



Statewide Contact Information: P.O. Box 521 • Granville, Ohio 43023 • 614-902-2465 • www.greenenergyoh.org

Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities
Committee Chair Steve Wilson
Written Opponent Comments on House Bill 234
Jane Harf, Executive Director, Green Energy Ohio

February 11, 2020

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams and Members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee, my name is Jane Harf and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments as an opponent of Senate Bill 234. Green Energy Ohio is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices through education and outreach. GEO represents a diverse membership of individuals, businesses, government and community entities, and academic institutions who share GEO's mission.

GEO has supported and promoted wind energy development since the organization's founding in 2000. GEO played a significant role in wind resource monitoring and assessment, including at the site of the first utility-scale turbines in Bowling Green and a 50-meter meteorology tower on the Cleveland Crib that confirmed the potential for off-shore wind in Lake Erie.

The economic benefits of the wind industry are well documented. Wind power in Ohio generates more than clean energy; it provides employment, significant capital investment, much-needed state and local tax revenue, and lease payments to rural landowners. Ohio has more wind-related manufacturing facilities than any other state in the nation, with 61 locations producing components for the wind industry.

The Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) currently employs an adjudicatory process in which local residents, energy service providers, energy consumers, and other interested stakeholders have an equal opportunity to participate in public hearings, as well as judicial proceedings where they can present evidence, call witnesses, provide testimony, employ cross-examination, and negotiate stipulations and conditions for specific energy development projects. GEO believes that more effort should be devoted to assisting local residents in this process, rather than establishing a new process that fails to represent all interests and undermines economic development.

For economic development to thrive, it is critical that state policymakers establish a fair and consistent set of statutes and regulations. When a state makes it difficult for corporations to have confidence in the rules under which they will be doing business, those corporations will seek other locations, and the economic benefits will follow. Green Energy Ohio urges members of the Energy and Public Utilities Committee to carefully consider the ramifications of establishing a potentially restrictive and uncertain playing field for an industry that has brought considerable benefit to Ohio.