



WLWAG/GWAG

West Lincoln/Glanbrook Wind Action Group

January 1, 2012

The Honourable David C. Onley,
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Your Honour on behalf of the members of the West Lincoln Glanbrook Wind Action Group we respectfully request your support in our appeal to the Provincial of Ontario to enact the following moratorium on the current questionable development of industrial wind turbines:

That a moratorium be enacted on the development or operation of all industrial wind turbines within the Province of Ontario until a comprehensive, independent, and peer-reviewed scientific study can confirm that industrial wind energy projects do not pose a risk to the local community, the health of its citizens, property values and the rural natural environment.

To date some seventy nine municipalities from across Ontario have passed similar resolutions and bylaws calling on the Province to halt industrial wind turbine developments until the proper scientific studies are completed, including resolutions passed by the Township of West Lincoln, Township of Wainfleet and the City of Hamilton.

Locally the rural citizens of Niagara who have investigated the impacts of two proposed wind projects are shocked to learn the reality of serious negative wind turbine impacts from a multitude of first person accounts, reports and studies from around the globe. From major health impacts (sleep deprivation, headaches, nausea, tinnitus, dizziness, vertigo, tachycardia and panic attacks) to property value losses of 30/40 percent (if saleable at all) to major bird and bat kills, to even the loss of local political decision making makes the citizens are frightened and upset.

While the noble ideals enshrined within the Green Energy Act are to be commended, the inherent lack of due diligence on the part of the Province in their record breaking speed of passage, this Act is now evidenced in the recent Auditor General Report where he noted:

“no independent, objective, expert investigation had been done to examine the potential effects of renewable-energy policies on prices, job creation and greenhouse gas emissions”.

Furthermore while the Province of Ontario refuses to admit to any potential negative health impacts and the Canadian Wind Industry states no further studies are needed, the findings of an appeal of the Kent Breeze Wind Farm this past year by the Environmental Review Tribunal found otherwise where after hearing expert testimony from around the globe stated:

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“This case has successfully shown that the debate should not be simplified to one about whether wind turbines can cause harm to humans. The evidence presented to the Tribunal demonstrates that they can, if facilities are placed too close to residents. The debate has now evolved to one of degree”.

The Province and the Chief Medical Officer of Health however claims that no adverse health impacts will occur as this Province has enacted the most stringent setback requirements of 550 meters of turbines from residents but upon researching such matters we find this to be false and misleading. The growing body of adverse health impacts has resulted to the following setback recommendations between houses and wind turbines:

- British House of Lords call for a 2km setback
- French Academy of Medicine recommends 1.5 km setback
- New Jersey bill proposes a 2000’ setback
- World Health Organization recommends 1.5 mile setback
- Dr Sarah Laurie, Waubra Foundation in Australia recommends 10 km setback to Senate Inquiry

To put a face to the current Ontario victims suffering serious ill effects from wind turbines Stephana Johnson an eighty two year old grandmother and former educator has travel here today to highlight her plight of having to abandon her dream retirement home nightly in order to relieve her serious symptoms of “industrial wind syndrome” and get a decent nights sleep.

Currently Niagara citizens who reside in West Lincoln and Wainfleet are confronted with pending approvals of two industrial wind projects with the largest being the Niagara Region Wind Corporation which will be centered around the Wellandport area and will consist of 77, 3 MW wind turbines towering 607’ into the air or as high as a sixty storey building which is even taller than our local Skylon Tower landmark in Niagara Falls. The second project by IPC energy will locate another 5 five 1.8MW turbines in the western reaches of West Lincoln and another five in Wainfleet with these being some 475’ tall. We note that Niagara will be home to one of the largest wind projects in all of Canada and with the biggest turbines to date. Unfortunately reports show that larger turbines create greater low frequency sounds or vibrations (infrasound) which is shown to be the cause of so much of the associated health problems.

Your Honour the folly of Ontario proceeding with their current rush to industrialize rural Ontario with industrial wind turbines will be disastrous to the overall health and economic well being of this Province for as Prince Philip recently stated that wind farms are “absolutely useless, completely reliant on subsidies and an absolute disgrace” and that you’d have to believe in fairy tales in order to support them. Furthermore your Honour we recognize your reputation for recognizing the past social injustices of the native residential school system as being “shameful, disgraceful and disgusting” and upon review you will likewise conclude that the current Green Energy Act which is making people sick, forcing families to abandon their homes and tearing the social fabric of rural communities across the Province is no less a disgrace and in dire need of a moratorium and further study to restore justice and fair treatment for all Ontarians.

The truth about industrial wind turbines is widely known in the rural communities across Ontario that already suffer from turbines as evidenced in the last Provincial election where it was the principal defining issue and it was largely instrumental in the defeat of ten Liberal members of Parliament including three cabinet Ministers and notably the Minister of the Environment under whom the Green Energy Act is administered. Other wind energy opponents from across the Province would also like to convey their concerns to your Honour such as

Bill Palmer from Paisley in Bruce County where he wrote that “the turbines are already rooted, despoiling the landscape, making homes unsalable and making people sick”. He further went on to say:

“1812 may have been the year the Americans last invaded Canada, but now, 200 years later it’s the scourge of the wind turbines threatening our way of life. Along with the rest of the resistance fighters, I am proud to defend what matters from the falsehood and harm”.

In closing we note your Christmas message where you stressed the importance of being a good neighbour and undoubtedly the current application of the Green Energy Act is the source of the greatest conflict between neighbours in decades and hence we beseech your support of the proposed moratorium to assist in promoting a more fair, balanced and just form of government within the Province of Ontario.

Respectfully submitted

Neil Switzer
Chairman
West Lincoln Glanbrook Wind Action Group

Cc: Honourable James Bradley, MPP
Gary Burroughs, Regional Chair, Niagara Region
Lord Mayor Doug Joyner, Township of West Lincoln
Lord Mayor April Jeffs, Township of Wainfleet
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