



From the Office of the Mayor
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
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July 23, 2015

Sent by Fax and Email

Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

-and-

Honourable Glen Murray
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2T5

Premier Wynne and Minister Murray,

I am incredibly upset and discouraged that the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has issued a Renewable Energy Approval to *wpd White Pines Wind Incorporated* (*wpd*) for 27 industrial wind turbines in the south of Prince Edward County. This project is directly adjacent to the Gilead project, which the Environmental Review Tribunal and Court of Appeal recently confirmed would cause irreversible harm to endangered species. At least eight of the planned *wpd* turbines are located in the same designated Important Bird Area as the proposed Gilead project, and all are in the same bird, bat, raptor and butterfly immigration path aligning with Wolfe Island, Ernestown, and Amherst Island, all with or for planned wind turbines. This path has greater migration than the famous and protected Point Pelee National Park where, because of this same reason, your government does not intend to permit turbines. These areas are the habitat of dozens of endangered species.

Please understand my concerns that efforts to implement the Green Energy Act are becoming counter-productive through resulting negative impacts to endangered species, as well as the prosperity and well-being of rural Ontario Communities, and the province as a whole. I understand that the Green Energy Act has been much criticized by successive Auditors-General and the Ombudsman, and that the energy it produces is exported almost daily at significant financial loss borne by all of us in Ontario – a loss that up to 2013 amounted to \$2.6 billion according to the Auditor-General, and continues without foreseeable end.



The County of Prince Edward has become a high-profile destination for Canadians from large cities, who come to The County to escape industrialized areas for our magnificent scenery, welcoming hospitality and picturesque artistic and agricultural rural community, including a wine sector that is rapidly growing in popularity and prestige.

On behalf of our County, please hear my concerns. The implementation of the *wpd* project will cause devastating and irreversible consequences, including:

- destruction of our growing tourism sector
- damage to our wine and cider industries
- reduction in property values
- adverse health effects to some
- slaughter of birds, bats, raptors, butterflies and reptiles, including endangered species
- major financial problems to our Municipality as property values decrease and MPAC is forced to lower assessments
- destruction to of one of the most scenic and unspoiled rural areas in Ontario
- exposure of our residents to a minimum of 4000 journeys by oversized vehicles used in construction
- damage to our roads and infrastructure by way of at least 50 truckloads of concrete travelling our roads to construct the base of each turbine
- erection of industrial machines - which are taller than the Fairmont Royal York hotel in Toronto or the Ottawa Peace Tower - left in place to destroy our rural landscape, with no security provided for their removal
- risk of allowing *wpd* (and all wind and solar proponents) the right to assign their land leases to whomever they choose.

Our County will be left with the impossible task of attempting to mitigate and repair all this damage for which no binding legal obligation with security back-up is offered by, or required of, any wind or solar proponent.

On behalf of my constituents, I again insist that you consider our concerns that the Green Energy Act is discriminating against and destroying rural Ontario for the theoretical benefit of those who live in urban parts of the Province. This approach is so very contrary to the Acts and laws that were carefully and thoughtfully put in place to protect endangered species and the rights of individuals.

In an energy-rich Province such as Ontario, there is no justification for removing democracy at the level of the Municipality which can no longer decide for itself. And as such, it will be fought by as many rural municipalities as can be mustered; there are at present over 90 Unwilling Hosts, of which Prince Edward County is one, who believe the Green Energy Act to be a deliberate discrimination against rural Ontario. You have committed to listening to the local concerns of municipalities. I implore you to not only listen - but to truly hear our concerns - and discuss them with us. We are incredibly distraught over this decision and its devastating impact on our community.



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I invite you to discuss my concerns as expressed in this letter as soon as possible. As an interim gesture to demonstrate your recognition of the severe impacts of these projects, I ask that, at a minimum, you immediately place a moratorium on all major wind developments, including *wpd*, until the Green Energy Act is revisited and democracy is restored, while again allowing municipalities the right to decide for themselves whether or not to host these devastating projects which so greatly impact our economic viability.

Respectfully,

Mayor Robert L. Quaiff

Copy: Todd Smith, MPP Prince Edward-Hastings
 Members of Council
 Acting CAO James Hepburn
 Commissioner of Engineering, Development and Works Robert McAuley