

FILE

16-1871-EL-BGN



8009 Barrett Rd. * Sandusky, OH 44870

August 5, 2018

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

Case Number: 16-1871-EL-BGN

Dear Board Members:

Please reject the staff's latest recommendation for approval of the Icebreaker demonstration project in Lake Erie. As Ohio's greatest natural resource, Lake Erie is a fragile body of water already facing a massive algae problem, a myriad of invasive species, and other threats to the ecosystem.

The Lake Erie Energy Development Company (LEEDCo) has goal of stimulating construction of hundreds more turbines in "wind farms" throughout Lake Erie after this first demonstration project. However, blighting our beautiful lake with hundreds of industrial-size windmills is completely incompatible with the value, enjoyment and protection of this treasured waterway that is held by the State of Ohio in the public trust.

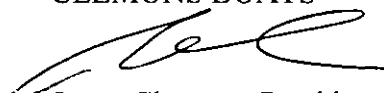
The very fact that the staff recommendation includes 34 conditions should clearly indicate to the OPSB members that there is need for substantially more study and data before any decision of this magnitude can be made. Moreover, current studies done by the same research organization that monitors the performance of existing turbine installations is an obvious conflict of interest rendering that data unreliable.

We are a family-operated boat dealership and marina marking our 52nd year in business. We have first-hand knowledge that the success of recreational boating in Lake Erie is because of its unblemished view and a freedom to get away from today's hectic schedules on its clear open waters. It allows us to provide 18 good full-time jobs. Destroying the lake with wind turbines will surely threaten our continued ability to succeed as people find the lake less attractive.

Finally, it is documented in both the U.S. and Europe that wind energy is more expensive and far less reliable than predicted by advocates. In California, for example, recently installed wind farms have produced 25 to 40 percent less energy than predicted. While some claim wind farms on water may do better, the mountain of evidence confirms they'll never meet predictions.

Accordingly, the wide range of facts about Icebreaker still needed clearly justifies the OPSB rejecting the staff recommendation and calling for more research and data from LEEDCo.

Thank you for your consideration.
CLEMONS BOATS


Jason Clemons, President

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