

BILL FRANKART

OWNER/OPERATOR OF RIDGE VIEW FARMS

DATE

August 24, 2019

TO

Seneca County
Republican Central Committee
PO Box 223
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
senecarepublicanparty@yahoo.com

FROM

Bill Frankart
Owner/Operator,
Ridge View Farms
7731 Township Road 32
Clyde, Ohio 43410
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SENECA COUNTY COMMISSIONER, OPEN SEAT

Dear Seneca County Voters,

As a lifelong resident of Seneca County, I am deeply invested in our community and it's future. I know there are many issues and topics that are brought before public officials and I believe my rural prospective would provide an important voice to the Seneca County Commissioners. One of the largest and most controversial issues is the wind projects that have been proposed in Seneca County. I am enclosing my testimony to the Ohio Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee. This summarizes my view on this key issue.

Sound budgets and strategic plans are important for any business or public entity. With the experience I have from operating my farm and as a Township Trustee, I can offer valuable perspective that will be key in maintaining a healthy budget and planning for the future of Seneca County. As county commissioners, we need to continue to work on the strategic plan for buildings, roads and properties the county maintains. I have good working relationships with the County Engineer, Mark Zimmerman and with our County Auditor, Julie Adkins from my time serving as an Adams Township Trustee.

My family is in full support of my candidacy for Seneca County Commissioner. My wife Janet is a graduate of Heidelberg University and managed the Corner Drive-Thru in Green Springs until 2018 when we sold the business. My son Zach is a recent high school graduate and works at National Machinery. Brady will be a freshman and is involved in football and 4H. Kayla will be in the seventh grade and plays basketball and is also involved in 4H. Our family farms together and is involved in the FFA and Young Farmers.

In closing, I firmly believe I would be your best candidate. The experience that I have as a Township Trustee and business owner, along with my perspective of the rural area would be a strong asset to the Seneca County Commissioners.

If you have any questions for me or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bill Frankart

BILL FRANKART

OWNER/OPERATOR OF RIDGE VIEW FARMS

STATEMENT

Lifelong resident of Seneca County looking to serve the community by providing a rural perspective to the Seneca County Commissioners.

EXPERIENCE

1989 - Present

RIDGE VIEW FARMS

Owner/Operator

Grain farmer of approximately 5000 acres (4000 in Seneca County). Oversee all business operations including budgeting, managing employees, equipment maintenance and farm planning.

12 years (3 terms)

ADAMS TOWNSHIP

Trustee

Represent constituents of Adams Township and listen to their concerns. Work closely with county engineer on drainage and road projects. Oversee maintenance of equipment and township buildings. Known for being fiscally responsible and conservative.

CONTACT

7731 Township Road 32

Clyde, Ohio 43410

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INVOLVEMENT

CURRENT

- Seneca County Farm Bureau member, 30+ years
- Clyde Young Farmers volunteer, 30+ years
- St. Mary's Catholic Church in Clyde member
- 4H advisor, 24+ years
- Clyde FFA volunteer

PAST

- Seneca County Soil & Water Board member
- Seneca County Regional Planning Board member

EDUCATION

1987-1989

VANGUARD CAREER CENTER

Power Equipment and Diesel

1985-1989

CLYDE HIGH SCHOOL

REFERENCES

Adam Greenslade

Mayor of Green Springs

T: 614-204-8113

Dave Carrothers

Adams Township Trustee

T: 419-217-8238

Mark Zimmerman

Seneca County Engineer

T: 567-230-3561

BILL FRANKART

OWNER/OPERATOR OF RIDGE VIEW FARMS

DATE

June 19, 2019

TESTIMONY OF BILL FRANKART

Seneca County, Ohio

In support of HB 6
Ohio Senate Energy and
Public Utilities Committee

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, ranking member Williams, members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak as a proponent of HB-6. My name is Bill Frankart and I am a Township Trustee for Adams township in Seneca County Ohio. I am also a landowner and farm about 5000 acres in the area. Although there are many residents in Adams township whose livelihood would be affected by the closing of the Davis Besse nuclear plant, most of my remarks will speak to the need for local citizens to have direct and meaningful input into the siting of wind projects.

Soon after the plans for the Republic Wind project (one of at least 5 projects in the Seneca County area) were released, my phone began ringing off the hook with township residents expressing various concerns over the transformation of our township. Our trustee meetings went from the normal small handful of people to uneasy overflowing crowds.

As a representative of all the residents, I have to consider the issue from both sides. I recognized the rights of landowners to lease their property to the wind company but I also have to represent all those who will be affected by the huge change a wind project brings with it. The list of concerns I heard about is long, but there are some that will have genuinely serious safety and financial consequences.

One of the concerns is property valuations. It has always been the case that a landowner could sell off some woods or a few acres with road frontage for a high price to someone wanting to build a home and move to the country. Our township is dotted with many such residences. But if several dozen 600' tall turbines are built, the concern is that no one will want to build in the area anymore and the extra value of such acres with road frontage, usually double the value of regular farm ground, will disappear.

Wind development will also affect the value of homes already built since many will be within a mile or so of a turbine. The wind company has presented us with studies to convince us this property devaluation will not occur. But the vast majority of homes in their studies are farther from wind turbines than any home in Adams township will be, so we remain unconvinced.

Another concern of many area farmers is how the turbines will affect aerial application of chemicals onto fields. This has become especially apparent with the extremely wet spring we are experiencing and the difficulty it brings accessing fields with ground equipment. Aerial applicators have told me that, with such tall wind turbines in the area, field applications by plane will become much more difficult. Some fields may not even be accessible to aerial application, not because there is a turbine on the farm, but because there are turbines on a neighbor's farm. All applications near turbines will be more expensive because of increased safety issues and difficulty in making turns by the planes.

continued on page 2

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page 2

A further, and even more important, safety issue bringing concerns is accessibility by Life Flight air ambulances. Our township is several miles from the nearest hospitals and over the years many patients and accident victims have been transported out by air, usually to hospitals in Toledo. The manager of our county airport (a life-long pilot himself) has said that this is a very legitimate concern and will bring life threatening delays in some cases as patients will have to be transported by ground ambulance to a location where the helicopter can land safely. With so many wind projects being developed in the Seneca County area this could be quite a distance.

As a township trustee I have heard the concerns of my citizens and have come to believe that they should have real input into whether such a huge transformation should be taking place. The Reineke Referendum on wind projects contained in HB-6 would gather a true consensus as to whether it should happen. Sharp divisions have occurred among the residents of my township. But if it becomes absolutely clear that a majority of people want, or do not want the transformation, then it will go a long way towards the acceptance of the eventual outcome. Neither side believes the voices of public officials represent the true consensus of residents and they have a very valid point on this since nearly all such officials were voted into office well before wind projects became an issue.

It has become clear to me as a local public official that the opportunity for a referendum on wind projects is sorely needed to diffuse the resentment that has developed from the state and wind companies forcing wind projects into our area, overriding our well planned local zoning, and depriving our citizens of their right to decide the future of their own community. Wind projects are too big and too imposing to allow construction without affected residents having a true voice in the matter.

Thank you.