Municipal Airport. The operator of our Seneca County Airport has voiced his
42 opposition along with flight pattern and Life Flight concerns. A complete set of
43 documents regarding these issues are available for your review upon your request.
44

45 For these reasons we are opposed to any large-scale wind turbine projects in Seneca
46 County.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Direct Testimony of Mike Kerschner was served upon the following Parties of Record on this the 28th day of October via electronic or regular US mail.



Derek W. DeVine #0062488

Parties of Record:

John H. Jones
Jodi J. Bair
Assistant Ohio Attorney General
Public Utilities Section
30 East Broad Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414
614.644.8599 (telephone)
866-388-1479 (facsimile)
john.jones@ohioattorneygeneral.gov
jodi.bair@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

Counsel on behalf of Staff Ohio Power Siting Board

Sally W. Bloomfield (0022038)
Dylan F. Borchers (0090690)
Devin D. Parram (0082507)
Dane Stinson (0019101)
Bricker & Eckler LLP
100 South Third Street
Columbus, OH 43215-4291
614.227.2300 (telephone)
614.227.2390 (facsimile)
sbloomfield@bricker.com
dborchers@bricker.com
dparram@bricker.com
dstinson@bricker.com

Counsel for Republic Wind, LLC

Chad A. Endsley (0080648)
Leah F. Curtis (0086257)
Amy M. Milam (0082375)
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
280 North High Street, P.O. Box 182383
Columbus, OH 43218-2383
614.246.8256 (telephone)
614.246.8656 (facsimile)
cendsley@ofbf.org
lcurtis@ofbf.org
amilam@ofbf.org

*Counsel for Ohio Farm Bureau
Federation*

Miranda R. Leppla (0086351)
Trent A. Dougherty (0079817)
Christopher D. Tavenor (0096642)
The Ohio Environmental Council
1145 Chesapeake Avenue, Suite I
Columbus OH 43212
614.487.7506 (telephone)
(614) 487-7510 (facsimile)
mleppla@theoec.org
tdougherty@theoec.org
ctavenor@theoec.org

*Counsel for Ohio Environmental Council
And Environmental Defense Fund*

Jack Van Kley (0016961)
Christopher A. Walker (0040696)
Van Kley & Walker LLC
120 West Second Street, Ste 1700
Dayton, OH 45402
937.226.9000 (telephone)
937.226.9002 (facsimile)
jvankley@vankleywalker.com
cwalker@vankleywalker.com

Counsel for Local Resident Intervenors

Mark E. Mulligan (0024891)
Sandusky County Prosecutor's Office
100 North Park Avenues Suite 220
Fremont, OH 43420
419.334.6221 (telephone)
419.334.6232 (facsimile)
mulligan_mark@co.sandusky.oh.us

*Counsel for Petitioner the Board of
Trustees of York Township, Sandusky
County, Ohio*

Dennis & Leslie Hackenburg
6015 County Road 191
Bellevue Oh 44811
dennyh7@frontier.com

Pro Se Counsel

Michael & Tiffany Kessler
4133 N Township Road
Republic Oh 44867
mkessler7@gmail.com

Pro Se Counsel

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

10/28/2019 3:04:59 PM

in

Case No(s). 17-2295-EL-BGN

Summary: Testimony of Mike Kerschner, Seneca County Commissioner electronically filed by Mr. Derek W. DeVine on behalf of Board of Seneca County Commissioners