

**From:** [Ohio Power Siting Board](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** public comment 16-1871-EL-BGN [ ref:\_00Dt0GzXt.\_500t0W1jyv:ref ]  
**Date:** Monday, June 29, 2020 4:55:43 PM

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Case Number: 16-1871-EL-BGN

On behalf of the Boating Associations of Ohio (BAO), I would like to provide comments regarding the Icebreaker Wind Facility project that would allow for the construction of wind turbines off of the shores of Lake Erie and the recent judgement made by the Power Siting Board.

Lake Erie is without question a crown jewel for Ohio. Members and supporters of BAO are committed to being a partner with the State and others interested in the preservation of a healthy Lake Erie. It is with that lens that we evaluated the IceBreaker project.

As BAO members have discussed this issue, we are not convinced that there is enough research and information out there to ensure this project would not have a negative effect on the health of Lake Erie. These turbines could effect wildlife, fishing, water quality, and navigability. There is not enough known about the long term effect of offshore turbines and BAO does not think Lake Erie should be the test ground.

We also know this demonstration project is not the end goal of the project proponents. This “demonstration” would open a Pandora’s box on building or installing additional structures in Lake Erie or other Great Lakes that interferes with clear & open water. This project isn’t about a couple of wind turbines in Lake Erie, it is about opening the door to HUNDREDS of these turbines in our beautiful Lake.

While we understand that this project may seem economically appealing to a few it could be potentially devastating to rate payers. Lake Erie’s health cannot be jeopardized for a possible short-term gain. As the state continues to battle the persistent algae blooms that threaten the cleanliness and safety of Lake Erie, it is not wise to introduce additional environmental uncertainty into an already fragile Lake.

Previously, your agencies should have received over 7,000 signatures from people with concerns about the project. Not enough Ohioans know the full scope of what this turbine project could entail, nor the risk it could cause to Lake Erie. Further, no one can know the full scope of the impact of installing wind turbines in a body of fresh water for the first time EVER. The Power Siting Board was wise to add additional conditions for the installation to move forward.

We understand your decision is being appealed. We implore you to hold strong and not to give up fighting for a healthy future for Lake Erie. If this project is the disaster we believe it will be, the damage could be irreversible. Please don’t put the health of Lake Erie in jeopardy.

We continue to fight against any action that could erode its tremendous value to the Great State of Ohio’s only Great Lake.

Michelle Burke 

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Summary: Public Comment of Michelle Burke on behalf of the Boating Associations of Ohio (BOA), via website, electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing