

FILE



16-1871-EL-BGN

Greater Cleveland Boating Association

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• Established 1946 •

• Dedicated to the safety and advancement of water recreation •

Member of Boating Association of Ohio • Great Lakes United • Lake Erie Safe Boating Council

Visit Us at Our Website: www.gcba.us

September 10, 2018

The Ohio Power Siting Board

180 East Broad Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Case Number: 16-1871-EL-BGN

Gentlemen:

The forty one organizations that make up the Greater Cleveland Boating Association urge the OPSB Board members to *reject* the current staff recommendation to approve the proposed "Icebreaker" demonstration project in Lake Erie off Cleveland.

Founded in 1946, the GCBA represents boating clubs and marinas located on the south shore of Lake Erie in Ashtabula, Lake, Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Erie counties. We are dedicated to the advancement of environmental protection and aquatic recreation in all forms, including boating, fishing, swimming, facilities development and protection of Lake Erie. GCBA represents approximately 15,000 boat owners.

As is well documented, Lake Erie is a fragile body of water and placement of wind turbines in the lake, with the long-term intent to build additional hundreds, raises unacceptable risks to the health and aesthetics not only of Lake Erie but the entire Great Lakes system.

We understand the OPSB staff has recommended your approval for such a project. The many conditions for approval outlined in that recommendation clearly signals the risks to Lake Erie and related environmental issues are real and insufficiently addressed. Moreover, the overall benefits to risks do not add up. For example, the claimed economic benefits of wind power haven't proven true. Advocates say we should follow the European example, but electric rates

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• Members •

All Kora Mariners Yacht Club • All Ports Yacht Club • Ashtabula Yacht Club • Beaver Creek Boat Club • Beaver Park Yacht Club • Catawba West Harbor Yacht Club • Chagrin Lagoons Yacht Club
Chagrin River Yacht Club • Cleveland Yachting Club • Commodore Cruising Club • East Light Yacht Club • Edgewater Marina Boat Club • Edgewater Yacht Club • Fairport Harbor Yacht Club
Forest City Yacht Club • Gordon Shore Boat Club • Grand River Boat Club • Harbor Yacht Club of Ashtabula • Huron Yacht Club • Intercity Yacht Club
Island West Yacht Club • Lake County Yacht Club • Lakeside Yacht Club • Lyman Boat Owners Association • Mentor Harbor Yacht Club
Mentor Lagoons Yacht Club • Middle Bass Yacht Club • Northeast Yacht Club • Olde River Yacht Club • Point Yacht Club • Put in Bay • Redbrook Boat Club
River's Edge Yacht Club • Sandusky Yacht Club • South Shore Cruising Club • The Captain's Yacht Club • Vermilion Harbor Yacht Club • West Channel Yacht Club
Western Reserve Yacht Club • Westlake Yachting Club • Whiskey Island Yacht Club • Wildwood Yacht Club

in countries like Germany and Great Britain are known to be among the highest in the world.

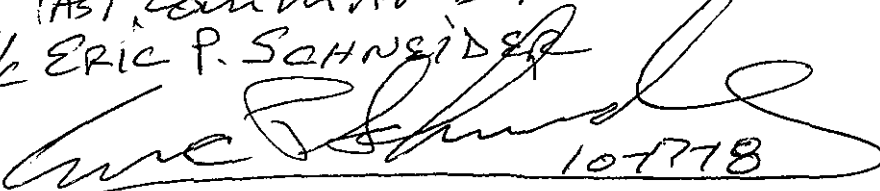
Such turbine installations will be also navigational hazards, triggering large "security zone" around the wind farms. This will prohibit boaters and anglers access to potentially thousands of acres of water that is held in the public trust.

It is also well-documented that wind turbines are bird killing machines. Lake Erie is a major flyway for migrating birds and turbine installation will violate the Migratory Bird Treaty, the Endangered Species Act and possibly other laws. We also suspect the turbine installations will negatively impact Lake Erie's fishing, a major factor in the success of tourism in Ohio.

Therefore, we ask you to recognize the overwhelming negative consequences of "Icebreaker." Further, that you uphold a duty to protect the health and aesthetics of Lake Erie and, thus, the quality of life for those who live, work and recreate on or near Ohio's most important natural resource. We urgently request *this Board put the value of Lake Erie above any proposal that will jeopardize our waters.*

Sincerely,
GREATER CLEVELAND BOATING ASSN.

By: Christopher G. Aane
Commander

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