

EOLEG FEB23 '11 AM 9:36

Barbara Miller-Williams, Chairperson
Eric County Legislature
427 William Street
Buffalo, New York 14204

February 14, 2011

Dear Legislator Williams,

Ontario, Canada just this past Friday (Feb. 11, 2011) announced no off shore wind turbines until further studies could be done. According to the Provincial Government, it is very early in offshore wind turbine development and there are too many unknowns.

The Netherlands, which has operating wind turbine farms off shore, has pulled out its support for wind energy. It is an industry that relies too heavily on subsidies and as a business is unsustainable on its own. Ratepayers have to shoulder a heavy burden with the excessive cost of wind energy. If the Netherlands became more dependent upon wind energy it would have crippled its economy.

Spain has slashed subsidies for wind energy to reduce electric rates, which could not keep pace with the cost of power. In 2010 the accumulated deficit reached \$20 billion. Business and industry were uncompetitive due to the high cost for electricity.

Oceana County commissioners in Michigan in August 2010 voted to reject offshore wind turbines proposed by Scandia Wind, a private offshore wind turbine developer.

Six counties (Jefferson, Wayne, Oswego, Chautauqua, Niagara, Monroe) of the nine lakeshore counties in New York State have passed resolutions opposing wind turbines off their shores. They all sighted environmental economic concerns for the opposition.

All of the examples above are just a sample; everyday countries around the world with troubled economies are slashing subsidies on wind energy. Wind can not deliver a product 24/7 it does not replace any conventional power plant. It is too expensive for nothing.

I tried to be open minded when NYPA first proposed GLOW but as I studied wind energy and the proposal I found there is absolutely no net benefits for Erie County from the GLOW project. Only ones benefiting are the foreign companies that will be developing the project.

How can we in could faith allow this project to proceed? The high cost of electricity from offshore wind turbines will make New York state undesirable for business and unfairly burden residents of the state. How are people on fixed incomes or low wage earners going to afford higher electric rates? I guess they will have to just do without... what food, rent medicine? When you are living from paycheck to paycheck a dollar or two more for electricity could be all that it takes to force you to skip medicines or not get a meal when you are hungry.

I am a Democrat. I remember as a little kid my dad telling me we are Democrats because Democrats looked out for the little guy. This wind folly only benefits big foreign companies. It does nothing for the little guy. There are no long-term jobs. Where are all the long-term jobs the hundreds of wind turbines farms already erected created in New York State? Kessel is like a snake oil salesman peddling his wares.

Please, consider carefully what the legislature is giving away if you do not oppose the GLOW project off our shores. It will not stop with 166 wind turbines; there will be hundreds. If we do not stop GLOW our legacy will be one of destroyed habitats, toxic chemicals freed from the sediment in our drinking water, fish unfit for consumption, hazardous boating, birds and bats killed, and the list goes on.

Sincerely,

Thomas Marks, Exec. Director
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