

88<sup>th</sup> House District  
Sandusky County and  
Portions of Seneca County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111  
Phone: (614) 466-1374



Committees

Economic and Workforce  
Development  
Governor's Executive Workforce  
Board

Email: Rep88@ohiohouse.gov  
Web: www.ohiohouse.gov

## Bill Reineke State Representative

---

May 13, 2020

Dear Chairman Randazzo:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide input during yesterday's OPSB Rule Review meeting. I feel that it is my duty as a representative of Seneca and Sandusky Counties to provide these comments, as this issue is one that seriously affects the 88<sup>th</sup> House District.

**Question 1:**

It is important to have successful OPSB meetings. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, I wrote you a letter regarding a meeting that was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of that month. My constituents, which included several public officials, felt that, not only were opponents of the project prevented from sharing their opinions in a fair manner, but also that OPSB officials present at the meeting were insincere and did not engage with or otherwise treat their concerns seriously. This followed a "public meeting" held previously, which several of my colleagues and I formally requested be reconvened in a letter dated February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, again because of concerns related to opposition censorship.

In yesterday's videoconference, **you made an excellent point that the OPSB needs to cultivate and maintain public trust and confidence.** I would submit to you that the best way to develop confidence in the institution is by ensuring that local participants are provided with meaningful opportunities to provide input (both positive and negative as allowed by Ohio statute), and that they feel that their testimony is taken with the seriousness it deserves. These projects are life-changing for those local residents they affect, and no one appreciates being made to feel like their concerns are being brushed off due to a lack of attention and/or participation from the attending OPSB officer and the panel. Many attendees perceived that there was a predetermined outcome, and that these meetings were "just going through the motions". It is important that the board take better steps to actively engage with local residents and ensure that their concerns are heard.

**Question 2B & 2F:**

Perhaps the **most important consideration** that many of my constituents and I have noticed is that the OPSB should take into consideration the **cumulative results** of the number of projects that already exist or are being proposed in an area. While I understand that, on a technical level, one project has no direct bearing on another, the cumulative effects are a critical piece for my constituents who live in the affected area. We have six proposed or planned projects in and around the district, and together they have gross cumulative effects on the local residents, area, and wildlife.

The cumulative effects deal with more than just the effects on residents, it also effects the local wildlife and geography. Attached is an article I read recently about a bald eagle that was struck and killed by a wind turbine in the district. Seneca County has spent a lot of time and effort to get our eagle population to return and thrive, and it is important that the OPSB considers not only the effects of one wind project on the avian wildlife, but the cumulative effects that all the projects in the area have.

**Question 2B, #6:**

This also holds true when one considers the karst layout in the 88<sup>th</sup> House District. This porous rock not only plays a vital role in terms of local agriculture, but it is also a poor weight bearing material. There is some highly reasonable concern that the multiple projects (both currently built and proposed) will have negative effects on the local agriculture and will be more dangerous/prone to accident due to the karst. Attached is a map displaying the disproportionate karst layout within the 88<sup>th</sup> House District relative to the general location of the proposed wind projects.

**Question 2B, #12:**

Many local residents feel that there is a lack of transparency when it comes to these projects. This stems from the secretive land lease/use arrangements made by the developers. Many constituents have come to me with concerns that the community had no awareness about the scope and size of a wind project being developed because these land use agreements prevent residents from divulging details about the project's existence.

**Question 2J:**

I believe that it is essential that local residents have as much information as possible about these projects that will directly affect their lives and livelihood. This includes having access to a manufacturer's safety manual for the proposed turbines. Consumer confidence in a product is based on that product's merchantability. A product's merchantability is, in part, determined by the disclosure to the user of the safety utilization. I could not sell a product to a customer if that product does not work as advertised or if the customer did not have the information required to operate/use that product safely. Similarly, local residents need to have this information if they are to make informed, educated decisions about these projects.

***I would strongly suggest that the OPSB setback requirements match those provided within manufacturer safety manuals.*** It has been suggested that this change could occur now with the recommendation of the OPSB based on the true safety specifications in the manuals. In my opinion, it is necessary that any project conforms to the safety specifications published in the manuals of those who built them, regardless of whether one is supportive or against these projects

**Other Comments:**

Other areas of concern include the promise of monetary gain for local school districts and the community. Energy project developers make grand promises about the monetary gain that local schools will get as a result of these projects, and then try to back out or lessen the amount that the local community will receive upon project completion. These promises should be notarized in writing as an enforceable measure.

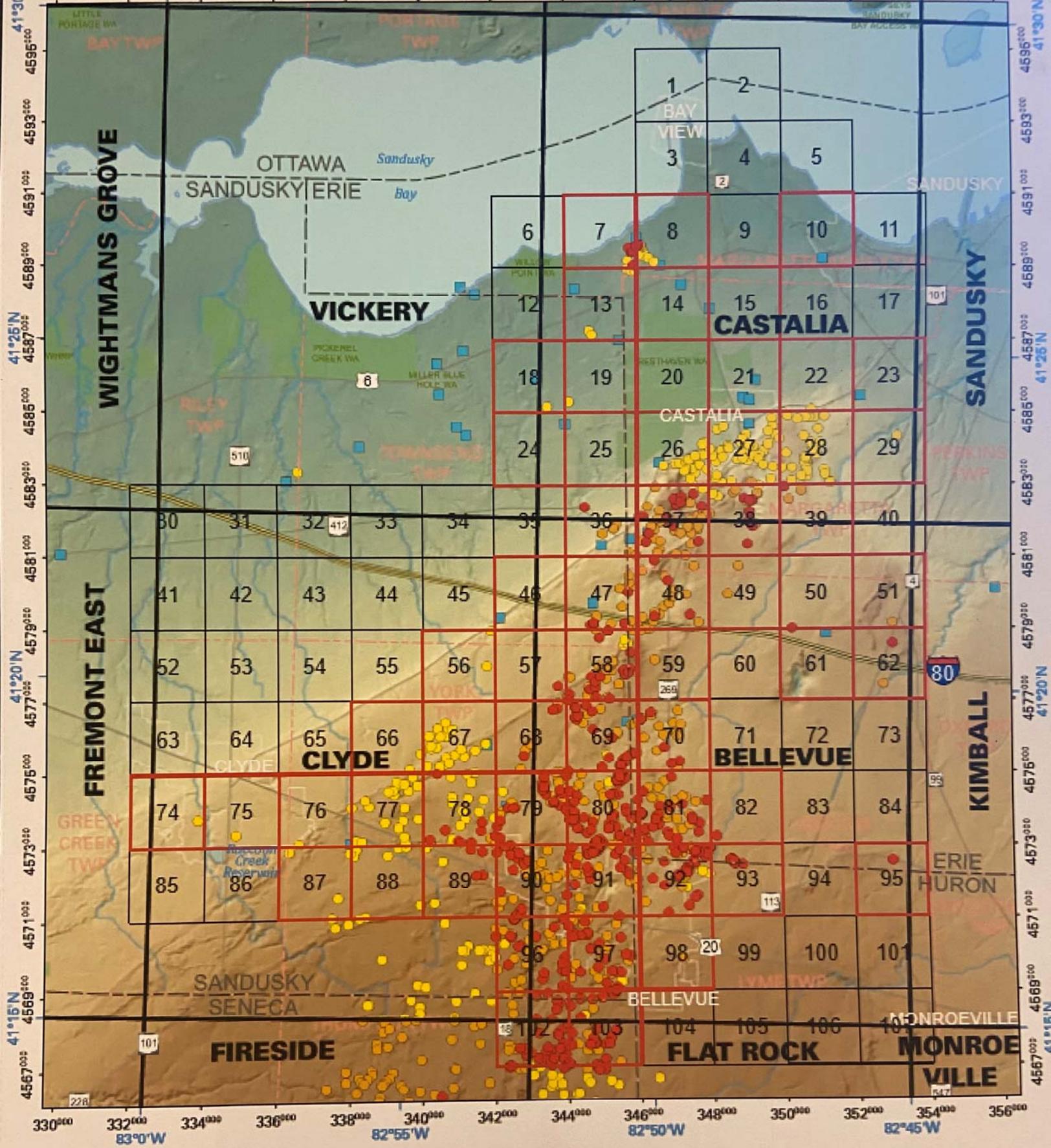
Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide input today and to follow up with a written account of some of my concerns. I look forward to working with you in a legislative capacity

to help improve this process for both developers and constituents. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Reineke". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

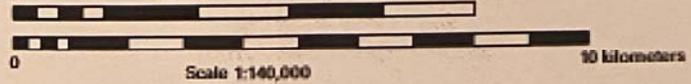
Bill Reineke



Tiles containing karst features  
 US National Grid

**KARST FEATURE**  
● Field verified  
● Suspect - field visited  
● Suspect - not visited  
■ Spring

**ELEVATION**  
 in feet  
 High : 784  
 Low : 554



Scale 1:140,000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N; Datum: North American 1983; Units: Meter