



# Lincolnview Local Schools

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Jeffrey T. Snyder, Superintendent

Troy R. Bowersock, Treasurer

January 28, 2016

Dear Ohio Power Siting Board:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Lincolnview Local Schools and the many benefits of “Wind Energy” that has emerged in our county the past two years. As a citizen of Van Wert County, as a school leader of a school district in Van Wert County, and as a property and home owner of Van Wert County the Wind Energy expansion into Ohio has been nothing but a win-win for our district and community. As you look at potential growth for any industry in Northwest Ohio we have always lagged behind and for once in many decades we have a source of energy that travels across our area in abundance and it has allowed our area to prosper financially, so now it is our time to reap the benefits. We can all agree over the test of time subsidies have been given to many industries, including: oil, gas, electric utilities, airlines, automobiles, trains, and agriculture. Wind energy deserves fair treatment so Northwest Ohio may reap some benefits. Our school district has prospered due to the payments in lieu of taxes concept that has allowed us to receive over \$400,000 per year for the past 2 years, with another payment due within a few weeks and at least seventeen more to go from the wind mills that currently turn every day in our district. Our budget is around \$8.9 million for around 900 students in our district. For us to ask our voters for new money through a levy of property taxes to generate \$400,000 we would have to pass a 4-mill levy, which would be very difficult to do in our district. Our last biennial budget from the state only increased any new money for our district to a tune of \$81,000.00. Our district cannot even buy one school bus for that amount of additional revenue, so this new funding stream from “Wind Energy” has allowed our district to maintain cost adjustments for inflation, provide funding to pay our teachers, who do such an incredible job teaching our students, and allow us some other positive opportunities such as:

- First school in the county with a 1:1 computer initiative (all students K-12 have an electronic device to assist in instruction)
- Reduce bond debt on our school facilities building projects
- Upgrade to LED lighting in gymnasium, parking lots, lights around the school structure, and the library
- Create new academic programs – Pre-Engineering & Bio-medical
- Teaching our students about renewable energy first hand and with the hopes that some of our students will graduate and become employed in the wind industry someday
- Future: possible classroom additions and renovations to our existing school buildings

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- Future: developing co-ops and internships with our students with business and industry in the Van Wert county area for job and population growth in our county

The sky is the limit on so many more positive opportunities that “wind energy” can bring to our little county in Northwest Ohio, and especially to our school district. We want expansion of wind opportunities and growth so please continue to support its benefits. In addition to the successfully-operating project that provides significant funding to our school now, proposed projects that could total over \$1 billion in investments in our county could bring over \$1 million per year in additional revenue for our district. This is an incredible and unheard-of opportunity. Please do not add any additional red tape that could delay and/or block these incredible projects.

In conclusion, I challenge anyone who speaks out against wind energy and the expansion of it to travel to Lincolnview Local Schools in Van Wert County and have a conversation with myself and community members who live here every day. I am so disappointed from others who try and speak out against this or change legislation, yet don’t live here, work here, and even understand what our county is all about. They have never stepped into our school district, sat in our classrooms, and see the benefits that wind energy has brought to our district. I hope my message speaks louder than theirs as I am here amongst the wind mills and see the win-win opportunities that our Lancer students receive daily, yet the naysayers have never witnessed this. If you want to see where the money is going please come to our district and I would be happy to show you our students, who are the leaders of “tomorrow.”

We are the “Wind Capital of Ohio” and we want wind energy and expansion. Please continue to support this endeavor.

Thank you!!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Snyder  
Superintendent  
Lincolnview Local Schools

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