

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 3**

*Senate Committee on Utilities, Technology, and Tourism*

*Tuesday, March 10, 2026*

Chairman Bradley and committee members, thank you for holding this hearing today and allowing me to speak in support of Senate Bill (SB) 3. I am grateful to my colleagues Senator Marklein and Representative Tranel for bringing this important legislation forward.

Throughout my time in the State Assembly, one of the top concerns I have heard from my constituents is the placement of industrial wind farms in our rural communities. Much of this concern centers on the lack of local control over these projects. I am pleased to support SB 3, which seeks to change that.

Current law prohibits the construction of large electric generating facilities unless the Public Service Commission (PSC) issues a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the proposed facility. This bill requires that any wind or solar project that will generate 15 megawatts or more be approved by the municipalities where the project will be built.

A few years ago, a foreign company, EDP Renewables, proposed a 98-megawatt Marathon Wind Farm in the Town of Brighton in my Assembly District and the neighboring Town of Eau Pleine. To say there was opposition from local residents would be an understatement. As this project was under 100-megawatts, it was not under the regulatory purview of the PSC. Due to the immense amount of opposition to this project, these towns enacted ordinances to placing restrictions on wind farms in their municipalities. This prompted a lawsuit from EDP challenging these ordinances. After significant legal expenses for the townships, the lawsuit was dismissed by a Marathon County judge.

However, this hard-won victory for the taxpayers in these two townships was short-lived. EDP sold the rights to Alliant Energy who now plans a 150-megawatt wind farm which is large enough for PSC regulation and escapes local regulation. This is not right. No matter the size of an industrial wind or solar project, it has an impact on neighbors and the community as a whole, and local officials should have a say in whether they are built in their communities. SB 3 does exactly that.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, on behalf of my constituents, I ask for your support of SB 3, and thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.