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OHIO CONSERVATIVE ENERGY FORUM EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT WIND PROPOSAL

OHCEF views Reineke/McColley proposal as a further intrusion of landowner rights

COLUMBUS, OH --- At a press conference earlier today, State Representative Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) and State Senator Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) introduced a troubling proposal that would allow for local referenda on wind farm projects. **This would impede property rights and create an unprecedented hurdle for energy developers in the state of Ohio.**

This proposal would, once again, move the goalposts on the wind industry in Ohio. In the six years since the legislature nearly tripled government mandates for setbacks of wind turbines from a property line, Ohio has seen only one small wind farm obtain a permit from the Ohio Power Siting Board. Meanwhile, other wind projects are doing their best to navigate the existing red tape and are acquiring the hundreds of waivers necessary from neighbors. This proposal would pull the rug out from under landowners who wish to host wind turbines on their own land.

“Ohio has a rich history of being a leader in innovation. This proposal would send a strong signal that Ohio views the emerging renewable energy industry with hostility and would slam the door to the economic opportunities this industry provides,” said Tyler Duvelius, OHCEF Executive Director. **“The government has no place trampling property rights in favor of one form of energy over another.”** Duvelius noted that other energy industries, including natural gas, coal, and nuclear power, do not face similar obstacles. This energy freedom has greatly benefited Ohio landowners and businesses alike.

Due to variable weather conditions, more than 1.5 million acres of Ohio farmland went unplanted in 2019. Existing wind projects have resulted in millions of dollars in annual land lease payments to landowners – allowing farmers to recover lost revenue. Wind developers also pay more than 7 million dollars in state and local taxes per year. Put bluntly, this proposal would take Ohio backward and threaten the growth of these economic benefits.

OHCEF looks forward to continuing to work with members of the Ohio General Assembly to promote economic growth while ensuring that landowner property rights are protected.

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Founded in 2015, the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum exists to provide a vehicle for individuals, organizations, and businesses to join the conservative conversation about Ohio's energy future.

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