

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
LEGISLATOR DIXON**

Re: Opposing Wind Farms in Lake Erie

WHEREAS, amongst Erie County's many great assets is Lake Erie and its waterfront, which has the potential to be a major tourist destination; and

WHEREAS, recent efforts have been made to better utilize the lake and its waterfront as a tourist, recreational and commercial destination; and

WHEREAS, some have proposed exploiting Lake Erie by installing windmill clusters in the lake; and

WHEREAS, as with most power generation systems, wind energy has potential drawbacks; and

WHEREAS, the installation of a wind farm would create a change in scenery, with a negative effect on the beauty of Lake Erie, which is admired by visitors to Western New York and residents alike; and

WHEREAS, the installation of a wind farm could negatively disturb wildlife habitats, which is detrimental to the sportfishing tourism industry that attracts national fishing events to Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a wind farm could dislodge toxins that settled to the lake floor and are currently encased in sediment, with a disastrous environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, the installation of a wind farm could negatively impact shipping lanes used to transport goods on the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the installation of a wind farm would tend to increase avian mortality among threatened species, an issue brought to light recently by individuals choosing a design for a new bridge to span the Niagara River; and

WHEREAS, shorts in electric cables could injure or kill aquatic wildlife; and

WHEREAS, wind farms have been shown to interfere with accurate weather predicting, which is an important consideration in a region subject to extreme weather patterns; and

WHEREAS, the low frequency sounds caused by wind farms could potentially be damaging to marine habitat; and

WHEREAS, the future of Buffalo and Erie County would be negatively impacted by the installation of a wind farm in Lake Erie.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature opposes the exploitation of Lake Erie as a site for a wind farm; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, County Executive Chris Collins, Mayor Byron Brown, the Buffalo Common Council and the New York Power Authority.

Fiscal Impact: None