



Ohio Senate

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Committees:

Transportation – Vice Chair
Energy & Public Utilities
Workforce and Higher Education
Small Business and Economic Opportunity
UC Modernization and Improvement Council
Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission
Ohio Rail Development Commission

Bill Reineke

State Senator
26th Senate District

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairwoman French

From: Senator Reineke & Representatives Richardson, McClain, & Click

Date: May 26th, 2021

RE: Republic Wind & Other Projects:

Chairwoman French,

Congratulations once again on your appointment to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. We are confident in your abilities to lead the Commission as the Chair, and look forward to working with you in that capacity in the future.

We specifically write to you today on behalf of the thousands of our constituents who feel the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) is not hearing their voices. There are currently a number of applications for wind farms pending with the OPSB that involve our district, including one that appears to be close to receiving final approval. Each application is highly opposed by the vast majority of our constituents.

As you have learned recently, the OPSB must “**not** grant a certificate for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a major utility facility” unless it makes eight specific findings, including, most importantly, that an application for a certificate “will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity”.¹ Even though state law expressly requires that the OPSB not approve an application without making all eight findings, we have learned in recent conversations with those close to the OPSB process that it is nothing more than a glorified rubber stamp for every application filed with the OPSB.

For a process that requires every application to serve “the public interest, convenience and necessity”, we feel that the base disregard of our constituents’ input and apprehension with these proposed projects, which also includes letters of opposition from local officials, is both ironic and deeply concerning. As they have noted, the cumulative impact of siting multiple projects in the same area in our district will be devastating to our constituents.

As the duly elected representatives for our constituents in the General Assembly, we are here to provide them with a voice in Columbus. Consequently, it is our hope that before

¹ See RC § 4906.10(A)(6), emphasis added

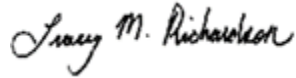
OPSB makes any further decisions on any of the pending applications in our district, as the new Chair of the OPSB, you will provide a fresh review of these applications, while strongly and thoughtfully considering all the local concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact our offices directly.

Sincerely,



Bill Reineke
State Senator
26th Ohio Senate District



Tracy Richardson
State Representative
86th Ohio House District



Riordan McClain
State Representative
87th House District



Gary Click
State Representative
88th House District

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

6/10/2021 12:17:26 PM

in

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

Summary: Public Comment of Senator Bill Reineke, 26th Ohio Senate District, Representative Tracy Richardson, 86th Ohio House District, Representative Riordan McClain, 87th Ohio House District and Representative Gary Click, 88th Ohio House District, via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing