



Before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 188
October 11, 2017

Chairman Balderson, Ranking Member O' Brien and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee, my name is Zachary Frymier and I am the Director of Energy and Environmental Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 188 (SB 188)'s reasonable adjustment of Ohio's minimum setback for wind turbines.

The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and we represent nearly 8,000 companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

Our organization has long recognized the importance of an energy policy that fosters economic development and strengthens our diverse generation portfolio. Making Ohio an attractive place to develop energy infrastructure of all types is critical to achieving those goals and ensuring that we retain our competitive advantage.

Changes made in 2014 to Ohio's wind turbine setback made ours one of the most restrictive in the country and have led to uncertainty for businesses looking to invest in Ohio. We have watched the challenge the current law poses to any additional development of wind generation in the state and are concerned with the permanent loss of the multibillion dollar economic development potential these projects have for Ohio and its communities.

In addition, we believe that less restrictive wind setbacks would benefit the many Ohio businesses that manufacture and service wind turbines and their components. It is important to remember, as many others have pointed out, that Ohio has the largest supply chain presence in the United States for wind turbine parts. The investment wind developers are looking to make in Ohio would flow not only to local communities but also to factories and workers throughout the state.

SB 188 also requires the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) to adopt rules that will enhance public input by requiring public notices to include the minimum setback for the project as well as requiring, in statute, that a public information session is held prior to a project filing an application with the OPSB.

As you and your colleagues in the Senate consider SB 188, the Ohio Chamber urges you to adopt this commonsense approach that will adequately protect the interests of property owners, enable wind developers to invest in our state, and bolster manufacturing opportunities up and down the wind energy supply chain.

Thank you.