

From: The Merritts
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2012 02:07 PM
To: Office of the Mayor
Cc: ll.murphy@shaw.ca <ll.murphy@shaw.ca>; McHattie, Brian; Farr, Jason; Morelli, Bernie; Merulla, Sam; Collins, Chad; Jackson, Tom; Duvall, Scott; Whitehead, Terry; Clark, Brad; Johnson, Brenda; Ferguson, Lloyd; Powers, Russ; Pasuta, Robert; Pearson, Maria; Riley, Susan; Partridge, Judi
Subject: ***PEOPLE'S HEALTH BEFORE PROFITS*** - Amendment to Moratorium on Wind Turbines in Hamilton

20 January, 2012

Dear Hamilton Council

It is my understanding that, in the immediate future, you will be putting forward a motion to Hamilton City Council requesting that the motion placing a moratorium on industrial wind turbine (IWT) development in Hamilton be rescinded for the city and instead be revised so that it is applicable to Glanbrook only. This motion will indicate support of removing the moratorium on off-shore IWT development as well. I would ask that you take a moment to consider the following:

- a. in February of 2011, the Ontario government put a moratorium on all offshore wind development, saying more research was needed to determine health and environmental impacts, particularly with respect to projects in the Great Lakes. There has NOT been any new published research to indicate that there will be no harm done ergo there is no justification for removing the moratorium;
- b. the document you herald as the "proof" that IWTs do no harm was created by HGC Engineering

http://canwea.ca/about/membersdirectory_e.php?letter=H

is the link to the CANWEA (Canadian Wind Energy Association) website which shows HGC's membership in CANWEA – of course their report will support the wind industry. It must also be noted that the Ministry of Environment has repeatedly stated that the technology to measure the impact of infrasound does NOT exist. What new, previously unknown, technology has HGC discovered? The answer is that they haven't...they did a peer review of documents created by people who work with/are in favor of the wind industry.

- c. the supposed financial boon to communities created by the wind industry is discussed in the Auditor General's Report....the link to the Toronto Star article is below...

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/politics/article/1097169--liberals-green-energy-strategy-blasted-by-auditor?bn=1>.

Our Auditor General clearly states in his Annual Report (http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/reports_en/en11/303en11.pdf) that there is NO financial benefit to this form of energy. There is already and will continue to be a huge financial cost to the taxpayers. Specifically in reference to job creation, I would ask that you take a moment to read, on page 117 of his report, the section entitled *Job Creation in Ontario*. This report is not the voice of some fanatical anti-wind NIMBY – this is the voice of our Auditor General.

On a local level, the Niagara Region Wind Farm Corporation held a public information meeting last fall pertaining to their wind development in West Lincoln. They had a huge sign which said "**80 million dollars will be put in to the community!!!**"..... at first glance, citizens were impressed, thinking that their township would have 80 million "new dollars" to spend on Township projects. It was only after some very specific questions were asked did the fact come out that 80 million dollars is the exact amount of money that will be paid to the 70-some families hosting the turbines over the 20 year lease...a whole new definition of "community" when you consider that West Lincoln has a population of approximately 12,000. This, unfortunately, is the kind of smoke and mirrors tactic the wind industry is infamous for; there are grave concerns you are getting the same kind of promises.

Your support of the original motion indicated you recognized that IWTs have the potential to harm both the environment and the health/residential values of citizens living in close proximity to these machines. The City of Hamilton was the first major urban center to say "*Stop! Do the research first! We care about our environment! We care about our citizens!*" We were and continue to be sincerely appreciative of that support. This proposed motion, by its very nature, indicates acknowledgement of the potential IWTs have to do harm. Supporting it is akin to saying it is okay to smoke in the back corner of the room or urinate in the shallow end of the pool – neither of which makes any sense. Please re-consider.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Anita Merritt