



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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LWVO Written Testimony
SB188 - WIND TURBINE SETBACK REVISIONS
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In contrast to natural gas, clean-modern renewable energy has hardly penetrated our state. At the end of last year we ranked 48th in renewable energy. Clearly the punitive setback requirements now in force are severely hindering expansion of wind energy in Ohio. Whereas gas wells can be 100 feet from a residence, wind farms must be 1300 feet from the nearest property line.

The most robust percentage renewable energy growth has been for solar, which forms a small fraction of the renewable mix. Biomass and hydroelectric form significant fractions, but their growth potential is limited. Significant further growth will have to come from wind, which already provides about half of our renewable energy. But wind has seen little growth for several years.

The last decade has seen major changes in electrical service. Modern natural gas plants are replacing antiquated coal plants. In Ohio natural gas has been favored with a low severance tax and short setback distances. Surely the hazards of a nearby gas well are greater than a nearby wind farm and the wind setback requirements can be eased by the levels specified in SB188.