

Dear APPEC and CCSAGE Members,

Let me begin this letter by congratulating all of you on the years of hard work that you've put into ensuring that we keep the County "Naturally Green". When I first sought this office more than two years ago, ensuring that the voices of County residents were heard was one of my primary reasons for throwing my name into the ring. You have pushed a major wind developer, the Ministry of Environment and the wind power lobby as far as anyone in Ontario has ever pushed them.

For that, you all deserve the thanks of a grateful County and a grateful province. You can set a precedent and give a little hope to other communities fighting the same fight that you are.

For what part I have played, I've considered it my duty to work closely with APPEC and CCSAGE, with the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists, the Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee and others to maintain the natural beauty of the County's Southern shore. As I said, it's a part of the reason that I sought to represent the County more than two years ago. In the time since, I've introduced bills, questioned Ministers, held a couple town halls and written more than a dozen pieces of correspondence to Ministers and the Premier on this issue.

Now, we come to what I hope is the final step in the process and that is the appeal scheduled to start this month in Toronto. What I, and others, find so unbelievable about this particular appeal is that the government of Ontario and the Ministry of Environment has come out and sided with a major wind developer instead of the residents and the democratically elected Council of Prince Edward County. The government has had many opportunities to admit fault and cancel the project. At every step of the way, it has failed to do so. Now, rather than simply allowing Gilead Power to appeal, the government has joined forces with Gilead and is using taxpayer resources to fight against Prince Edward County taxpayers.

Through your taxes, you are being asked to fund both sides of this appeal. That's not right.

It's when things are hardest that we find out who we can really count on. My constituents in Prince Edward County have been able to count on me from day 1. And I hope, as this appeal moves forward, I'll continue to justify that faith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Smith", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Todd Smith, MPP
Prince Edward-Hastings