January 10, 2011

Mayor Bratina and Hamilton City Councillors:

On behalf of the residents in Glanbrook and all the Municipalities, in Ontario, who have been targeted for Industrial Wind Farms, we were extremely grateful for Hamilton's Motion, September 28, 2011, requesting the Provincial Government to return planning powers back to the Municipal level.

However, should the Council decide to rescind the request for a Motion to only the protection of Glanbrook, Ward 11, the remaining Rural/Urban Wards of Hamilton will become fair game for the Proponents of Industrial Wind Turbines. As with Glanbrook, the constituents of the unprotected Wards will unfortunately find out about Wind Farm projects after the options and leases have been signed and an Open House is held by the Developer.

It has been well over a year since our group became aware of how the nightmare of Industrial Wind Turbines have been impacting on the small communities all across Ontario. Since then, we have quickly educated ourselves on the Green Energy Act. The Provincial Government has stripped the rights of local government to do anything about it.

At first we thought, so what is the problem, Windmills they are warm and fuzzy, aren't they? Just look at the one down by the CNE waterfront in Toronto.

With all due respect to Urban Ontarians that is what we thought too. That is what our Provincial Government wants the majority of Ontarians to think.

However the massive scale of these Industrial Wind Turbines goes up to 49 stories high. They can be as close as 550 m to rural homes. There are 900 installed already in Ontario to date. The goal is to install over 7,000 all over Ontario.

Industrial Wind Turbine health complaints all over the World:

- Sleep disturbances
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea
Tinnitus
Irritability
Exhaustion
Heart Palpitations
Learning impairment

Not everyone who lives next to an Industrial Wind Turbine gets sick. Not everyone who smokes gets cancer. A person can choose whether or not to smoke.

Because of the health stigma of living within Wind Farms, in Ontario, property values fall. There is nothing a property owner can do about it. Their properties become a tough sell, if they can sell them at all. Hence, young families with mortgages see their most valuable asset depreciate to lower than the price they have paid for them. Yet they still have to pay their mortgage. Mortgage lenders are reluctant to renew their mortgages due to resale values. Older seniors, who depend on their homes to finance their golden years, no longer have that financial security. Sadly, Wind Developers have purchased some of these homes, but only with the provision that they sign a confidentiality agreement. Others, who have not been given the opportunity of a buyout and simply cannot live with the side effects, have made the difficult decision to move out of their homes. People do not leave their homes, which are their safe havens out of protest. The reality is, if this can happen with 900 Wind Turbines, what will happen with 7,000 or more Wind Turbines installed all over our Province? Is this the tip of the iceberg? Where there is smoke, there is fire.

When you debate this motion, ask the tough questions and proceed with the precautionary principle in mind. Yes there will be some temporary jobs created, but at what cost?

As elected officials, do you not have a social, legal and moral obligation to protect all of the constituents of Hamilton, no matter where they live? You are our first line of defense.

Please, we implore you to not compromise Public Health and Safety in Hamilton, by ignoring the complaints that have been documented in the Ontario Provincial Hansards at Queens Park and World Wide.

Kind regards,

Louise Jones
Glanbrook Wind Action Group,