

FILE

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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Dear members of the OPSB,

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to the Icebreaker Windpower Inc. case number 16-1871-EL-BGN proposed wind project which is to be located offshore in Lake Erie.

Our Great Lakes are no place for wind power, in fact no location in Ohio is a place for wind power. By approving such a project the OPSB will be opening the door for future development of more wind generation in Ohio on and offshore. The Icebreaker project has already cost taxpayers millions and it will continue to do so through its construction and continued maintenance that will undoubtedly occur during the projects operational life. It is absolutely absurd to think that such a project will bring "green affordable energy" to "thousands of homes" in Ohio. The costs of construction, operation, and maintenance alone will undoubtedly do nothing but create higher energy costs while we the citizens of Ohio and the nation are forced to burden them. In addition, the notion that such a project is "green" is purely false and nothing more than a marketing campaign to garner public funding. Any maintenance that must be performed on such a project will have to be done by water, air, or both; thus creating more greenhouse gases. Additionally, the overall environmental gain is very little as several bird and bat species may be threatened as the Great Lakes provide a much needed habitat for these animals. Also, lets not forget about the annual Mayfly hatch: these pesky creatures are a major part of the food chain and obviously a necessary evil that is part of the Great Lakes Eco-system. It would be an interesting situation too know what kind of havoc these little insects could play on turbine operation and maintenance!

With all of these facts mentioned, it is hypocritical for any organization who claims to be "green" too justify the need for wind energy when there are so many other environmental concerns involved with the operation of a wind project. If this were truly a "green energy" project, **then all things must be considered.**

The application states that the project if approved will have the capability of producing **UP TO** a mere **20.7 mega-watts (MW)** of electricity using six 3.45 MW turbines totaling 479' in height that will occupy over 4 acres of Lake Erie (1.5 acres per turbine). In comparison a recent application for a single natural gas electrical generating plant near Toledo states it will provide up to 955 MW of power! Using these numbers, if wind power was to be developed to produce 955 MW of electricity in Lake Erie, or even on-shore for that matter, **the number of turbines would increase to over 276 and the land use footprint would skyrocket too 414 acres!** Furthermore, the application states that the Vestas model turbines proposed are rated for electrical production between 6.7 mph and 50.3 mph. As anyone who lives near Lake Erie knows, inclement weather can occur at anytime and it will often pack quite a punch!

Thus any high wind speeds will undoubtedly render this million dollar plus project useless while leaving it susceptible to weather related damages that will further exacerbate the costs. Additionally, the project can expect to see issues involving lightening strikes, ice build-up and possible wave damage. During the winter months (or any month for that matter) any damages to the turbines will most likely require maintenance personnel to be flown out to the site, thus placing these individuals in harms way if the weather were to "kick back up" again. A worst case scenario could possibly involve severe damage to the turbines- parts such as blades could be hurled into the lake which thus becomes "pollution" (the wind industry would probably call it an "artificial reef") on the lake bottom or scattered across vast areas of frozen water. With that being said, *any* weather event could spell disaster which would then increase costs while simultaneously diminishing the projects ability to produce that much touted "green energy".

Our Great Lakes are a source of water, food, and an ecological environment to the many aquatic and avian species that call Lake Erie home. This project demonstrates, like all wind projects, the land use "footprint" that is necessary to bring it to fruition. Thus it makes a valid case that any additional wind projects that may follow in the Great Lakes will obviously consume what is obviously public land. Therefore, I again ask that the OPSB **DENY** any further development of Icebreaker Wind case number 16-1871-EL-BGN along with any further off or onshore wind projects slated for the future. Our land and the public right to keep it sacred is no price to pay for costly and wasteful wind projects, especially since there are so many other options for **RELIABLE** and **COST EFFECTIVE** forms of electrical production. It is OUR LAKE, NOT THE WIND INDUSTRIES' - PROTECT IT!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Zeman".

Chris Zeman