



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

Good afternoon, my name is Jane Harf and I am the Executive Director of Green Energy Ohio (GEO). Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of the Emerson Creek wind project to be located in Huron and Erie Counties.

Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable energy policies, technologies, and practices through education and outreach. We represent a diverse membership of individuals, businesses, community and government entities, and academic institutions who share GEO's mission. Green Energy Ohio has members and supporters throughout the state, including in Northwest Ohio where wind farms exist and are proposed.

In my work with Green Energy Ohio – as well as previous initiatives – I have seen that wind energy is an abundant natural resource that can propel the state of Ohio into a clean energy future.

- It has been shown that wind energy has some of the lowest environmental impacts of any source of energy generation, as can be seen in the extensive investigatory work done by the Emerson Creek developer and confirmed in the staff report. To the extent that such issues exist, remediation and protection can be accomplished through rigorous compliance plans agreed to by the developer, including an eagle conservation plan in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Wind energy is increasingly becoming one of the most economical forms of electricity, even rivaling natural gas. Technological improvements allow a single wind turbine to produce up to five megawatts of electricity, enough to power 246 homes annually. The 300 MW Emerson Creek Wind project in Huron County could produce enough energy to power over 87,000 homes.
- Wind facilities generate economic development as well as power. The resources that flow to landowners, local governments and school districts, first responders, and small businesses significantly enhance the economies of the primarily rural communities where they are located. The Emerson Creek project is estimated to provide \$51 million in landowner lease payments; \$54 million in local school district payments; and \$27 million in county and township payments.
- Jobs in the wind industry provide additional opportunity. Wind turbine technician is currently the second fastest growing occupation in the country, next to solar panel technician. Employment assessments must reflect not only jobs tied to any one project, but also jobs in the all-important manufacturing supply chain – an area in which Ohio has a leadership role with over 60 facilities producing parts and services for the wind industry.

Green Energy Ohio stands with local officials, business leaders, labor and agricultural organizations, and public health and environmental advocacy groups to support the development of wind farms in the state. In addition to the benefits listed above, any serious attempt to reduce carbon must focus on the development and installation of clean energy technologies. To this end, it is critical that companies willing to make substantial investments in Ohio are afforded a fair process with consistent rules – a process that provides the certainty required by all large corporations as they make strategic decisions for the future of their industry.