



Frank Lasee

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



State Senator Frank Lasee's testimony for SB-71 to protect health and safety from harmful industrial wind turbines

In Glenmore, Wisconsin, several families have been forced to abandon their homes because of sickness caused by 500 foot tall industrial wind turbines too close to their homes. Alyssa Ashley, a 16 year old girl, had severe headaches and ear pain. She couldn't sleep at night. Her grades fell at school because she was sick and couldn't concentrate. Once her family abandoned their home and took on a second mortgage for a home away from wind turbines, her life improved. Unfortunately, her family and others across Wisconsin continue to suffer in their homes because of industrial wind turbines located too close to their homes. I don't want to see more stories like Alyssa's in the headlines.

It is the duty of every elected official to protect the health and safety of constituents. This legislation is urgently needed because current law prohibits towns or counties from enacting any ordinance that would protect people from negative health effects of wind turbines.

Under current law, no political subdivision can enact ordinances stricter than PSC-128, the current wind turbine siting rules. When PSC-128 was created in 2010, the scientific information about illnesses caused by new larger 500' tall wind turbines located too close to peoples' homes wasn't as well known. Since then, dozens of new peer reviewed studies show that there are harmful noise and other emissions from wind turbines. The PSC rules were not designed to protect against these issues.

It is well known that the rulemaking process is time consuming and the PSC has been unable to act quickly. This bill will give towns and counties the ability to quickly protect the health and safety of the people they are elected to protect.

This bill does not change the PSC wind siting process or the statewide PSC wind siting standards. It only removes the prohibition of towns or counties to enact ordinances that serve to protect public health or safety and this bill will not affect existing wind energy systems that have already been permitted.

Some have said that this bill will create a patchwork of regulations for wind energy systems. I want to clarify that under this bill PSC rules remain the statewide standard. This bill will only allow a government subdivision to enact an ordinance limiting wind turbine siting, **provided the intent of the ordinance is to protect public health and safety**. As the wind siting council and the PSC rules evolve to keep up with the health effects of wind turbines, and as the wind turbines themselves evolve to mitigate negative health effects, there will be fewer instances where an ordinance could be more restrictive and still serve to protect health and safety.

If wind developers can sufficiently demonstrate that their products do not harm people's health or safety, there would be no need for a more restrictive ordinance. This new law is needed to ensure that only safe wind energy systems are permitted in Wisconsin. Please support SB-71.



Testimony from Alyssa Ashley in Support of SB71

The last time I was in this building I was a 4th grader on a class field trip. I can't say I knew much about how the government worked, but the one thing I did know is that men and women who worked here were working to protect the citizens of Wisconsin. Today I'm here as a seventeen year old high school junior, asking for that protection.

As many of you may know, wind turbines and their improper placement have turned my world upside-down. Two years ago, I was suffering in my home near the Shirley Wind Farm with symptoms that were a rarity for me. It felt as though I had constant headaches, and my ears, which had never bothered me before, were frequently hurting and full of pressure. I also found that I was sleepy all the time, even after going to bed early and getting a full night of attempted sleep. Anything I did to feel better and to be less sleepy always seemed to fail, until I changed one factor. On May 8th of 2011, I left my home in Shirley after I realized I could sense with changing pressure in my ears that the wind turbines were turning on and off. I'd like to note that I couldn't see the turbines at the time, but I could feel them just as well. Because of others that were suffering in my family, we found it necessary to abandon the house we had built and called home for nine years. After leaving the area, our symptoms began to subside, and we felt better again. I could sleep, and the headaches and earaches were lessening with every passing day. My parents reluctantly bought a smaller house away from the turbines, after living all summer in our crowded camper. We have been living there ever since.

It's frustrating to live in a house that is less than half the size of the home we've been forced to abandon. It's also hard to watch my parents work so hard to pay two mortgages, one of those mortgages being on a house they can't live in. Because of wind turbines, my whole life has been uprooted. Even though we are healthy again, I always feel that there is a constant uncertainty in my life; not knowing where we'll be in a year or two from now. The small house we live in now? I can't seem to call it home, because my family and I didn't choose to live there, but were rather forced due to circumstances that we had no control over. Towns should have a right to control whether or not wind turbines should be constructed in their communities. Towns should not be forced to endanger the health and safety of the community members by placing turbines where they simply shouldn't be. The reality is, wind turbines that are placed too close to residents, as in my case and many others, are harmful and dangerous to the well being of those who live in proximity to them. Towns should have the right to use the knowledge and experience that we've obtained in the last couple years to make good choices and sound judgment when writing ordinances for wind turbines.

The health and well being of the Wisconsin people need your help and protection. Please strongly consider this bill, a bill that will protect people like me against the harmful effects of industrial wind turbines. I don't want to see anyone else go through what my family and I have had to go through. Thank you.



ANDRÉ JACQUE

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TO: Chairman Paul Farrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations,
Public Works and Telecommunications

FROM: Representative André Jacque

RE: Senate Bill 71: Limiting the regulation of wind energy systems by local governments

DATE: Wednesday March 13, 2013

Honorable Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 71 and to speak on the behalf of the hundreds of my constituents who have contacted me on this issue, and the more than 50 of my constituents who have filed affidavits documenting their debilitating health concerns, but who are unable to be in attendance here today. Their tribulations are very real. This legislation is a most reasonable request to allow local government officials to protect the safety and well-being of the residents they are elected to serve, in the face of rapidly mounting evidence of the serious health dangers posed by locating industrial wind turbines in close proximity to residences. This legislation is urgently needed to restore some semblance of local control for a most basic function of government, as current law prohibits towns or counties from enacting any ordinance stricter than the truly minimal standards of PSC 128 in order to protect people from the negative health effects of wind turbines.

When PSC-128 was pushed through by a wind siting council stacked with individuals with a direct interest in advocating for the wind industry, the research on illnesses caused by new, larger wind turbines in locations close to peoples' homes was not widely available. Subsequently, many new, credible, peer-reviewed studies have shown us that there are harmful noises and other emissions from wind turbines that the PSC rules did not even consider and were not designed to protect against. Indeed, the council position requiring a UW professor with a background in medical incidences relating to wind siting was admittedly never even properly filled. Bill Rakocy, the very developer applying for permits to site all three proposed new industrial wind farm in the state, in the towns of Mishicot, Sherman, and Forest, sits on the wind siting council to this very day and has since its inception. He is also the same developer who established the much-maligned Shirley Wind Farm in the town of Glenmore, despite the fact that it has since been sold multiple times, and he publicly refuses to acknowledge his responsibility for the project.

Recently, the results of the recent low frequency noise (LFN) study in the Town of Glenmore at the Shirley Wind Farm, conducted by a diverse group of scientists, provided tremendous validation to the many area residents whose health has been adversely affected by wind turbines. The consensus analysis compares the wind turbine LFN frequencies observed to those in a U.S. Navy study on how motion sickness could be induced on pilots, which they state "suggests adverse response to wind turbines is an acceleration or vibration problem in the very low frequency region." The investigators further "recommend[s] additional study on an urgent priority basis," specifically including "a Threshold of Perception test with participating and non-participating Shirley residents," and note that their findings may play a critical role in determining the very future of the industry.

I am appreciative of the PSC's willingness to investigate the incidence of debilitating low frequency noise and the dedication of the participating scientists. But great room for improvement remains regarding how wind energy systems affect human health and freedoms. Low frequency noise and infrasound are serious issues that are real to individuals whose lives are impacted, as are other negative effects that have more recently come to light.

For the past few years I have all too frequently heard the first-hand testimony of the physical and economic struggles of many of my constituents who inevitably turn to their local and state officials for protection when they suffer adverse effects of turbines located in close proximity to their homes. I fear these incidents will multiply quickly without state action. Local governments presently have a metaphorical gun held to their heads by PSC 128. The Town of Mishicot board has told me unanimously that they are being forced by the state to permit industrial wind turbines that they know will bring sickness to their community, foisted on them by the same developer of the Highland Wind project denied by the PSC and the Shirley Wind Farm already assaulting public health in Glenmore. The projects currently advanced by Bill Rakocy's company in the towns of Mishicot and Sherman take advantage of Federal PURPA regulations under EPA that guarantee a purchaser for their electricity. These 20 megawatt or less projects fall under the threshold of approval by the PSC, meaning that their town boards are afforded no real protection and are forbidden from placing reasonable restrictions based on public health, despite the fact that state setbacks are less restrictive than even the turbine manufacturer's recommended minimum safety guidelines.

It is essential that basic tools be given to local officials to make decisions in the interest of the public's health and safety. This bill does not change the PSC wind siting process or the statewide PSC wind siting standards. It only removes the prohibition of towns or counties to enact ordinances that serve to protect public health or safety.

On behalf of my constituents, I thank you for your attention and implore your prompt approval of this legislation.



**Testimony of Amber Meyer Smith, Director of Programs and Government Relations
SB 71
Senate Government Operations, Public Works and Telecommunications
March 13, 2013**

Clean Wisconsin is a non-profit environmental advocacy group focused on clean water, clean air and clean energy issues. We were founded forty three years ago as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade and have thousands of members around the state.

Clean Wisconsin opposes SB 71 because it is yet another attempt to end the wind industry in Wisconsin. Wind energy is an important part of our energy portfolio, and provides much cleaner energy than our traditional sources like coal. In addition, wind provides a way to keep dollars in Wisconsin for energy production – we currently send \$12 billion out of state to meet our energy needs. That is economic development and jobs that we should be keeping in Wisconsin; instead SB 71 will further cement our dependency on out-of-state fossil fuels.

Clean Wisconsin was heavily involved in passing 2009 Act 40, which saw bipartisan support from the Legislature. We are extremely disappointed to see the constant attacks on wind energy that persist and want our state to be able to move forward toward a clean energy future. Polling done by very credible Republican and Democratic polling firms just one year ago showed that 85% of Wisconsin voters support EXPANDING the use of wind power.

Wisconsin – Open for Business?

There is NO doubt that passage of this bill will have an immediately chilling impact on the wind industry. There are two pending projects that will be immediately jeopardized - the seven-turbine Beautiful Hills project in Manitowoc County and the four-turbine Windy Acres in Sheboygan County. There is little doubt that communities in these areas will immediately use the provisions of this bill to enact restrictions that will prevent those wind developments from occurring.

Last year when the Legislature suspended PSC 128, wind developers left the state citing Wisconsin's inhospitable regulatory climate. Five projects were ultimately suspended or cancelled last year alone because of the attacks on the industry and with those projects we lost hundreds of good paying jobs.

It is extremely ironic that the hearing on this bill comes just two days after a mining bill was signed into law that eliminates any meaningful input a local government could have on the siting of a mine, which could result in devastating impacts to health and safety. In fact, few industries are treated with such hostility as what is happening today with wind. There are no setbacks for coal power plants in Wisconsin, and only a 250 foot setback distance between a manure pit or stack and a well – both industries that have proven health impacts.

All we ask is that this Legislature gives wind a chance to thrive in Wisconsin and bring the thousands of jobs and economic investment we know it can to Wisconsin. An October 2011 Oshkosh Northwestern Editorial read "The limbo in wind farm rules is unacceptable for an administration touting that Wisconsin is open for business." We would echo those remarks today.

No Peer-reviewed Literature on Health Impacts of Inaudible Sound

In 2010, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health reviewed more than 150 scientific and medical reports related to wind turbines and public health. They sought the expertise of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and health departments in states with heavier reliance on wind energy. They concluded "current scientific evidence is not sufficient to support a conclusion that contemporary wind turbines cause adverse health outcomes in those living at distances consistent with current draft rules being considered by the Public Service Commission."

In April 2012, then DHS Deputy, now Secretary, Kitty Rhoades wrote that the "levels of noise, flicker and infrasound measured from wind turbines at current setback distances do not reach those that have been associated with objective physical health effects."

I want to be clear – there are NO peer-reviewed studies linking inaudible wind turbine sound to health impacts. Having something scientifically peer-reviewed is a crucial part of the scientific process that is used to help ensure the quality and integrity of scientific research by using independent experts to evaluate things like research design, data collection procedures, methods employed, the extent to which the conclusion flows from the analysis and the strengths and limitations of the overall product.

All of the studies we've seen attempting to link inaudible sound from wind to health impacts are either not peer-reviewed and mostly written by wind-opponents, or do not make any scientific link between the two.

However, 2009 Act 40 created a Wind Siting Council and charged it with surveying "the peer-reviewed scientific research regarding the health impacts of wind energy systems and study state and national regulatory developments regarding the siting of wind energy systems," and report those findings to the Legislature. In fact, the Wind Siting Council began that work in January, and is due to deliver a report in 2014, making action on this bill premature at best.

Low Frequency Sound Study at Shirley Wind Farm

I do need to clarify misstatements about the results of a low frequency sound study Clean Wisconsin was involved with late last year in the Highland Wind project. As part of the PSC's review of the Highland project, opponents to the project talked extensively about the health complaints of neighbors to the Shirley wind project outside of Green Bay. So the Commission asked for a study to be done of the sound levels at the homes where people have complained of impacts. This was a genuine effort by us to find out if there actually was something wrong with a turbine at the Shirley Wind Farm, and to maybe identify some isolated problem with sound levels that was causing so many complaints in the area that could be fixed.

Clean Wisconsin hired sound experts, one from California and one from the east coast that were experienced in measuring environmental noise, including low-frequency sound and infrasound. They were professionals in the area of measuring and modeling sound from all kinds of energy systems, including wind. In early December 2012, a crew went to the residences and measured sound levels.

After testing three homes near the Shirley Wind Farm, scientists were unable to identify any connection between the low frequency sound from wind turbines and the health complaints of residents. In the words of David Hessler, the lead investigator in the report, "the levels of low frequency noise from the project are quite low and nothing was found that would suggest a problem."

In a very unfortunate twist of events, what was a well-intentioned study to search for a cause to their complaints has been twisted by opponents as proof of health impacts from wind. The sound expert was appalled by this misinterpretation, and has been eager to set the record straight. He has publicly said "The reality is that no "dangerous levels of low frequency noise" were "verified", infrasound of "sufficient amplitude to reach the

threshold of hearing" was definitely *not* found and, although hypotheses were discussed by some team members, nothing was actually discovered that would explain to any degree the health complaints reported by residents."

Proven Health Impacts of Fossil Fuels

While all of this attention has been paid to the unproven claims of health impacts of wind sound, the health impacts of burning fossil fuels are widespread and well documented. The list of pollutants from coal plants is long: Mercury can lead to lower IQs and reduced memory in children, soot and smog pollution are responsible for premature deaths and thousands of asthma attacks a year. These impacts are well-documented and peer-reviewed, unlike claims about wind impacts. There is no doubt that coal power plants are threatening our children's and elderly population's health and damaging our environment for future generations.

This bill seems like an extremely dangerous path for the Legislature to go down. Will we also allow local communities to enact restrictions on coal-fired power plants? Nuclear plants? What about landfills, frac sand mines or iron mines?

Wisconsin needs to move forward toward a cleaner energy future, where our farmers and businesses can be helping generate energy – keeping the jobs and economic development in our state. SB 71 will shut the door to wind projects and to a potentially viable industry here in Wisconsin. Please oppose this bill.



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Public Works and Telecommunications

Chris Kunkle
on Behalf of the Wisconsin Energy Business Association*

Senate Bill 71
March 13, 2013

Chairman Farrow and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 71. I am testifying today on behalf of the Wisconsin Energy Business Association ("WEBA"), a coalition of over 60 businesses and organizations promoting reliable, secure, and cost-effective energy solutions to strengthen our economy and support market-driven innovation and supply chain growth in the energy sector. Our members include: Wondra Construction (Dodge), WES Engineering (Dane), Orchid Monroe (Green) and Kettle View Renewable Energy (Sheboygan).

In 2009, the state legislature decided, on a bipartisan basis, that like any other industry, the wind industry needed regulatory certainty. In order to take advantage of the ***economic development opportunities*** that wind energy offers, a stable business climate is essential. As directed by the legislature, and with all relevant stakeholders at the table, the Public Service Commission carefully crafted PSC 128, a balanced set of statewide standards for local permitting of wind projects under 100 MW. This rule protects the ***safety and rights of landowners and municipalities***, while also giving the wind industry the predictability it needs to develop projects in Wisconsin.

Senate Bill 71 would eliminate the regulatory certainty that a wind energy company needs before it makes the decision of when and where to invest in Wisconsin. Without the uniformity of PSC 128, developers will become subject to numerous different and restrictive local ordinances. Without stable guidelines, project costs and relative difficulty are increased. The proposal would have the ***immediate impact*** of putting two projects - one in Sheboygan County, one in Manitowoc County - in serious jeopardy, and the long-term implications for the industry in Wisconsin would be devastating.

From an economic standpoint, this proposal is a ***drastic step in the wrong direction for our state***. Creating such an inhospitable and unstable market for wind energy would have immediate detrimental consequences to the state economy, including **(1)** the loss of in-state manufacturing, transportation, project development & construction, and project maintenance opportunities; **(2)** the loss of jobs in businesses directly or indirectly connected to renewable energy development; **(3)** the loss of project revenues to host landowners, neighboring residences, and local governments; and **(4)** increased dependence on both electricity imports and out-of-state fossil fuel sources.

Wind energy development in Wisconsin has produced **well-documented benefits** to in-state manufacturers, construction companies, transportation businesses, and consulting engineers, as well as to rural landowners and governments. Wisconsin's largest wind energy facility, We Energies' new 90-turbine, 162-megawatt Glacier Hills project in Columbia County, created about 400,000 job-hours of construction activity. Combined, We Energies' two Wisconsin wind farms represent about a **\$700 million in capital investment**, and accounted for about 850,000 job-hours of construction work.

Additionally, the four wind projects in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties generate nearly **\$3 million per year in additional revenues** for local landowners and municipalities. This includes over \$600,000 each year to Fond du Lac County alone. These payments provide landowners and farmers with a **supplemental source of income** and help local municipalities hold the line on property taxes.

The bill would make Wisconsin an outlier in wind energy policy, thus decreasing our ability to compete with neighboring states. It would send a message to regional, national, and global companies that Wisconsin is hostile to the investment and employment that comes from clean-energy development within the state. **Wisconsin continues to fall behind** neighboring states in wind energy development. Indiana currently has over 1,500 megawatts of installed wind energy capacity, Minnesota and Illinois each have over 3,000 megawatts, and Iowa has over 5,000 megawatts. Wisconsin, once a leader in this area, has just over 600 megawatts of total wind energy capacity.

Wind energy component manufacturers and construction companies seek locations with **favorable business climates** near robust markets and existing infrastructure. They ask whether or not a state has such a climate in deciding where to locate their factories and projects. States such as Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas that have embraced stable wind energy regulations have reaped the benefits in terms of **job creation, investment, and economic development**.

During this slow economic recovery, policymakers should be embracing and promoting growth within an industry that **creates jobs** in Wisconsin, rather than pursuing policies specifically designed to inhibit its progress. The wind industry is thriving in neighboring states and **Wisconsin has the manufacturing, construction, and transportation infrastructure** required to support this industry here at home - we just need reasonable policies that work for the wind energy industry, not against it.

Accordingly, the Wisconsin Energy Business Association respectfully requests that the Committee not recommend this bill.

Thank you. I would be glad to answer any questions that Committee members may have.

* For additional information about the Wisconsin Energy Business Association, please contact Chris Kunkle, at 608.310.3338 or kunkle@cwpb.com

Written Testimony to the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Public Works, and Telecommunications from the Wind Industry

In Opposition to Senate Bill 71

March 13, 2013

PSC 128, Wisconsin's uniform wind siting rule, provides the regulatory certainty that our industry needs when deciding when and where to invest and develop wind energy facilities. PSC 128 was carefully crafted to protect landowners, while giving the wind industry a framework in which it could grow. Over a two year period, key stakeholders with diverging opinions developed the rule on a collaborative, compromise basis. After this comprehensive rulemaking and legislative-review procedure, the commonsense, reasonable provisions of PSC 128 are now law.

Unfortunately, Senate Bill 71, by allowing local governments to overturn PSC 128, would eliminate the most important component of PSC 128 - its uniformity - and return us to a patchwork of local regulations. It was this situation that led to bipartisan legislative authorization for the development of PSC 128 in the first place.

The provisions related to setbacks, noise limits and decommissioning in PSC 128 allow the Public Service Commission to protect the interest of landowners and local municipalities through a comprehensive review of the safety of proposed wind projects on a case-by-case basis, while still providing predictability to our industry. Without the uniformity component of PSC 128, companies looking to invest millions of dollars in Wisconsin would be subject to unpredictable local variations, increasing the difficulty and cost of project development.

Wisconsin has substantial growth opportunity in the wind industry that can contribute to the state's economic recovery. With its strong manufacturing and construction infrastructure and its proximity to load, companies like ours see development opportunities across the state. However, without regulatory certainty and a stable business climate, investment in Wisconsin would become a risky proposition. We need your help to ensure that Wisconsin can join its neighboring states and take advantage of the widespread economic development opportunities that the wind industry has to offer.

Signed By:

Vestas Wind Systems
NextEra Energy Resources
General Electric Company
Geronimo Energy
Element Power



222 S. Hamilton, Madison, WI 53703

**Statement of RENEW Wisconsin before the Government
Operations, Public Works and Telecommunications
Committee in Opposition to**

Senate Bill 71

March 13, 2013

Good afternoon, my name is Michael Vickerman, and I am submitting testimony today on behalf of RENEW Wisconsin, a nonprofit advocacy and education organization based in Madison.

Incorporated in 1991, RENEW acts as a catalyst to advance a sustainable energy future through public policy and private sector initiatives. We have over 250 total members, and more than 100 businesses around the state, including Bleu Mont Dairy (Mount Horeb), Crave Brothers Farm (Waterloo), Convergence Energy (Lake Geneva), Current Electric (Brookfield), DVO, Inc. (Chilton), Emerging Energies (Hubertus), Energy Concepts (Hudson), Full Circle Farm (Seymour), Full Spectrum Solar (Madison), Kettle View Renewable Energy (Random Lake), Michels Wind Energy (Brownsville), Morse Group (Beloit), North American Hydro (Neshkoro), Northwind Renewable Energy LLC (Stevens Point), Pieper Foundation (Milwaukee), Organic Valley (LaFarge), Quantum Dairy (Weyauwega), Renewegy (Oshkosh), SunVest (Waukesha), Symbiont (Milwaukee), W.E.S. Engineering (Madison) and Werner Electric (Neenah).

On behalf of all our members that have an interest in advancing clean, locally produced, cost-effective wind generation, RENEW Wisconsin took the lead in bringing together diverse groups and companies and forging a broad and bipartisan coalition to support legislation establishing statewide permitting standards for all wind generators in the state of Wisconsin. The fruit of that labor, 2009 Act 40, was signed into law in September 2009. As directed by the Wind Siting Law, the Public Service Commission promulgated PSC 128, a rule that sets forth uniform, science-based standards for local government review and regulation of wind power systems in Wisconsin. PSC 128 took effect on March 16, 2012.

In evaluating the merits of SB 71, RENEW asks the Committee to consider the following points:

- **In terms of setback distances as well as maximum allowable sound levels and shadow flicker duration, PSC 128 is the strictest statewide standard for permitting windpower systems in the United States.** The provisions in PSC 128 are, on balance, stricter than the conditions specified in the prior permits issued by local governments or the PSC.
- **The statewide rule is the culmination of two uninterrupted years of agency involvement in wind siting proceedings.** It is the product of a highly deliberative process that elicited substantial input from the Wind Siting Council and the public. The Siting Council looked at all the health-related studies that were in the public domain at that time, and tailored its recommendations accordingly. The record built on the major issues is nothing short of encyclopedic.
- **All 412 utility-scale wind turbines currently operating in Wisconsin were permitted before PSC 128 took effect a year ago.** Because PSC 128 does not have a track record, there is no factual foundation for asserting that PSC 128 inadequately protects public health and safety.
- An independent expert panel established by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Public Health gave wind a clean bill of health in January 2012, based on analyzing all available scientific studies. The agencies stated: **"There is no evidence for a set of health effects from exposure to wind turbines that could be characterized as a 'Wind Turbine Syndrome' ...we conclude the weight of the evidence suggests no association between noise from wind turbines and measures of psychological distress or mental health problems."** This is as true today as it was 14 months ago.
- **The PSC rule was intended to provide wind energy developers with regulatory certainty -- a clearly defined set of requirements which they must comply with in order to obtain a permit.** This lack of certainty and predictability in the local permitting process would be paralyzing to wind developers and would bring wind development to a standstill.
- **The PSC rule was intended to provide wind energy developers with regulatory certainty -- a clearly defined set of requirements which they must comply with in order to obtain a permit.** Allowing local governments to opt out of PSC 128 would undermine the chief rationale for the Wind Siting Law--uniform standards consistently applied across all jurisdictions in Wisconsin. This lack of certainty, consistency and predictability in the local permitting process would be paralyzing to wind developers and would bring wind development to a standstill.

- **Allowing local governments to opt out of PSC 128 would jeopardize current proposals that have been configured to conform with PSC 128.** It is extremely challenging to redesign windpower projects to meet different standards than those that informed the original proposal.

Restricting windpower development in Wisconsin will result in a net loss of construction and manufacturing opportunities in the clean energy sector, dry up investment and business start-up opportunities here at home, deprive local governments of a stable source of local payments, and force young adults committed to this career path to relocate to other states. In addition, passage of this bill would further exacerbate Wisconsin's dangerous overreliance on imported fossil fuels, causing certain environmental harm.

For the reasons enumerated above, RENEW Wisconsin urges rejection of SB 71.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Vickerman
Program and Policy Director
March 13, 2013

Testimony of the American Lung Association in WI
Dona Wininsky, Director of Public Policy & Communications
3/13/13
Re: SB71

The American Lung Association in Wisconsin would like to go on record as opposing SB71.

Unfortunately enactment of this bill delays, if not postpones, the day that counties like Brown - that have received a failing grade in our annual "State of the Air" report card for particle matter - will ever get to a passing grade of any kind.

In the 2012 State of the Air Report, the following failing or near failing grades were given for ozone:

Door County - D
Kenosha County - F
Manitowoc County - D
Milwaukee County - D
Ozaukee County - D
Racine County - D
Sheboygan County - F

For particle pollution in addition to Brown County:

Dane County - F
Milwaukee County - F
Outagamie County - F
Waukesha County - F

These grades were given because these counties exceeded the federal standard for healthy levels of these pollutants as many as 21 times. These pollutants come from a variety of sources, but one of the top culprits is coal-fired power plants. Every effort should be made to balance Wisconsin's energy needs with a practical and balanced energy portfolio that includes renewables such as wind and solar.

The PSC rules were a real compromise - they established a level playing field for companies looking to site wind farms. There were numerous public hearings that allowed ALL voices to be heard. If this rule is overturned or undermined by local units of government we greatly fear that it will drive all wind projects out of Wisconsin, creating an even greater reliance on coal for our energy needs. This has already happened several pending projects. This means more federal regulation, more rules for individuals and businesses to cope with to meet pollution standards, and most importantly, more people struggling to breathe because of poor air quality.

This bill would directly impact the following sampling of people who belong to at risk groups for air pollution (at risk includes elderly, and people with asthma, COPD and cardiovascular disease):

Brown County - nearly 74,000 residents

Door County – over 19,000 residents
Sheboygan County – 30,600
Milwaukee County – 453,000
Kenosha County – nearly 80,000
Waukesha County – 213,000
Dane County – 261,000

While wind power in itself is not the answer to our ozone and particle pollution problems, it is part of the solution, especially for at risk populations that have significant problems with ozone and/or particle pollution like the counties and populations mentioned earlier.

The rule isn't perfect, but it does set statewide standards and a compromise that the vast majority of Wisconsin residents can live with. Passage and enactment of this bill undermines those standards and continues to place sensitive populations at risk to greater health problems than they already have.

To: **The Committee on Government Operations, Public Works, and Telecommunications**

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you concerning "2013 Senate Bill 71".

I strongly encourage you to support this bill because I believe passage of the bill is a **justice issue**. The State of Wisconsin needs to restore to county, municipal and town governments, the legal right to protect the health and safety of their citizens against wind developers and utilities, such as WE Energies, that in my experience, have demonstrated little, if any concern for the health of non-participating landowners who live within their wind generating stations.

I address you today from two, somewhat unique, levels of real life experiences that few, if any, wind industry experts have an actual and personal experience base to speak from:

First – I spend, almost exclusively, my 24 hour days, hour after hour, day after day, week after week, since October of 2011, surrounded by very large commercial wind turbines; and,

Second -- I am a member of the Town of Scott "Town Monitoring Committee" whose mission is: "where circumstances warrant, will attempt to assist residents in the resolution of concerns relating to the Glacier Hills Wind Park".

These experiences provide me with ongoing insights into the lack of concern We Energies exhibits for the concerns and health of non-participating landowners living in close proximity to its turbines.

From the beginning of turbine operation I experienced difficulty sleeping at night. I do not have just one turbine nearby....I am surrounded by several of them in a triangular pattern....the closest turbine (Turbine #48) is 1265 feet from my bedroom windows. I have turbine noise in my home regardless of the wind direction. When turbine blades are moving, I usually have disturbing noise. Noise output and reception in the midst of several surrounding turbines is much greater than from a single turbine.

My health issues to date caused by the turbines are these:

- 1) I do not sleep well anymore. Frequently I must resort to sleeping in a basement storage room without any windows to avoid the turbine noise and get uninterrupted sleep; and,
- 2) I now have a constant, high pitched tone in both ears that I noticed the second week of November, 2012. I have never had a condition like this before. I have been to my local clinic for a medical examination, but they could find no problem in my ears. I have an appointment for hearing tests at the Portage Hospital on March 21st, 2013.

In my estimation, the reason for many problems, including health problems, at Glacier Hills is the lack of trust and charity exhibited by WE Energies toward some of the non-participating landowners who have and are suffering aggravation, hardships and health problems due to the proximity of the wind generators to our homes and businesses. I have difficulty getting a healthy night's sleep due to the wind generators awakening me multiple times during the night. I never experienced ongoing sleep problems of this sort before the windmills arrived. The PSCW has ruled that non-participating landowners can stand up to 50 decibels of wind generator sound from a minimum distance of 1250 feet. Therefore, WE Energies simply ignores any claims concerning these sleep interruption problems and protests any claims of culpability in them. Why? Because they can....and, they can get away with it.

Passage of this legislation holds a real opportunity of returning my personal health, and that of others. We could have the opportunity to discreetly regulate, at a local level, certain unhealthy situations within the wind park with great improvements in the health of town residents.

I am including, for your review, copies of:

- A complaint I filed in September 2012 with the Wisconsin Public Service concerning the sleep disturbing noises I experience at night from the wind turbines; and,
- My testimony before the Wisconsin Public Service Commission in October of 2012 concerning the health and noise problems occurring at Glacier Hills Wind Park. This will provide a more detailed and in-depth picture of the health issues still occurring at the Glacier Hills Wind Park.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Bump', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Jeffrey Alan Bump
N9093 County Road E
Scott Township
Cambria, WI 53923

March 13th, 2013

File a Complaint On-Line

Consumer Complaint Receipt
Thank you.

A consumer specialist will review your complaint and contact you if further information is necessary. Though the Public Service Commission cannot resolve every complaint to the customer's satisfaction, it does act promptly on complaints and makes every effort to see that they are handled fairly.

Most of the complaints the PSC receives are resolved in an informal manner through discussions involving the customer, the company, and PSC staff. However, if these efforts are not satisfactory, the staff can provide you with information on how to obtain further review of your PSC complaint.

The following complaint has been successfully submitted...

09/20/2012

Jeffrey Bump
N9093 County Road E
Cambria, WI 53923
Home Phone: (920) 348-6433

Utility Name: Wisconsin Electric - WE Energies
Are you subject to disconnection? No
Have you contacted the utility regarding the issue? Yes
If yes, date: Multiple times during the previous 12 months
If yes, person you spoke to: Louis Caracci

Wind Turbine #48 and Turbine #47 of the Glacier Hills Wind Park are making four noises tonight that awoke me from a sound sleep at 2:06 a.m. this Thursday morning (9-20-2012)...and are preventing me from going back to sleep. I laid in bed until 3:25 a.m. and finally arose because the constant noise was keeping me from sleeping. The four noises are, as best I can describe them: 1) a rhythmic pulsating noise, that sounds like a flight of jet aircraft circling over my house (from previous instances this noise seems to be the turbine's blade tips cutting thru the air as they turn); 2) a low tone, a constant hum that also pulsates and sounds like industrial noise or the constant sound of tires going down a road; 3) a higher pitched tone, hum or whining that is also constant (but does not pulsate or vary much in tone) and sounds similar to large electric motors operating or the high pitched sound of high speed vehicle tires moving on a highway in the distance, but never moving anywhere; and, 4) a "fog horn" sound that is intermittent, but sounds about every 45 to 60 seconds from each turbine (this was explained by WE Energies to be the sound of the hydraulic pump/system operating). I cannot go anywhere on the ground floor of my home, which includes my bedroom and escape these noises. I cannot sleep tonight because of the constant noise and the variety of noises these wind turbines are making.

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN**

**Application of Highland Wind Farm, LLC for a
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity
to Construct a 102.5 MW Wind Electric
Generation Facility and Associated Electric Facilities, Docket No. 2535-CE-100
to be Located in the towns of Forest and
Cylon, St. Croix County, Wisconsin**

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY BUMP

Q. Please state your name.

A. Jeffrey Bump.

Q. What is your current address?

A. N9093 County Road E, Scott Township, Cambria, WI 53923

Q. How long have you lived there?

A. We built this home fourteen years ago when we moved from Waupun, Wisconsin. One of the main reasons we moved and built at this location is because this was an exceptionally quiet area.

Q. Do you have a family living there with you?

A. Yes, my wife and I live here, plus two daughters.

Q. Are you employed?

A. Yes, I have my own businesses and work from home. My businesses are: a web development company that is a sole proprietorship; a Wisconsin C corporation that sells work wear online and thru a retail store location of which I am the President and Treasurer and hold all of the stock; and a Wisconsin LLC that sells work wear online of which I am the managing member and majority owner. All these businesses are very dependent upon high speed internet.

Q. How far did you go in school?

A. I completed the 12th grade at Randolph Public High School, although two of my high school years were at Divine Word Seminary at East Troy, Wisconsin.

Q. What was your educational training?

A. I completed a 4 year apprenticeship and received my Journeyman Lineman rating with Wisconsin Power & Light Company at 22 years old. I also completed a variety of supervisory, management and technical courses at a variety of colleges and technical institutes during my employment at WP&L. Several years ago I completed a course in basic web design offered thru MATC at Portage, WI.

Q. What does your wife do for a living?

A. My wife is a Fourth Grade Teacher at Randolph Grade School and holds a Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree in Elementary Education K-12.

Q. Have you ever worked for a utility?

A. Yes, I worked for Wisconsin Power and Light for 23 years, beginning as a lineman in Beloit, Fond du Lac, and Delavan....then as a supervisor of the electric and natural gas systems and local office in Darlington....then as the manager in charge of the WP&L natural gas and electric systems for Waupun, Fox Lake, Randolph, Cambria and Friesland, with offices at Waupun and Fox Lake, and the WP&L wholesale power services representative to the Waupun Public Utilities, and the Beaver Dam District Safety Supervisor....and finally as the industrial and commercial services representative for electric, natural gas, water and energy efficiency services for the Ripon District, and the WP&L wholesale services representative to Pioneer Power & Light Company of Westfield and the Princeton Municipal Electric Utility. In the deregulated long distance industry I was a 50% owner and manager of a long distance telephone marketing company doing business in Wisconsin. I was also employed by TCC/Powercom, a regional long distance, internet and local services telephone company doing business in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois, as its Senior Sales Manager and rate designer in charge of all in-house and agent sales forces. A few years ago, I was part of an internet consulting group named "airNetwurX" that was designing a rural secure high speed internet backbone and distribution system for a Wisconsin regional railroad.

Q. Do you live near any industrial wind turbines?

A. Yes. We live in the footprint of the Glacier Hills Wind Farm in the Town of Scott, Columbia County. This project is owned by We Energies. The closest wind turbine to our house is turbine #48 and it is only 1265 feet from our bedroom windows. There are four others opposite it, the closest being turbine #47 which is approximately 1800 feet away, and three more in another direction, the closest being turbines #49 and #50, approximately 2300 feet away. Our home is surrounded, triangulated, by wind turbines.

Q. Have you lived there since the project was completed and the wind turbines became operational?

A. Yes, years before, during and after construction and operation.

Q. Have you or any members of your family experienced any health problems that you feel may be caused by the turbines?

A. Yes. When the turbines are operating, I have difficulty sleeping because of the noise caused by the turning blades of the wind turbines as the blade tips cut thru the air. Year around, turbine blade noises are most noticeable in the afternoon/evening when the wind picks up as the sun sets and continue thru the night into the morning until the sun rises higher and the wind decreases. (This summer one of the welcome characteristics of the entire Glacier Hills Wind Park has been on these extended periods of hot days, the wind turbines have been operating slowly or virtually motionless because there was no wind. Although I am not a fan of hot weather, I did enjoy the reprieve from the turbine blade noise this summer!) In the fall, winter and spring the noise was most noticeable because of the many changing weather fronts passing thru with accompanying winds and the seasonally higher winds.

With the higher winds of November, December and January, the blade tip noise is most offensive and sounds like flights of jet fighter planes circling our home day and night. It is a loud and continuous "shwoosh, shwoosh, shwoosh" coming from multiple turbines. The noise is not one continuous tone. It is a pulsating sound that is loudest just as the tip of each blade passes closest to the house. In many cases, the tips of each blade are travelling at speeds of over 100 miles per hour as they cut thru the air. When the turbines turn into a north or northeast wind, which is predominant during the winter, or a south or southeast wind, the spinning blade tips of #48 and #47 point directly at my bedroom windows causing the loudest and most annoying noise. When the attitude of turbines #49 and #50 is into an easterly or westerly wind, those turbine tips are pointed at my other bedroom windows. So, regardless of wind direction, because we are surrounded by turbines, one or more turbines disrupt our peace.

The blade noise has been most severe in the fall and winter, and is true whether the bedroom windows are open or not. In the summer, we like to sleep with open windows and catch a cool night breeze. But, many times the wind turbine noise is quite loud and we have to close our windows and turn on the window air conditioner, which muffles the turbine noises and allows me to sleep. I am able to sleep with the air conditioner operating because that sound is a constant tone.

Even if our windows are closed, the noise is disruptive. We have double pane windows, but they do not reduce the sound to a level that permits me to sleep.

In winter, if the temperature is around freezing and the humidity is high and the air is "thick", the blade tips make an even louder noise than usual as they cut thru the damp cold air.

Q. Where do you sleep?

A. I would prefer (and do try) to sleep in my bedroom, but all bedroom windows face turbines in all directions. Often I must arise and leave my bedroom to go to a windowless, quiet, basement storage room in the basement where I have set up a single bed. I have tried to sleep in other rooms, but when the turbines are noisy, I get the best sleep in that basement room. I have been able to sleep in my bedroom more frequently this summer because of the extreme heat and the many no or low wind days, because we operated the window air conditioner in the bedroom more often which did mask the turbine noises. I did sleep in the basement more frequently this last fall, winter and spring because the turbine noise prevented me from falling asleep or awoke me while sleeping in my bedroom. During that period, I grew weary of having to change sleeping rooms during the night, so I began watching the weather reports and if wind was in the forecast, I began my night's sleep in the closed basement room and experienced a complete night of restful sleep.

Q. Does your wife have difficulty sleeping?

A. No, she has diminished hearing in one ear, so she sleeps with her good ear on the pillow and does not seem to be bothered a great deal by the turbine noise, although she has complained of some evenings when she could not sleep, but has not been able to explain why.

Q. Did you have problems sleeping before the turbines became operational?

A. No, I did not. Our neighborhood was remarkably quiet before the turbines arrived.

Q. Do you now whether We Energies has ever taken sound measurements at your home?

A. Yes, they did, with my permission, on our front lawn, and recently offered to share the results with me. That sound study was conducted in February of this year (2012) during one of the warmest winter periods on record, with low winds and few weather fronts passing though. We Energies couldn't have asked for a more calm winter period to take sound tests and get passable results. I believe that the measurements show that the noise levels are within the levels agreed upon by the township in its Joint Development Agreement with WE Energies and approved by the WPSC....but to me that is irrelevant. The standards are inadequate when the noise from turbines near a non-participating landowner's home prevents the occupants of that home from getting a good night's sleep. I

also believe the standards are inadequate when applied to a home that is completely and closely surrounded by multiple wind turbines. The individual turbine noise may be within limits, but the combined noise of multiple turbines is very offensive. The results of the entire sound study will be reviewed at the Scott Town Hall on September 10th and I will be in attendance.

Q. Do the turbines cause you any other problems?

- A. As loud as the volume of the noise is, that is often not the biggest problem. A larger problem can be the fact that the noise is not a steady tone, but instead is a rhythmic 'whooshing' as the blades turn. That regular rhythmic wooshing is a great annoyance, not only making it difficult to sleep, but it also causes difficulty with concentration when a person is trying to read, work or think.

There is another turbine noise caused by the single hydraulic pump and hydraulic system located in the nacelle at the top of the turbine. This hydraulic system handles the pitch of the blades and the yaw of the nacelle. When that single hydraulic pump is handling all the pitch and yaw demands of the hydraulic system, it makes sounds very similar to a nautical foghorn. This foghorn sound occurs frequently, all thru the day and night, regardless of wind or no wind, because the hydraulic system is constantly working to maximize the efficiency of the blade pitch and the nacelle yaw even on windless days and reacts to the slightest of breezes. Sometimes on a night when the turbine blade noise is low, just when I am about to fall into sleep, the turbines #48 or #47 "foghorns" will sound. These startle my mind and then I begin to notice the swooshing noise of the blades and I wake up and cannot easily fall back to sleep. When this happens I usually have to add noise to the room, such as a fan or air conditioner in the summer, or go down to the basement to escape the noises and fall asleep.

Additionally, especially during December nights when the air is very humid and cold, the blades develop a coating of ice. When the blades contort and shed the ice, there is very loud banging sound, as if you are inside a metal stamping factory. This loud noise repeats as the ice builds up and then the blade tries to rid itself of the ice.

Q. Do the turbines cause any additional problems?

- A. Yes, my neighbors and I have had difficulty receiving a usable and constant 3G signal for our Internet services, and the wind turbines cause problems for many cell phone users in the wind park. There have been many complaints to WE Energies on a monthly basis about cell phone reception problems.

Q. Why do you think the turbines are causing this problem?

- A. My businesses are heavily dependant upon a good internet service. Because we are a rural area, our only reasonable and available high speed business options are

satellite and 3G wireless internet services. The businesses were using satellite internet service, but had upgraded to a new online customer service and order processing system which required a faster connection than satellite provided. We had subscribed to and tested a 3G wireless service originating from a tower about 7.5 miles away near Pardeeville. We conducted a dual service comparison test for a month and the 3G service consistently outperformed the satellite service and we experienced no 3G service problems. Based upon this positive test, and the repeated reassurances of We Energies that the turbines had not caused any problems for cellular services at their Blue Sky-Green Fields wind park near Fond du Lac, we canceled the existing satellite service and began functioning solely on the 3G Internet services....which performed wonderfully.

Two weeks later, when the remaining wind turbines were turned on, our 3G service began experiencing service interruptions and difficulties re-acquiring service from the tower. The 3G service was now far worse than the satellite had ever been, and there were days when it was basically unusable.

Also, before the turbines became operational my family had no problems with cell phone service inside or outside our home. Two years ago, we disconnected our personal land lines and have been using cell phones for all non-business telephoning....we had no cellular phone problems. When the turbines began operation last fall, cell phone reception problems immediately began inside our house (and at our neighbor's homes).

I contacted WE Energies and complained that their turbines were causing problems for my businesses and my ability to earn a living and support my family....and we were also having cell phone problems. A WE Energies manager brought over a radio/cellular signal amplifier for me to test. The signal amplifier solved the problem, so my business purchased a signal amplifier for use in our home and that brought our service levels back up to pre-wind turbine levels.

There are five homes, including my home, on the northern most portion of the wind park, four of which use 3G Internet and/or cellular phone services for business purposes. All of these homes/businesses experience similar 3G and cell phone problems. One of the home businesses purchased a very high quality and expensive signal booster, but even that has not solved the problem nor provided signal that lasts more than several minutes or is usable....nor returned the service to pre-wind turbine levels.

We Energies denies its wind turbines cause any cellular telephone or 3G Internet interference or service problems. They hired consultants to do a cellular phone signal study and have indicated that study vindicates them and have filed that study with the WPSC.

In early March 2012, Cable Circuit #4, which services the turbines #48, #47, #79, #45, #136, #87 and #44 (the turbines that are closest to, and mainly interfere with

these 5 homes) experienced a severe problem (an “explosion” in the words of a WE Energies’ employee) and that cable feed was de-energized for about a week. This meant that the turbine blades were not turning (probably locked down) and the power transformers in the nacelle of each wind turbine were de-energized and not emitting electromagnetic fields. Now, neither the spinning blades nor the energized transformers could interfere with any cellular or 3G radio signals. Amazingly and miraculously, during the six days when these turbines were de-energized and out of service....the five homes and businesses experienced a return to trouble free cell phone and 3G Internet service with the signal amplifiers turned off! We had no problems, good signal, no drops, or interruptions, etc. I have multiple records of Internet speed tests, and eye-witnesses that can attest to these statements. When the Cable Circuit #4 was repaired and the wind turbines were put back in service, the problems immediately returned and the signal amplifiers were again necessary. Common sense and solid reasoning indicate this is not simply a coincidence and the wind turbines are negatively impacting our cellular and 3G radio signals!

Q. Have you brought this problem to the attention of the company?

A. Yes, we have, on multiple occasions. When Glacier Hills was approved a dispute resolution committee called the Glacier Hills Wind Park and Town Monitoring Committee, was formed as part of the Joint Development Agreement, and I was appointed to serve on that committee as a non-participating landowner representative. In late 2011, these cellular and 3G signal problems were brought to this committee by several residents, and to the attention of We Energies. The Town Chairman wrote an email to WE Energies indicating the committee believed the JDA required WE Energies to fix these signal problems at its expense for three of these homes. We Energies did not answer the e-mail and has never formally responded to the e-mail, but has chosen to simply ignore the problems and its responsibilities. To this day, We Energies continues to ignore the committee and the problems of these homes and businesses.

Q. Do you have any other comments?

A. Yes. I am one of a very small group of people that live, work and sleep – 24 hours each day and 7 days each week – surrounded by wind turbines that are operating in very close proximity to me. My daily work is done in my home office, 5 to 6 days each week, my non-working hours are usually spent on my property or very close to it, and I sleep nights at home. I used to sleep well each night in a very quiet setting inside a rural Amish Community that the State of Wisconsin, Scott Township and We Energies have now turned into a noisy industrial park. To the best of my knowledge none of the people, governments, organizations and companies who so loudly support wind energy, actually live inside a wind park surrounded by multiple 2MegeWatt generators, 410 feet high....and they do not have to listen to the real noise night after night. These people have many studies, reports and white papers to advance their beliefs that

wind turbines are not noisy and do not affect people's health. They are incorrect. Wind turbines make a variety of noises, are loud, and are disruptive to the overall peace of a neighborhood most of their times of operation....day or night....and are just plain "bad neighbors".

Q. Is your testimony in the matter true and correct to the best of your knowledge?

A. Yes.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.



Dedicated to making sure that wind turbines get sited the *RIGHT WAY*.

The Windmill Ghetto

8 Reasons why you should support SB 71

1 – Siting Turbines in developing areas causes all other economic activity to stop. Wind developers in Wisconsin have targeted the fast growing Fox Valley region for their planned construction. Calumet County's population alone is expected to grow by 56% in the next 25 years.

2 – Property Values plummet when Wind Turbines come to a neighborhood. A comprehensive appraisal study done in Fond du Lac County shows those landowners within 2 miles of a wind development will see *land values drop by an average of 40%*. This will create a "windmill ghetto" covering tens of thousands of acres. Within these wind farms no building can or will occur.

3 – Each turbine is heavily subsidized with Federal Tax Dollars. Higher taxes and higher interest rates from exploding Federal debt will suppress job creation. GE is building a wind farm in Oregon with \$1.2 billion in tax subsidies out of a total cost of \$1.9 billion. The Manhattan Institute concludes that federal subsidies for wind amount to \$6.44 per million BTUs. The price for a million BTUs from coal was just \$2.27. This "scam" is costing all taxpayers an enormous amount of money and not resulting in the closing of a single coal-fired power plant.

4 – Building turbines at this time will cost ratepayers money. The Heritage Foundation found that electricity generated by *wind is more than double the cost* of coal generated power - \$78/ MgW v. \$177/MgW.

We have an energy surplus in this state of around 25%. The cost of each new generation facility being built now will somehow need to be paid. Data from the PSC suggests nearly \$2 billion in capital expenditures would be necessarily to carry out the state's current 10% renewable mandate. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel highlighted that Wisconsin has the highest electric rates in the Midwest. The windmills drive costs up and make us even less competitive.

5 – Green job "creation" causes a net job loss. Spain was one of the most aggressive builders of wind turbines. However, a recent Juan Carlos University study concluded that Spain had lost 9 jobs for every 4 green jobs it had created. Two-thirds of all green jobs were in construction only. Subsidies added up to 1 million Euros per wind energy job created. If the subsidies were translated into electric rates, those rates would have risen by 31%.

6 – Wind turbines do not produce effectively in Wisconsin. The turbines in Wisconsin run only about 22% of the time. Turbines in the Dakotas run about twice as much. Wisconsin turbines are even MORE in need of subsidies and will cost the economy even more than turbines built out west, where the wind is stronger and there is less interference with other economic activity.

7 – Why should wind developers get preference when all others must comply with local planning and zoning? If your local business wanted to put up 90 towers, 500 feet tall, less than a quarter mile from your child's school, you would want a local zoning meeting to understand if this is the best idea for your town. Wind developers are completely exempt right now from local input of ANY kind.

8 – Health and Safety. As others have said today, the current state standards are not safe for all citizens in all locales. It is only common sense that some local governments will choose to be home to turbines and in other cases they will not.

For more information please contact our representative: Bob Welch - 608.819.0150

CREATING THE WINDMILL GHETTO

They say a picture is worth a thousand words.

This map illustrates the property rights issue for neighbors of industrial wind turbines.

Under current PSC siting regulations, turbines can exist 1000' from a home and about 500' from a property line.

Thus the person that owns parcel "A" can site a turbine and collect the contracted payments from a wind developer.

The Owners of Parcels "B", "C", "D", and "E" have their **right to build a home anywhere in the yellow circle taken from them without any compensation.** Even worse, they cannot appeal to any local government or planning committee. They have no say whatsoever in this "taking"!

Thus an owner of 23 acres can "take" the right to build a home or office from an additional 50 acres that is owned by his neighbors.

Under current law, local governments do at least have the right to ensure public health and safety and many have used that authority to make sure that yellow circles don't pop up in their communities.

Statewide siting preemption would remove even this small amount of local control from our Wisconsin communities.

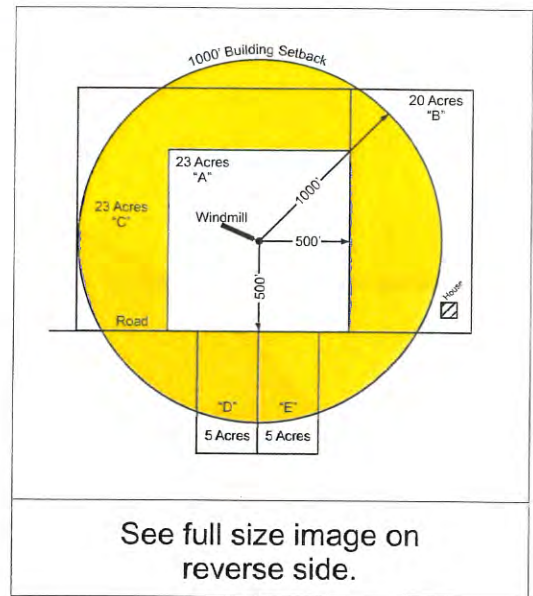
The theoretical environmental benefits of siting industrial wind turbines go to the entire planet. But the costs are overwhelmingly borne by neighboring landowners in terms of plummeting land values, loss of control over their property, and noise effects that can have long term health consequences.

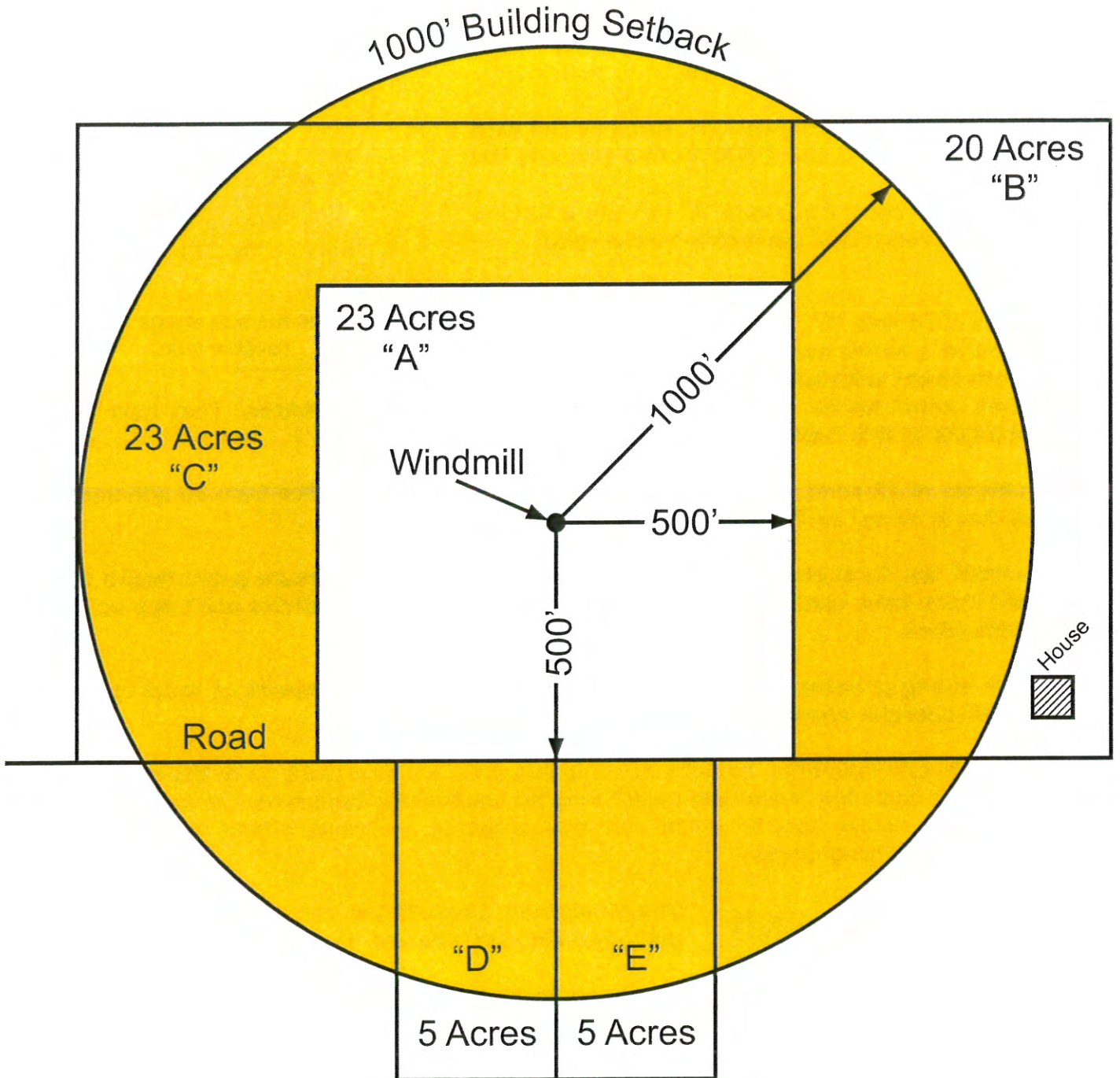


The Wisconsin Legislature can assure that the cost/benefit distribution is done more fairly.

We should insist that siting decisions are consistent with comprehensive local planning.

And any consideration of a state preemption bill should make certain that neighbors are protected either through adequate setbacks or by requiring easements from those that will have to live with the windmills.







A Report From The Field:

Unsuspecting landowners have been misled and taken advantage of by wind farm developers. While tempted with seemingly fair monetary compensation to use portions of their land for the "energy of the future", some landowners have now received a rather disturbing surprise:



Live near a wind turbine?

Now your home and property are
worth 30-40% less!

Welcome to the Wind Farm.

WARNING: An independent appraisal has determined that the average value of a property located in or around a wind farm has dropped by approximately 40%. Information you should know when wind developers come knocking in your neighborhood.

Property Values. Health. Safety. Get informed on the negative effects that wind turbines can have on your family and your neighbors. If you don't sign up - they can't build the turbines.

THE SOLUTION IS IN YOUR HANDS!

For more information contact CCCRE's representative Bob Welch at 608-819-0150



Wind Turbine Impact Study - 9/9/09

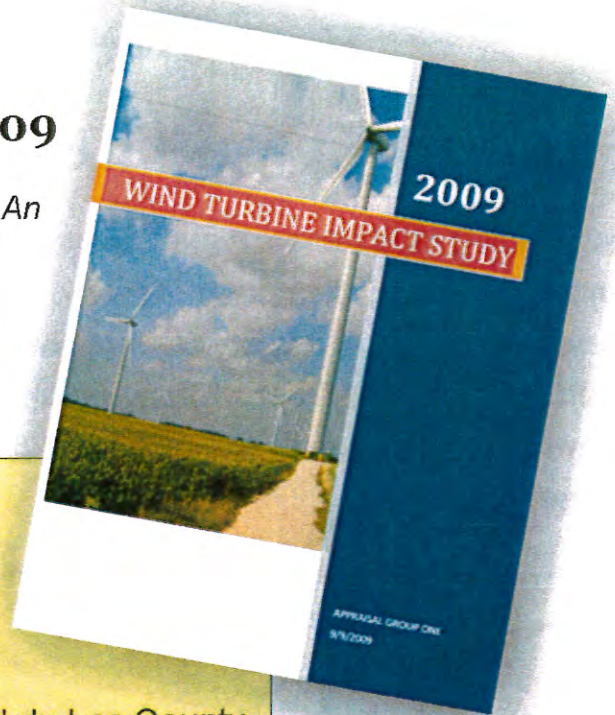
Conducted by: Appraisal Group One of Oshkosh, WI. An appraisal company specializing in forensic appraisals, eminent domain, stigmatized property, and valuation research.

Study area was...

WE Energies Blue Sky Green Field Wind Farm in Fond du Lac County

The Invenergy – Forward Wind Farm in Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties

The Alliant – Cedar Ridge Wind Farm in Fond du Lac County



Methods...

This study contains 3 parts:

- 1 – Sales Study – Scientific analysis of actual property sales both within the area of wind farm influence (where the turbines can be seen) and nearby unaffected areas.
- 2 – Realtor Survey – To determine the Realtors' thinking on the impact of wind turbines within the area they serve
- 3 – Literature Review – An analysis of other studies reviewed from throughout the world regarding the possible effect of wind turbines on property value

Conclusion...

Sale Study indicates a 30%-40% decrease in property values for those parcels in the area of wind farm influence. For a typical wind project this would encompass many square miles and hundreds of landowners.

Realtor Survey indicates a negative impact of property values of 24%-43% depending on the distance from the wind turbine. In other words, these experts are correctly estimating the effects that the sales study proves.

Literature Review – An extensive search found that all studies conducted on the topic, other than those conducted by wind developers or advocates, show a significant loss of property value for those lands located near wind farms. The average decrease in value shown was 20%.

Wisconsin 50 m Wind Power

Transmission Lines*
Voltage (kV)

- 10 - 69
- 115 - 161
- 230
- 345

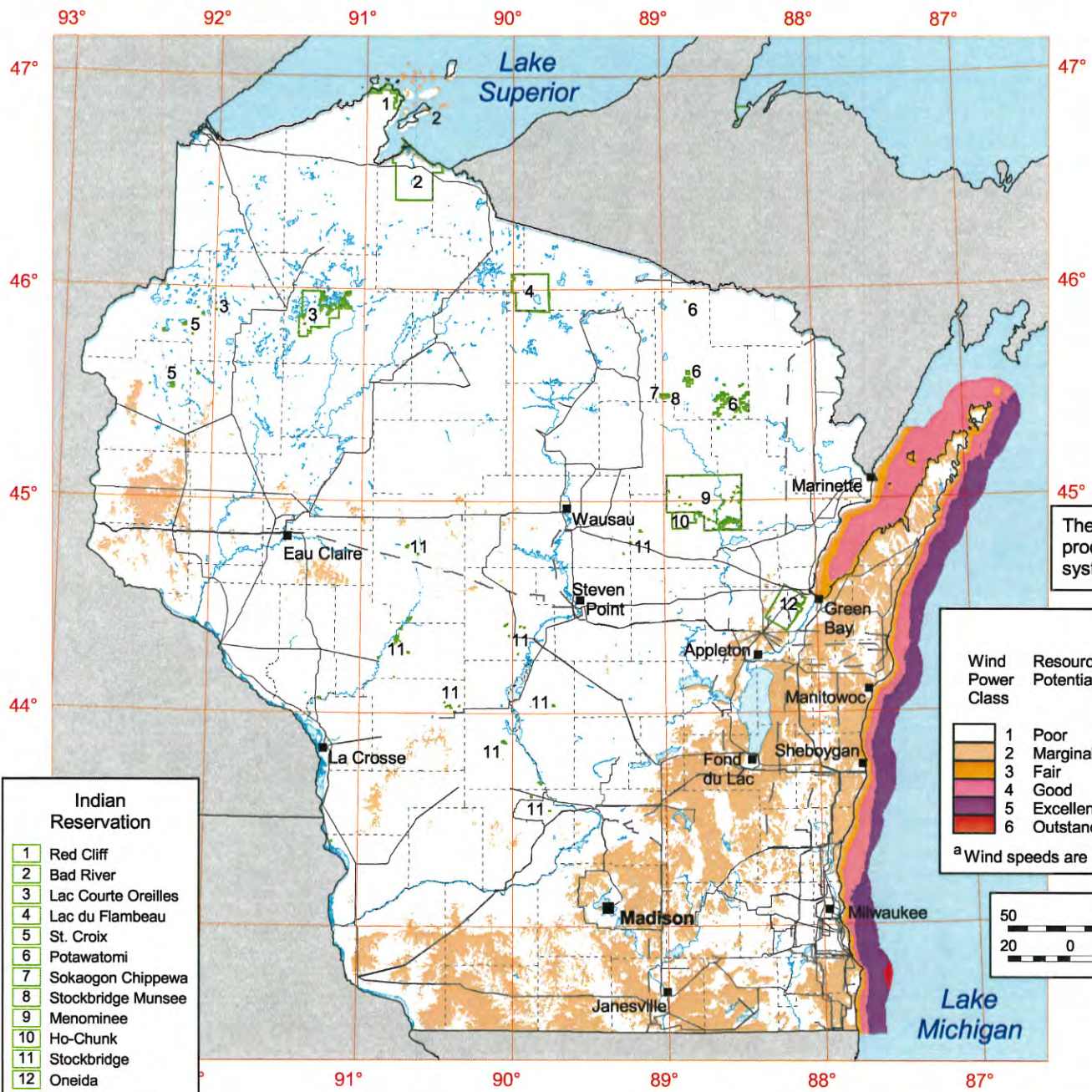
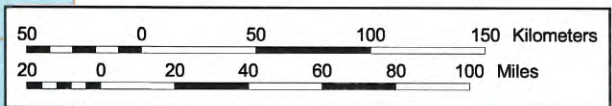
* Source: POWERmap, ©2007
Platts, a Division of the McGraw-Hill Companies

The annual wind power estimates for this map were produced by AWS TrueWind using their Mesomapp system and then interpolated to 50 m by NREL.

Wind Power Classification

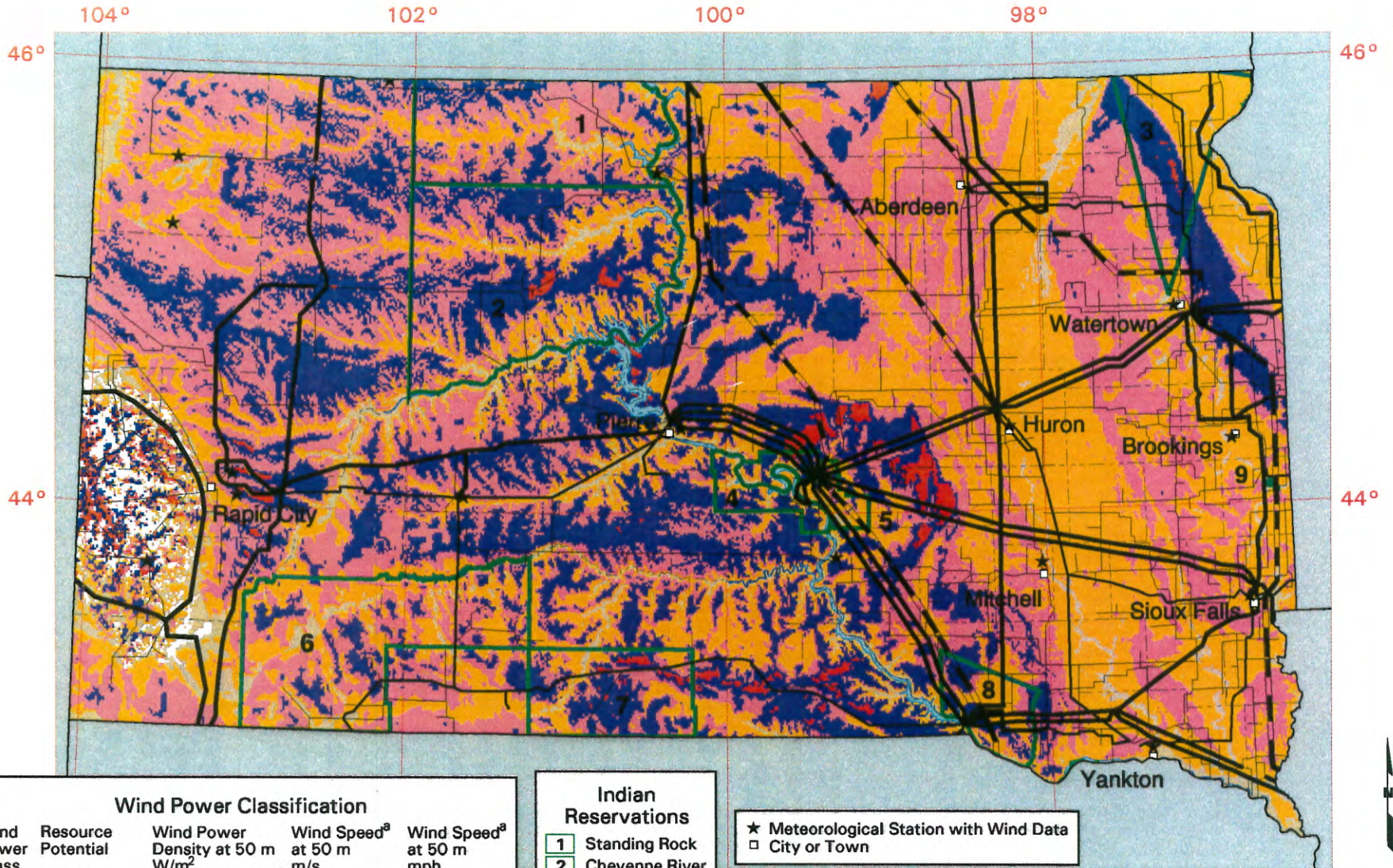
Wind Power Class	Resource Potential	Wind Power Density at 50 m W/m ²	Wind Speed ^a at 50 m m/s	Wind Speed ^a at 50 m mph
1	Poor	0 - 200	0.0 - 5.6	0.0 - 12.5
2	Marginal	200 - 300	5.6 - 6.4	12.5 - 14.3
3	Fair	300 - 400	6.4 - 7.0	14.3 - 15.7
4	Good	400 - 500	7.0 - 7.5	15.7 - 16.8
5	Excellent	500 - 600	7.5 - 8.0	16.8 - 17.9
6	Outstanding	600 - 800	8.0 - 8.8	17.9 - 19.7

^a Wind speeds are based on a Weibull k of 2.0.



- Indian Reservation**
- 1 Red Cliff
 - 2 Bad River
 - 3 Lac Courte Oreilles
 - 4 Lac du Flambeau
 - 5 St. Croix
 - 6 Potawatomi
 - 7 Sokaogon Chippewa
 - 8 Stockbridge Munsee
 - 9 Menominee
 - 10 Ho-Chunk
 - 11 Stockbridge
 - 12 Oneida

South Dakota - Wind Resource Map



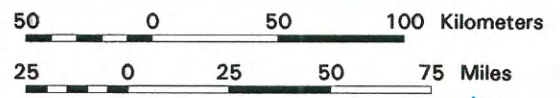
Wind Power Classification				
Wind Power Class	Resource Potential	Wind Power Density at 50 m W/m ²	Wind Speed ^a at 50 m m/s	Wind Speed ^a at 50 m mph
2	Marginal	200 - 300	5.6 - 6.4	12.5 - 14.3
3	Fair	300 - 400	6.4 - 7.0	14.3 - 15.7
4	Good	400 - 500	7.0 - 7.5	15.7 - 16.8
5	Excellent	500 - 600	7.5 - 8.0	16.8 - 17.9
6	Outstanding	600 - 800	8.0 - 8.8	17.9 - 19.7
7	Superb	800 - 1600	8.8 - 11.1	19.7 - 24.8

^a Wind speeds are based on a Weibull k value of 2.0

Indian Reservations	
1	Standing Rock
2	Cheyenne River
3	Lake Traverse
4	Lower Brule
5	Crow Creek
6	Pine Ridge
7	Rosebud
8	Yankton
9	Flandreau

★ Meteorological Station with Wind Data
 □ City or Town

Transmission Line Voltage	
	69 Kilovolts
	115 Kilovolts
	230 Kilovolts
	345 Kilovolts





How well do you sleep at night?

If you live near a wind farm, chances are that you don't get a good night's rest.

Studies show...

Decibel readings from a little over 1/2 mile away from a 20-turbine wind farm measure 50-60 dB. Added to the turbines' existing low frequency levels, the actual decibel reading is 60-75 dB. That's the same sound level as a washing machine, hair dryer or vacuum cleaner!

The World Health Organization recommends...

The average sound level for a good night's rest should be in the 30 dB range. Anything above 30 dB has shown an increase in sleep disturbance as well as physical side effects. What side effects? Glad you asked.



30 to 40 dB

Increased body movements, awakening, self-reported sleep disturbance and arousals. It cannot be ruled out that vulnerable groups (children, the elderly and the chronically ill) are affected to some degree.

40 to 55 dB

Sharp increase in adverse health effects, especially vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly and the chronically ill.

above 55 dB

Considered increasingly dangerous for public health. Adverse health effects occur frequently, a high percentage of the population is highly annoyed and there is some limited evidence that the cardiovascular system is coming under stress.

Please be informed of the property value, health and safety concerns of helpless citizens when considering SB-71.

THE SOLUTION IS IN YOUR HANDS!

For more information contact CWEST's representative Bob Welch at 608-819-0150



John Muir Chapter

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 1, Madison, Wisconsin 53703-3201
Telephone: (608) 256-0565 Fax: (608) 256-4562
john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

Oppose SB 71 to Allow Exemptions from Wind Energy Siting Rules, Before the Committee Government Operations, Public Works, and Telecommunications, March 13, 2013 at 12:00 PM in 330 SW

Thank you for accepting our comments today. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters of the nation’s oldest, grassroots environmental organization who have worked for the past 50 years to promote clean energy and protect water and land resources in Wisconsin.

The Sierra Club has long supported policies needed to overcome the patchwork of conflicting local regulations that formerly impeded clean energy development in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, Wisconsin lost four major wind projects in the past two years as a result of wind siting rules being temporarily suspended and attempts to enact restrictive, unworkable siting standards. Although these measures weren’t adopted, the lack of business certainty in our state caused project cancellations, including Invenergy’s 150 MW Ledge Wind project, Mid West Energy’s 98 MW Stony Brook project, Alliant Energy’s 100 MW project, and the 50 MW Acciona Wind Energy project in Chilton. These projects could have created hundreds of local family-supporting jobs and enough clean energy to allow for the retirement of an aging coal plant. Wind energy could also help farmers who host turbines make ends meet through lease payments, and offer the potential to revitalize rural communities through indirect support of local restaurants, hotels, health care facilities and other businesses.

Wind power is widely available and the industry has matured rapidly in the last decade. While output from individual wind turbines varies based on daily and seasonal weather, at the regional scale wind power is a clean, consistent, reliable and safe energy resource. We are disappointed to see SB 71 and other bills that create unnecessary barriers to this industry, especially as Wisconsin continues to fall behind neighboring states in clean energy jobs. According to the American Wind Energy Association, Wisconsin had only 649 MW of wind installed by the end of 2012, as compared to 988 MW in Michigan, 1,543 MW in Indiana, 3,568 MW in Illinois (a state with similar wind resources as our own), 5,137 MW in Iowa (a nationwide clean energy leader who profits from manufacturing wind turbine components and selling power to other states), and 2,986 MW of wind in Minnesota. As we look around to neighboring states, we are left wondering, why isn’t Wisconsin open for clean energy business?

Wind energy is a clean source of energy that will protect Wisconsin's clean air and water, public health, and economy. SB 71 would allow a political subdivision to obtain an exemption from the statewide wind siting rules by claiming that wind turbines threaten public health – an assertion that has never been backed up by any credible, peer reviewed scientific studies. In contrast, Wisconsin's primary power source, our coal-fired power plants are the number one source of greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change that threatens our state’s economy and our environment, from our apple and cherry orchards to our forests to our fisheries. Coal-fired power plants also threaten our health with mercury emissions that have led to fish consumption advisories on every lake, river and stream in Wisconsin, and hundreds of premature deaths, heart attacks and strokes each year.

If passed, SB 71 will have immediate impacts on pending wind projects that offer the promise of local, sustainable jobs for our state. Existing Wisconsin wind energy industries will not expand if, again, state policy creates barriers to its growth, and that is why we are urging you to oppose this bill. Thank you for considering our comments on this important matter.

Selected Sources:

AWEA, US Wind Industry Fourth Quarter Market Report 2012

http://www.awea.org/_cs_upload/membercenter/membersecurity/market_report_suite/21413_1.pdf

The Toll from Coal: An Updated Assessment of Death and Disease from America's Dirtiest Energy Source, Clean Air Task Force, 2010, http://www.catf.us/coal/problems/power_plants/existing/map.php?state=Wisconsin

Sierra Magazine, March / April 2013, Wind Rush: <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/201303/wind-power-turbine-technology-clean-energy.aspx>

EWEA, Wind Turbines not a threat to human health, another study finds,

<http://www.ewea.org/blog/2012/05/wind-turbines-not-a-threat-to-human-health-another-study-finds/>

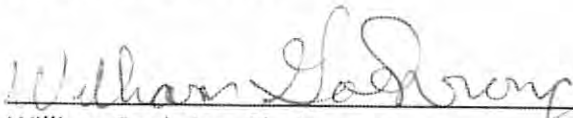
Town of Sherman
Sheboygan County
State of Wisconsin

On Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at a monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Sherman, Sheboygan County, State of Wisconsin, board members discussed 2013 Senate Bill 71.

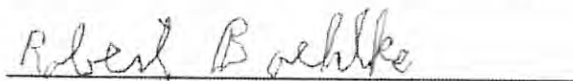
By a roll call vote, 5 ayes 0 nays, the town board supports the act to repeal 66.0401 (4) (f) 1.; to renumber and amend 66.0401 (4) (f) 2.; and to amend 66.0401 (1m) (intro.), 66.0401 (4) (g), 66.0401 (5) (b) 3. And 196.378 (4g) (b) of the statutes; relating to: limiting the regulation of wind energy systems by local governments.

Dated this 12th day of March, 2013.

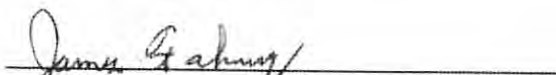
TOWN OF SHERMAN



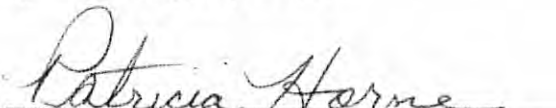
William Goehring, Chairperson




Robert Boehlke, Supervisor



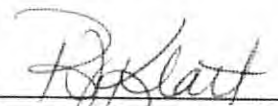
James Fahney, Supervisor



Patricia Horne, Supervisor



Kris Klein, Supervisor

ATTEST: 

Rhonda J. Klatt, Clerk/Treasurer

Public Hearing for Senate Bill 71

March 13, 2013

I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to speak here today.

My name is Mitch Fisher, I live in the Town of Sherman in Southern Sheboygan County. My wife and I are home owners and live on our property adjacent to the Emerging Energy's proposed Windy Acres project.

I am here to testify in favor of SB 71. My wish is that the committee pass this bill quickly so that it may move along in time to save our home and health.

Local Control – Ability to Provide for the Public Health and Safety:

When PSC 128 was enacted, it took away the ability of our local Town Board to create a wind ordinance that protected the health and well being of the town residents. At the time, Sherman had a two year wind moratorium in place and 128 stripped that power away.

Stacked Deck - Bad Legislation

Even as PSC 128 was being created, the adverse health effects of IWT were already known. But those reports were largely ignored by a wind siting counsel that was stacked with pro-wind people. The wind industry wanted to standardize siting ordinances to improve the permitting process and make it easier to plan wind projects. An idea that sounded good, but bad legislation often has it's roots in good intentions.

Shirley Wind LFN Studies December of 2012

The low frequency sound studies done at the Shirley Wind project last December prove that infrasound and LFN are causing these residents to be sick. An illness now described as "Wind Turbine Syndrome."

Australia LFN Studies

Wind turbine syndrome is not unique to Shirley Wind, it's happening all over the world. Australia just recently announced it will immediately begin LFN studies at homes near IWT projects. Back in 2011 Australia amended it's wind siting laws to include a 2 km set back.

Ontario Ministry of Environment Will Begin Testing for LFN in 2014

Ontario has recently announced that it will begin testing for LFN in 2014.

Great Britain Stops All New On-shore IWT Projects

Just this past November, England has announced a moratorium on all new on-shore IWT projects; effective immediately. This announcement came on the heels of 10 years of complaints of health issues from siting turbines too close people's homes.

Falmouth, MA Tearing Down 2 Turbines

In Falmouth, Massachusetts, two wind turbines at the Falmouth Waste Water Treatment Facility are being taken down. Residents there have been complaining of health issues related to LFN since they started up the turbines.

Stray Voltage issues at Shirley Wind

Besides the issues of infrasound and LFN, stray voltage from the buried power lines of IWT are affecting residents in the Shirley Wind farm. Stray voltage is a carcinogen. Testing for stray voltage in October of 2011 show six homes in the project area have stray voltage that is 291 times the acceptable level as determined by the CDC.

Property Values – 2012 California Study

A 2012 study from California shows an average property value loss of 25% of homes within 2 miles of wind project. And up to a 40% loss of value to homes within ½ mile.

New Study from MA March of 2013

And now a new study from Massachusetts, released just last week, shows that property values plummeted for homes within in two miles of IWT projects. Property values fell 15% to 40% for more than 20 homes appraised at two dozen projects.

Lower Property Values Mean Lower Tax Revenue

Lower property values mean lower tax revenues for local municipalities. Governments bodies will have to raise taxes for the rest of the town to make up the difference.

Conclusion

My home is as close as 1250 and 1900 feet to two of the turbines of this proposed project. One tower to the east of my home will produce shadow flicker for up to 30 hours per year. PSC 128 calls for shadow flicker "mitigation."

Mitigation is a fancy word for widow blinds. Am I to live as a prisoner in my own home with the blinds drawn?

My wife is recovering from breast cancer, I don't want to live in fear of her cancer coming back because of the stray voltage. We don't want to live under these conditions, no one should have to.

Being forced to conform to PSC 128 puts our Sherman town residents in danger, it does not allow our community to create ordinances to protect our health and property.

We are not anti-wind, we are pro-health and pro-property rights. We are not against safe wind projects. We are against flawed state laws that don't protect the citizens.

Please pass this law that will allow our town board to create regulations to preserve and protect the public health. Laws that will allow safe wind projects in our community.

Thank you for you time.

Mitchell J Fisher, W4722 S. County Road A, Waldo, WI 53093 Home: 920-994-8669

My name is Larry Lamont of Malone, Wi.

I live with turbines N S E W of my home.

These things are not as benign as we were led to believe, and the miss information and falsehoods have not stopped. The sad thing is the utilities no longer pretend to care hoping that we will go away. They are after the money.

These things have affected many people individually but worse it has disrupted the community. Some people talk about their problems, others see a futility in complaining so they just put up with them, or they are intimidated by peers or the gage clause in the contract.

Our closest neighbor abandoned his place. It stood empty for about two years as the value of it dropped from \$160,000 to sheriff auction price of \$69,300. I heard it was sold for even less a month ago..

Personally the turbines have affected my health and way of life immensely. At times they get to me and I become very agitated and irritable. I have lost allot sleep and am now on blood pressure medication that has been adjusted up three times. Doctors say sleep I very important a long and happy life....have these things affected my life expectancy also? I averaged 5 hours and 4 minutes a night for a month of accurate logging of sleep time.

I purchased a pre civil war stone house 40 years ago and have put in a lot of work restoring and updating our home...30 years ago I added a pond and camping area that we enjoyed very much until the turbines came. My sisters and brothers all have RV's and would spend many weekends with us....no longer. We go elsewhere for peace and quiet. My wife's sister- in- law use to visit us monthly. They have seen the turbines once and the turbines made her so sick she left and has not come back. My wife and I use to spend 2-3 nights in season, a week in the camper before the turbines. This past summer we tried 3 nights. Twice we retreated to the house before midnight. The 3rd night we decided to stay come hell or high water. It was the turbines that got us. My wife became so ill I had to drive her to the house in the morning and for the next couple of hours the only way she could get around was on her knees with her head on the office chair.

Every summer the pond had ducks and geese on it. No more. The only thing we see on the pond now is the reflection of a turbine - day and night. You shirts want to help us that are forced live with turbines should look into changing the ridiculous warning lights overkill requirements for turbines.

I have 4 bat houses on my barn – I think they are now lifeless. Last summer I saw no bats flying...just 3 dead ones and it wasn't white noise syndrome that did them in. Something is wrong...there is mischief in the woodpile.

We did no wrong yet we are subject to a life sentence ^{that} ~~that~~ will outlive us. The choice is to move, put up with them --- take our loss and get out. I worked too hard to give up but I don't know what else to do. I'm tired of beating my head against a wall that couldn't care less. We know the problems living with these things and feel SB71 should be endorsed. WE do not want more of these things regardless of what the state decided. Any community that doesn't want them should be able to reject them.



March 12, 2013

James J. Mueller
N8710 Pine Road
St Cloud, WI 53079

Dear Members of Senate Bill 71

We live in the Town of Marshfield, Fond du Lac County in We-energies Green Field Blue Sky Wind Turbines. We have been living with the problems associated with the wind turbines for about 5 years. We have tried to resolve our problems in every possible way we are aware of.

We live with lack of sleep, pressure in our ears that result in headaches and earaches. We have flickering and loss of television and radio reception. With others also experiencing the same problems, our township formed a wind turbine committee to try and resolve our problems. I have enclosed forms completed by citizens of our township to confirm that others experience the same problems. We had monthly meetings from September 2009 until February 2010. At that time We-energies would not do anything to resolve the main issues and the committee has not met since.

We-energies formed a hot line. We-energies were to send us a monthly log of the phone calls it received and how they would try to resolve the problems. I have enclosed the March 2011 call list. The last list we received was September 2011 and We-energies decided not to send our town a list anymore.

With the town board not able to resolve our problems and We-energies stating they are in compliance, most people have just given up. We-energies no longer has to provide documentation of having notes from meetings and phone logs so they now state there are no problems. Everyone still have the same problems.

We have contacted the PSC with phone calls and e-mails. Until the testing at the Shirley wind farm, the PSC has had no interest in protecting rural families in Wisconsin. One PSC official remarked was that the position of the PSC is that the State of Wisconsin is open for wind turbine business. With no help from the state or PSC we need to have local government to be able to set guidelines to protect our health and safety.

Here now are some examples of what we have to live with. Spring 2012 the turbine south of our home B24 was noisy. We had not slept that night and Steve Schueller of

We-energies showed up at 4:30A.M. After a heated exchange it was agreed to turn off turbine 24B from 10:00P.M. until 6:00A.M. This was done until Labor Day. We-energies claimed the problem was lightning damage, fixed and tested. Turbine 24B was as noisy as ever and I requested a copy of the sound test. What I got was an e-mail stating the sound test was done in 2008, but the repair was inspected. I have enclosed that e-mail.

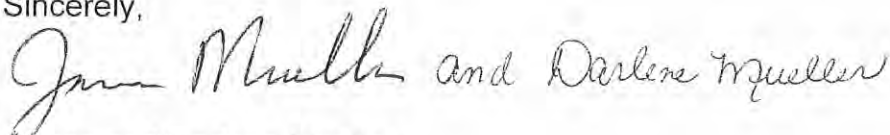
September 13th the Packers played the Bears on Sunday night. B24 was extremely loud and humming so we called the We-energies hotline. Steve Schueller called back and was upset we would call. He had been celebrating the Packers win and state he was drinking. He said no one could respond and hung up. I went to work the next day with 1 hour of sleep.

We continue to call We-energies at night due to both the low frequency noise and wind resistance noise from the blades of the wind turbines. Some nights we get a call back, some nights we don't. Steve Schueller says that wind turbines are machines and they make noise. Last week we averaged about 4 hours of sleep a night. We are beyond exhaustion.

Last week we were able to make the last payment on our home loan. After living in the same home for over 30 years the house was finally paid for. Most people may celebrate an occasion like this and go out to eat, but for us there is nothing to celebrate. The only discussion we had is do we keep trying to live like this or do we abandon our home?

The last items I have enclosed are letters written by the Town of Marshfield board in response of the 2011 Public Hearing of the PSC rule 128 and a letter dated March 11th 2013 for this hearing. The Town of Marshfield town board truly understands the health problems the wind turbines have caused in our community. Also enclosed are letters we have written since 2010 to help this committee understand the hell that we have been put thru. Please support the wind turbine moratorium and the need to have additional independent sound studies to resolve the health issues we face every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Mueller and Darlene Mueller". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid.

James and Darlene Mueller
N8710 Pine Road
St. Cloud, WI 53079



**999 Fond du Lac Street
P O Box 94
Mt Calvary, WI 53057-0094**

Date: March 11, 2013

Public Service Commission (PSC) Records Management Unit
610 N. Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53707

Subject: Support for Wind Turbine Moratorium and Additional Independent Sound Studies

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Marshfield Board would sincerely like to thank the PSC for initiating the Shirley Wind Farm Sound Study. The results of this study appear to provide a possible window of understanding to what a number of our residents have been experiencing since installation and operation of the Blue Sky and Green Field Wind Project in our area. The report's description of nearby residents troubling experiences, closely resemble the experiences expressed by a number of our residents who also live nearby to the wind turbines.

In addition, we strongly support the Wisconsin Towns Association resolution passed on January 21, 2013 that states:

“Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Towns Association, that the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and the State of Wisconsin enact a moratorium to stop the permitting and installation of industrial wind turbines until further studies are done, solutions are found, and the states wind siting rule (PSC 128) is modified to implement standards that address ultra low frequency sound and from infrasound from wind turbines that will protect the health and safety of residents.”

We also encourage the additional **Independent** studies and testing that the Shirley sound report suggests. The sooner these additional studies can be completed and analyzed, the sooner we may begin to understand what conditions contribute to the adverse effects experienced by a certain number of our residents, and that from this understanding, develop solutions and remedies for these residents.

We also have several concerned citizen's that are willing to volunteer their properties for the additional sound testing program.

Please feel free to contact the Town of Marshfield with any questions regarding our wind turbine concerns or experiences.

Respectfully,


Town of Marshfield Board



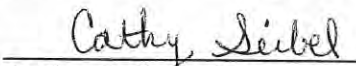
John Bord – Chairman



Marlene Sippel – Clerk



Dennis Stenz – Supervisor



Cathy Seibel - Treasurer

cc:

Gov. Scott Walker

Sen. Glenn Grothman

Sen. Joe Liebham

Richard Stadleman – Wisconsin Towns Assn. – wtowns@frontiernet.net

Allen Buechel – Fond du Lac County Executive

We Energies -

James Mueller - JM Mueller@crwinsurance.com

Town of Eden, WI – pt@lightening-repairs.com, brendajosein@frontier.com

Town of Calumet, WI - fair Oaks@bertramwireless.com, kmcasper@charter.net

Town of Empire, WI – pierquet@att.net, clerk@dotnet.com

Town of Byron, WI - gopherndeb@gmail.com, byronclerk@hotmail.com

Town of Magnolia
Rock County, Wisconsin

The Town of Magnolia has invested time and effort into creating a Large Wind Energy System Ordinance and strongly supports 2013 Senate Bill 71 to allow the town to enforce our ordinance based on public health and safety concerns.

Sincerely,

The Magnolia Town Board

Fern McCoy, Chairperson 608-882-5715

Kurt Bartlett, 1st Supervisor 608-333-4654

David Olsen, 2nd Supervisor 608-314-6045

Wisconsin Senate Hearing: SB-71, Wind Energy Safety and Health
Testimony by Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E., NSPE Fellow
March 13, 2013

My name is Glen Schwalbach. I reside in the Town of Rockland in Brown County. I'm a Professional Engineer licensed by the State of Wisconsin. I am a town supervisor and the town member of the Wind Siting Council for the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW). I've been directly responsible in certain aspects of public safety for over thirty-eight years. I am speaking in support of SB-71.

It is important to pass SB-71 for five reasons--

1. Under the umbrella of the statute for Renewable Portfolio Standards, decisions by the PSCW and the Court of Appeals have been influenced by what they understand to be legislative policy. The Court basically said that this policy trumps the political subdivisions and leaves towns and counties "to execute and administer its (the state's) established policy of favoring wind energy systems." So, the Court did not put safety first because the Legislature did not do so in the law.

2. 2009 Act 40 put the PSCW in a compromising position. Their guiding principles, along with the utilities, for evaluating electric generation projects were and, I believe, still are: a) necessity, b) safety, c) reliability, and d) best cost/benefit of options. With wind energy, their paradigm had to change and is driven more by perceived legislative policy. The point is that towns and counties can help the State and the PSCW put more emphasis on safety and public health issues because we have to deal with it, literally, face-to-face with their residents.

3. This bill clarifies for local governments, wind developers and the courts that the Legislature did not intend for safety to take a back seat. It will reconfirm that the people's concerns for negative health impacts will be heard, considered, and not ignored just because the State's siting rules tie the hands of their planning commissions and town or county boards.

4. This bill will soften, even though it does ^{not} eliminate, the ironic situation we have with the establishment of PSC 128 rules. I have spent a career on state and national committees for both government and industry. I can't think of one, except for PSC 128, that put a cap on safety. All of the others were minimum safety standards, not maximum safety standards.

5. This bill will provide for a timely response to new research and wind technology improvements by giving local governments the right to pursue criteria where PSC 128 appears to be inadequate. It will complement the desire of the legislature and the PSCW to protect public health and safety when it can do some good. Since the PSC 128 rules were promulgated, there has been a steady stream of published reports on wind turbine-related health research and testing. Plus, many of us have had the past two years for assessing the nature and quantity of health complaints from those near wind farms along with the benefit of recent acoustic studies done in the wind farm in Brown County. The state process is too slow and remote to put this information to timely use.

Note: This bill still provides a PSCW appeal process for the wind developers who wish to take issue with the decisions of the local governments. But it helps set the stage for more cooperative dialogue with wind developers about new research and about health impacts not addressed by PSC 128.


Giving the towns and counties this additional tool for leveraging their dialogue during the permitting process is also extremely valuable when dealing with the "hit and run" developers who want to build as cheap as possible, sell off the project and then claim no responsibility. Also, it may prompt the more conscientious developers to purchase homes that are too close to their projects for public health and safety reasons, rather than just building their turbines and causing some homes to become unlivable without the developers paying for the harm that they cause. If better and safer projects are built, the better for everyone.

This bill does not help our residents who already have been negatively affected, some grossly so. But, it is an important step to help minimize future impacts.



22 EAST MIFFLIN STREET, SUITE 900
MADISON, WI 53703
TOLL FREE: 1.866.404.2700
PHONE: 608.663.7188
FAX: 608.663.7189
WWW.WICOUNTIES.ORG

TO: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations,
Public Works, and Telecommunications

FROM: Liz Stephens, Membership and External Affairs Manager 

DATE: March 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill 71

Prior to the enactment of 2009 Act 40 (Act 40), wind turbines capable of generating electricity were typically subject to a broad array of local regulations, including county zoning and setbacks, that differed from county to county. As you know, Act 40 generally created uniform wind siting standards that precluded counties from restricting installation of a wind turbine except in most instances, and in no case were counties allowed to adopt standards stricter than the administrative rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Although counties' support for siting wind turbines varies widely across the state, county officials generally preferred retaining the ability to address the unique circumstances arising from siting wind turbines through local input and, where appropriate, the adoption of local ordinances. Senate Bill 71 (SB 71) returns limited authority to local governments to address wind turbine siting issues locally, but only in specific instances such as to protect the public health or welfare.

WCA supports adoption of SB 71 and believes that it would allow counties to better respond to issues that may arise due to changes in wind turbine technology and to unique community circumstances. Because local governments would only be allowed to adopt these ordinances in very specific and limited circumstances, SB 71 also preserves the uniformity sought through the adoption of a statewide wind turbine siting framework.

Thank you for consideration of our comments. Please don't hesitate to contact the WCA office at (608) 663-7188 with additional questions or comments.

LAW OFFICES
EDGARTON, ST. PETER, PETAK & ROSENFELDT

10 FOREST AVENUE, SUITE 200
P O BOX 1276
FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN 54936-1276
FAX NUMBER: (920) 922-9091
920-922-0470

ALLAN L. EDGARTON (1908-1994)
GEORGE M. ST. PETER (1910-2003)
NEIL HOBBS (1922-2001)
THOMAS L. MASSEY (1935-1995)

A.D. (DAN) EDGARTON
ROBERT V EDGARTON
RONALD L. PETAK
JOHN A. ST. PETER
PAUL W. ROSENFELDT
MATTHEW PARMENTIER

January 24, 2013

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Re: Petition for Wind Energy System Moratorium

To Whom it May Concern:

We represent The Towns of Holland and Sherman. The Town of Holland submits the attached Resolution as a Request to Open Docket under PSC 2.07 and under docket 9300-WF-100.

The Town of Holland is one of two towns involved in the siting of the proposed Windy Acres wind farm in Sheboygan County. The other town is the Town of Sherman, which will be acting on a similar resolution at its February Town Board meeting.

Windy Acres submitted a wind energy system application under PSC 128 on December 19, 2012. Under PSC 128, the towns have until the first day of the fourth month following the application to adopt wind energy system ordinances that can be applied to Windy Acres. After the ordinances are adopted, the towns must follow a timeline established by PSC 128 to review the application and make a decision on approval or denial.

Within days of Windy Acres' application, a report titled "A Cooperative Measurement Survey and Analysis of Low Frequency and Infrasound at the Shirley Wind Farm in Brown County Wisconsin" was released. The report concluded that low frequency noise and infrasound are serious health issues that merit additional study on an urgent basis.

Because of the application review timeline in PSC 128, the towns have limited time before they will have to review the application and make a decision whether to approve or deny it. This is cause for serious concern because if the PSC determines that additional or different standards are required to address low frequency noise and infrasound, it may be too late for residents of Holland and Sherman to benefit from them. That is, if the towns are required to review the application under the PSC 128 timeline, they may be forced to approve or deny the application before the results of the follow up studies are known. It is therefore a real possibility that the Windy Acres project could be approved under standards that are inadequate to protect the public.

January 24, 2013

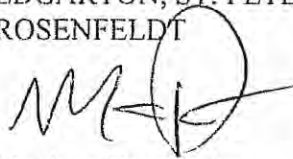
Page 2

The enclosed Resolution petitions the PSC to impose a moratorium or the equivalent remedial action on application submittal and review so that the towns can wait until the results of the follow up low frequency noise and infrasound studies are known. If the PSC determines that additional or different standards are required to address low frequency noise and infrasound, the towns' residents should have the benefit of them.

Please advise me of your intentions in response to the Resolution at your earliest convenience, knowing that the Towns are incurring significant costs drafting ordinances and otherwise preparing to review the application. Thank you.

Respectfully,

EDGARTON, ST. PETER, PETAK &
ROSENFELDT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Parmentier', written over the printed name below.

Matthew Parmentier

MP/jap

cc: Town of Sherman
Town of Holland

**TOWN OF HOLLAND
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

Resolution # 7-2013

**Resolution Petitioning the Wisconsin Public Service Commission
to Impose a Moratorium on Submittal and Review
of Wind Energy System Applications Until the Health Effects
of Low Frequency Noise and Infrasound are Understood**

Recitals

WHEREAS, a wind energy system application was filed with the Town under PSC 128 on December 19, 2012 for a wind project called "Windy Acres"; and

WHEREAS, a report titled "A Cooperative Measurement Survey and Analysis of Low Frequency and Infrasound at the Shirley Wind Farm in Brown County, Wisconsin" (PSC REF # 178263) was issued on December 24, 2012. The report was prepared with the involvement of PSC; and

WHEREAS, the report was created in response to complaints by residents near the Shirley Wind Project in Brown County who claimed that they suffered severe adverse health effects caused by wind turbines; and

WHEREAS, the report concluded: "The four investigating firms are of the opinion that enough evidence and hypotheses have been given herein to classify [low frequency noise] and infrasound as a serious issue, possibly affecting the future of the industry. It should be addressed beyond the present practice of showing that wind turbine levels are magnitudes below the threshold of hearing at low frequencies"; and

WHEREAS, the report recommended "additional study on an urgent priority basis" to determine the health impact of low frequency noise and infrasound; and

WHEREAS, the filing of the Windy Acres application triggered an application review process under PSC 128, which imposes deadlines for certain actions, including completeness review and application approval or denial; and

WHEREAS, the Town is concerned that any additional study of low frequency noise and infrasound by PSC in response to the report will not be completed until after the application review period for the Windy Acres project is completed; and

WHEREAS, the Town is further concerned that the current regulations in PSC 128 may not adequately address low frequency noise and infrasound in the event additional study shows these to be health issues; and

WHEREAS, the Town is further concerned that due to the timing of the Windy Acres application, residents will not benefit from any additional or more stringent noise standards imposed by PSC in response to further study because the studies may not be completed until after the Town decides whether to approve or deny the Windy Acres application; and

WHEREAS, the Town believes it would be inappropriate to make an approval decision on the Windy Acres application until after additional study of low frequency noise and infrasound is completed; and

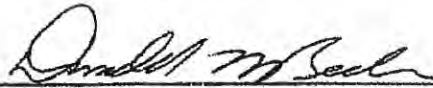
WHEREAS, if the Town considers the Windy Acres application under the timeline imposed by PSC 128, it is possible that the project will be subject to different noise standards than those that may emerge from further study of low frequency noise and infrasound.

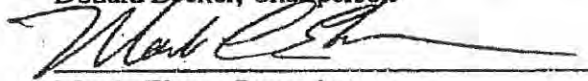
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Holland hereby petitions the Wisconsin Public Service Commission to impose a moratorium on submittal and review of wind energy system applications, including currently-pending wind energy system applications, until further study of low frequency noise and infrasound is completed and the PSC understands the health effects thereof; and


FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be submitted to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and to appropriate state senators and representatives.

Dated this 17 day of January, 2013.

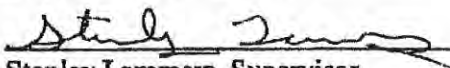
TOWN OF HOLLAND


Donald Becker, Chairperson

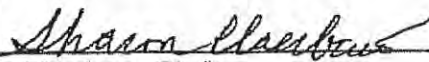

Martin Elmer, Supervisor


David Huenink, Supervisor


Stephen Jones, Supervisor


Stanley Lammers, Supervisor

Attest:


Sharon Claerbaut, Clerk



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN
EDUCATION NETWORK**

612 W. Main Street, #200
Madison, WI 53703-4714

Phone: (608) 256-0827
<http://www.lwwwi.org>

March 13, 2013

To: Senate Committee on Government Operations, Public Works and Telecommunications

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 71

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin opposes SB 71, a bill that would make it nearly impossible for wind companies to build wind farms and reduce our reliance on out-of-state fossil fuels.

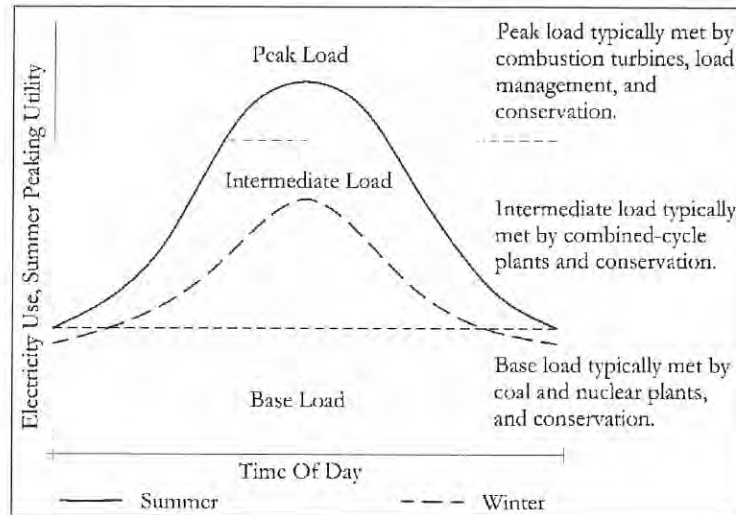
The League finds that there is a fair balance of transparency between local and state bodies which need to act on wind siting issues. Under 2009 Wisconsin Act 40, local governments have authority to protect public health and safety. They have primary review authority over systems up to 100 megawatts. Local jurisdictions have the authority to enact an ordinance to review construction or operation of wind systems that conform with or are less restrictive than state standards. After completing the local process, aggrieved parties, whether wind developers or other affected parties, have the right to appeal to the Public Service Commission to review the local government decision to approve, reject or impose restrictions on the wind project. The PSC decision is subject to Chapter 227 review.

Wind might be the best renewable energy resource our nation has. If enacted, SB 71 would immediately jeopardize several pending wind projects in Wisconsin. We oppose SB 71 and urge you to do so as well.

Thank you.

Demand or energy use can be divided into “base load,” “intermediate load,” and “peak load” (see Figure 1). This helps to determine the type and quantity of power plants needed to produce the electricity at the right times. Different types of plants using different fuels or combination of fuels are needed to fulfill one or more of these three types of demand.

Figure 1 Typical Electric Load Curve



The capacity factor of a power plant is the actual output of a plant over a period of time compared to its potential output if it had operated at full nameplate capacity the entire time. It generally relates to how often a plant is run during a year and is expressed as a ratio or a percentage. For instance, new, more efficient coal-fired plants might have a capacity factor of 80 percent because they would be producing electricity 80 percent of the time, while older, less efficient coal-fired plants might have a capacity factor of 40 percent because they would be operated for only 40 percent of the time.

Base load plants provide a base level of electricity to the system and are typically large generating units. In Wisconsin, nuclear energy and coal has powered the state’s base load plants. These plants often require a substantial financial investment to build (higher construction cost), but are less expensive to operate over longer periods of time. Base load plants operate almost continuously (approximately 70 to 80 percent of the time), except when down for scheduled maintenance, repairs, or unplanned outages. They take a long time to ramp back up to full capacity and have limited to no ability to vary their output of electricity.

In contrast, plants that satisfy peak demand (peaker plants) are highly responsive to changes in electrical demand. They can be turned off and on relatively quickly. However, they typically operate less than 10 percent of the time. Peaker plants are most often natural gas combustion turbines and are relatively expensive to operate but cost less to build than base load or intermediate load plants.



W2874 Graylog Road
Iron Ridge, WI 53035
920-387-5840 - Fax 920-387-4734
roger@wondraconstruction.com

March 13, 2013

Written Testimony In Opposition to Senate Bill 71

Senate Committee on Government Operations, Public Works, and Telecommunications

Dear Committee Member:

Wondra Construction was involved in the construction of the Butler Ridge Wind Farm project in Dodge County in 2008. Since then we have continued to work on wind farm projects in Pennsylvania and Canada. For the past 18 months we have been working on a wind farm project in Pennsylvania. We have had 80% of our Wisconsin employees working on this project. Our employees will have paid more in payroll taxes in Pennsylvania than in Wisconsin last year. We also had another 25 workers employed from Pennsylvania. We have paid over \$325,000 in Pennsylvania state sales taxes. The project had over 400 people working each day. We purchased 375,000 tons of aggregate from local vendors. Three other contractors from Wisconsin were also involved on this project. The construction of a wind farm creates jobs and economic activity.

The opportunities for construction jobs in Wisconsin are limited right now. We would like to have all of our employees working in Wisconsin. We are writing you to oppose Senator Lasee's SB71.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Thimm
Treasurer



WES Engineering Inc.

706 S. Orchard St
Madison, WI 53715

March 12, 2013

Representatives of Wisconsin
State Senate

Re: Senate Bill 71 and Wind Siting

Wisconsin legislative members reviewing Senate Bill 71:

I own and operate a Wisconsin based business with 5 employees that is involved in wind and renewable energy technology. I moved here 7 years ago in part due to progressive policy on renewables and the prospects for work, as well as the quality of life for myself and my family. WES Engineering assists schools and businesses who are interested to install wind turbines to offset some or all of their energy use or sell energy to a utility. These clients are very committed to improving the air quality in Wisconsin and demonstrating leadership in reducing the carbon footprint of their entities.

I am expressing my opposition to Senate Bill 71 which would allow communities ability to opt out of the PSC 128 wind siting rules as written. These reasonable regulations and setbacks for wind turbines in Wisconsin will allow Wisconsin businesses like mine to design and construct wind energy projects around the State where there are good wind resources and interested businesses and landowners. These projects employ many Wisconsin businesses in design, construction and operations. The projects also include benefits for the local communities, including revenues, employment and energy generated from a Wisconsin resource without any carbon emissions, water usage, or other harmful emissions. My business assisted in the completion of three wind projects in Wisconsin last year, each of these projects has received awards and recognition. Some Counties or other units of government in the past have adopted very restrictive setbacks that effectively outlawed even a single wind turbine from being installed in their jurisdiction. We do not want to return to that same scenario by gutting the power of a uniform siting standard such as PSC Rule 128.

I realize wind turbines can have negative impacts on neighboring properties, but believe the PSC rules are some of the most stringent in the Midwest and offer a compromise that allows wind turbine projects to continue while also affording more protection for neighbors. Many tall structures in Wisconsin have similarly been seen at times as a blight that should not be allowed (cell towers and transmission towers), but each persists in WI and the rest of the world as necessary components of a modern world.

This country was made great and important in the world through technological advancement and industry, not always the best for peace and quiet living, but certainly the best to maintain our world leadership position. Let's keep some reasonable regulations allowing wind turbines to be sited in the State.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wes Slaymaker, P.E.



President
WES Engineering Inc.
www.WESengineering.com
wes@WESengineering.com
608-259-9304

Senate Bill 71
Public Hearing
March 13, 2013

To: Committee on Government Operations, Public Works, and Telecommunications

Fr: Gary Haltaufderheide
2222 Wisconsin Avenue
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin 53590
608-825-4581

My name is Gary Haltaufderheide. I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts and opposition towards Senate Bill 71. I was a former land agent for a wind developer that had several potential wind projects planned in the State of Wisconsin. My main responsibilities were to work with landowners that would host a wind turbine, neighbors of the area, and local public officials.

Today, my comments will focus on my experiences with both town and county officials. All my projects began what I call in the spirit of "good natured". Both local official and residents were friendly and wanted to learn about wind energy. As the projects moved forward the friendly atmosphere became extremely hostile. This hostility was not just directed towards the host landowners, but towards local officials. And the hostile attitudes developed into threats. Many of the local officials and their family members were afraid to go out to shop or even attend a wedding reception. The following are some comments I recall that were made by the local officials to me.

I am even afraid to attend church.

I wish the state would take control. This has gotten out of hand.

As a local official, what do I really know about wind development? I am only part-time.

I have been a town official for 40 years and I have never seen people act like this. This comment came from a town official that is in Senator Lasee's district.

I wish that I would have not run for this office. My brother will not talk to me.

We establish moratoriums, and then we do not do anything.

I lost my chairmanship because I supported the wind project.

A county zoning and planning employee stated that I would not even be able to think how I would permit the project.

The PSC should review and approve all wind projects. They have the experience and knowledge. It takes the politics and emotions out of the process. The current rules on wind energy that have been adopted and approved by the legislature have been developed over several years. The PSC and the Wind Siting Council have volumes of testimonies and have spend countless hours reviewing and studying both pro and con comments. Senate Bill 71 would just take us back to the days that brought fear to local officials and their families. What would be accomplished with Senate Bill 71? All that I can see is that this bill will stop future wind development in the State of Wisconsin.

Senators, the future development of wind energy and other forms of clean renewal energies is really not about us. You may not believe in global warming or climate change. But, even if the scientists are only 25% correct in their predications and there is this continued opposition to clean energy, who is going to fix our environment?

Gary Haltaufderheide

March 13, 2013

To: Committee on Government Operations, Public Works, and Telecommunications

Re: SB 71 Relating to: limiting the regulation of wind energy systems by local governments.

Please accept my written testimony in favor of SB 71.

I believe that local governments are the best to decide whether or not wind turbines should be built in the local townships.

I live in Glenwood Township which adjoins the town of Forest and have witnessed what occurs when towns' people are in control of their government. It is a long story, but the result is that when people have the truth and the ability, they are able to decide what occurs in their town and in their surrounding area. Had the people not been able to take control, the town of Forest would already have many unwanted windmills.

A few years ago, when the fight to stop the wind farm in Forest Township began, it was not as clear as it is today that these huge wind farms are harmful to those that live nearby. New and updated health studies released over the past few years have substantiated the concerns of the citizens of Forest Township and the surrounding townships.

I appreciate every effort Senator Lasee and his staff have taken to return control back to local governments including authoring SB71. I commend every senator and representative, including my own Representative John Murtha, who has co-sponsored this bill.

I urge you to vote YES to this bill and allow SB71 to move on to the Senate and the Assembly for passage.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Annette Olson
1373 280th St.
Glenwood City, WI 54013

The people of the Town of Forest, St. Croix County, Wisconsin a majority who opposed the Emerging Energies' Highland Wind project and continue to oppose irresponsible siting of industrial wind projects are here today in support of Senator Lasee's SB-71 to return control to local governments. Thank you, Senators Lasee, Ellis, Leibham, Grothman and Moulton and co-sponsor Representatives Jacque, Murtha, Bies, Endsley, Kestell, Klenke, Knudson, LeMahieu, Spiros and Thiesfeldt.

When more than 23 Wisconsin statutes strip local government control, as well as private property rights, in favor of renewable energy and/or corporate interests, something is wrong.

When a local government has no choice but to accept a wind developer's application regardless of imminent community harm or a local government is forced to litigate to uphold the only protective sentence in those 23 statutes, "serves to preserve or protect the public health or safety," something is wrong.

When a wind developer can in effect invoke eminent domain over all target township land for the benefit of an industrial wind project, something is wrong.

When the suffering of people living in industrial wind projects, including infants and children, those living next to electrical generating mechanical wind towers that produce infrasound in the nauseogenic range are ignored, something is wrong.

When those same people have no option but to abandon their homes at great financial burden to protect their families and recover their health, something is wrong.

When a known by-product of wind energy systems, also known as induced or "stray" voltage, can affect livestock and travel into kitchen plumbing, something is wrong.

When a team of industry respected acoustical experts declare in the Shirley Report, "The four investigating firms are of the opinion that enough evidence and hypotheses have been given herein to classify LFN and infrasound as a serious issue, possibly affecting the future of the industry," something is wrong.

When the wind industry claims Wisconsin supports 2,000 direct and indirect wind energy jobs, yet few construction related jobs are long-term, permanent, fulltime, or employ Wisconsin residents, something is wrong.

When a merchant power producer can circumvent utility standards, sell a project to an out-of-state utility, which, in turn, sells power back to Wisconsin residents, something is wrong.

When the promise of millions of dollars in payments over a lease term to local and county governments for wind projects translates into annual funds that cannot even keep pace with road repair costs associated with wind energy system construction, something is wrong.

When industrial wind energy is strapping American taxpayers with billions of dollars of tax subsidy payouts, increasing electric costs to ratepayers, stifling small business growth, and destroying property values, something is wrong.

The evidence is the same worldwide wherever populations have been exposed to improperly sited industrial wind energy projects. People are getting sick, livestock is dying, wildlife is disappearing, and bat lungs are exploding. How are these facts considered environmentally responsible, socially acceptable, and morally just?

The Wisconsin Towns Association has called for a moratorium on wind energy development until safe setbacks can be established and studies can be conducted based on science—not corporate profit.

As lawmakers, now is the time to think thoughtfully and responsibly about the future of industrial wind in Wisconsin. Please do your due diligence to prevent a collective catastrophe that is unfolding daily and will continue into the future unless protective laws are passed. Safe setbacks must be established based on science and study, and local governments must be allowed to enact wind ordinances that are in the best interest of public safety.

If your purpose as a Wisconsin lawmaker is to support the continued erosion of constitutional and human rights in favor of corporate sponsorship, then you will not support SB-71. If your purpose as a Wisconsin legislator is to make just and fair laws that promotes the public health and welfare, that supports job building through small business legislation, that ensures safe and healthy renewable energy for everyone, then you will support Senate Bill 71.

When a political system refuses to protect people and their properties, something is wrong. It is time to make Wisconsin laws right. Senator Lasee's SB 71 bill is a good start. Vote to put the power back where it belongs—to local governments that know their communities best.

Thank you.



Cindy Kuscienko
2953 210th Avenue
Emerald, WI 54013