

FILE



MICHIGAN®  
BOATING  
INDUSTRIES  
ASSOCIATION

16-1871-EL-BGN

The Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Case Number: 16-1871-EL-BGN

On behalf of the Michigan Boating Industries Association and its 365 members in the Great Lakes states, I would like to submit comments regarding our opposition to the Icebreaker Wind Facility project that would allow for the construction of wind turbines off the shores of Lake Erie.

**Michigan Boating Industries Association (MBIA) opposes Wind Turbines in the Great Lakes without more knowledge of their benefits and standard to assure they are not harmful.**

Although the MBIA is not opposed to alternative energy sources, the MBIA Board of Directors has consistently opposed the placement of wind turbines in any and all of the five Great Lakes without more information regarding the impacts to human life and the environment as well as industries such as boating, fishing, and tourism which have significant impacts on the economies of all Great Lakes states.

Currently Lake Erie is being targeted and all Great Lakes state leaders need to unite to help stop the Icebreaker Wind Facility project in Ohio that would allow for the construction of 8-10 wind turbines off the shores of Lake Erie. MBIA has been told its purpose is to be a "demonstrator" project, to prove the viability of building 1,400 to 1,600 turbines on Lake Erie, then the rest of the Great Lakes, and that it is never expected to be economically viable or produce any gain.

Not only could this project further impair an already fragile Lake Erie, it could also open the door for wind turbine installations in our other treasured Great Lakes.

As it pertains to the boating and fishing industry, the MBIA Board has specific concerns with the possibility of **exclusion zones** around the turbines which could make boating in these proposed areas difficult or prohibited, also the **potential dangers to boaters** related to navigational obstructions, and the **impacts to the Great Lakes fisheries** related to oil leaks, contaminated sediment disruption, wildlife kills, etc.

The MBIA Board also feels wind turbines could negatively impact tourism and home values.

Wind power is a constantly changing technology. It is **completely unregulated**. There is not enough information related to effectiveness and dangers, nor adequate controls in place to warrant approval of any wind turbine projects. Doing so may severely jeopardize the health and aesthetics of all our Great Lakes as well as the quality of life for those who live, work and play on or near them.

Sincerely,

*Nicki Polan*  
Nicki Polan  
Executive Director

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