

White Pines Wind Project

Being a newcomer to Milford, I have many concerns about the proposed White Pines Wind Project that is currently in the approval process.

When I first looked out on to the beautiful vista of the town from my new home, I just could not believe that our government would defy their own laws, and ever allow this picturesque heritage sight to be blighted by industrial wind turbines. From my perspective, this place is paradise! It's peaceful and serene, with quaint homes, and lovely nature all around. I don't take for granted at all the breath taking views from my vantage point. This is an incredibly gorgeous place in this world, there's no doubt about it! As a visual artist who understands aesthetics, I'm not ashamed to say that certainly, I do not underestimate what could be lost. Some may consider this kind of concern frivolous, but I'm sure they said the same thing when they tore down so many of our heritage buildings in Toronto in the name of progress. It was a travesty, and there's no changing that now.

Of far, far greater concern to me though, are the potential ill health effects on those living within proximity to the turbines. These have been well documented all over the world, even by those who welcomed the turbines onto their own properties at first. It is unbelievable to me that these would ever be allowed near young children, babies and the elderly. I thought our property would be far enough away that we would not potentially be exposed to the noise and vibrations that so many complain of if the plan was realized. I've recently learned that apparently not, the ill effects reach much much farther than I ever thought possible.

Then there's those trying to run small businesses in the area, B&B's, wineries, restaurants, producers of artisanal quality goods, etc. These are entrepreneurs trying to scrape out a living while pursuing their passion. This is not easy to do, and they contribute greatly to our quality of life. Also well documented is the ill effect on tourism experienced by communities that have these in their midst. The entire process is anti-democratic, with the Green Energy Act removing all local authority in decision making, and pitting neighbor against neighbor, rather than benefiting the entire community.

Industrial turbines cause harm to local wildlife, and kill migrating birds. These policies disregard all environmental laws already in place regarding the protection of habitats and species including endangered. Had the government spent just a tiny fraction of these funds to help people insulate their homes, get them as efficient as possible, perhaps build Geothermal units where suitable to serve communities, there would have been a huge benefit to all involved, and a sizable reduction in emissions. The extra savings in hydro costs alone could have helped communities to really thrive! These policies have been so destructive and divisive. This is a short term bubble with few people profiting at the cost of many. No one wants smog, and we all want to cut emissions, but this destructive technology is not the way!

I understand that pointing out hydro rates or the questionable value of wind turbines to energy supply are known to fall on deaf ears at the MOE, but this is Canada. We care about the less fortunate here! No one should have to decide between heating their homes or feeding their children. No one should have to put up with a technology in their midst that makes them and their families ill, when there are a variety of other ways to address emission reduction. No one should have to lose their jobs because of fleeing industry due to soaring hydro rates, or a slump in tourism due to the transformation of a once serene pastoral landscape into a migraine generating eyesore. I live in a democratic county. The people have spoken loud and clear. Is this the legacy you want to leave the coming generations? There is no shame in admitting that with new information, it is now realized that a technology that we once believed in is no longer suitable here for a variety of reasons, and therefore, a change in direction is needed. Coming to this realization is admirable in fact, it is brave and respectable. I will be the first

to applaud you! Throwing more good money at bad, while willfully ignoring the facts, is not. No, I must believe that most people who go into public service are not there to leave a destructive legacy. Please prove me right. You are here to serve the people, not the needs of foreign multinational companies who could not possibly care about our health or heritage or wildlife, as we do. It's a bad deal. I beg all involved to come to their senses, and do the right thing.

Thank you for your time,

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