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17780 Middle Point Road
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Ohio Power Siting Board
c/o Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad
Columbus, OH 43215

January 28, 2016

Dear Board,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my support for a return to previous siting rules with regard to wind farm development and share my prior positive experience with a project in our county.

My name is Eric Germann and I am a resident of Van Wert County. I am also a Board Member and Past President of the Lincolnview Local School District and also a Board Member of Vantage Career Center.

Early in the development of the Blue Creek Wind Farm, there was somewhat understandable skepticism in the community as to whether Iberdrola Renewables (the Company) would live up to their word and obligations. As a board member, I was especially interested in this as the revenue potential to the District was substantial.

From the filings with the Siting Board, I had discerned the locations of the proposed turbines and wanted to map them in a GIS application I use. Not wanting to enter all the turbine coordinates by hand, I reached out for the first time to the developer, Dan Litchfield, to inquire as to whether he could email me a digital copy to import.

Later that evening, Dan emailed me back and inquired what I wanted them for. My initial impression was they were going to be difficult. I told him I wanted to plot them in a GIS app. The next morning, I was pleasantly surprised that not only did I have them in my mailbox, I had them in a GIS file format, not as a raw list of coordinates. We were then able to overlay that as a layer, import the boundaries of the District and map turbines for revenue estimation based on SB232 and workforce estimates.

While this example may seem trivial, it was the first encounter on my part with the Company and the relationship and communication has not changed, without regard to whether the news is "good or bad."

Stephen Covey cites one of his habits as “Seek first to understand, then be understood.” As we move forward with a second project in Van Wert County, my hope is both that developer and the community seek to understand first.

Iberdrola and their project have been a boon to our community and our district in terms of tax revenue, sales tax and hotel/motel tax revenue during construction and community sponsorship “after the deal is done.” My sincere hope is the Siting Board revisit the onerous changes imposed on the wind industry regarding setbacks such that developers such as Iberdrola and Apex can continue development with land owners who wish to reap the benefit of sustainable, renewable energy sources.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eric K. Germann