

Dear Mr. Robert Stein,
Dear Members of the Connecticut Siting Council,

I wish to provide my comments to the Council concerning the siting regulations for wind turbines in Connecticut.

1. I believe there is plenty of space in Connecticut to site these turbines without crowding them near residential areas. The evidence shows people don't want these industrial machines to ruin the landscape. But there is also evidence of the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) ignoring the facts and favoring industry interests.
2. Very high priority should be accorded to protecting the properties of individual citizens many of whom have spent years improving their property and for which their property represents their major asset and life-long efforts, their children's education, and their retirement.
3. It is almost certain that a turbine sited in the vicinity of their property will not provide them with any benefits. Conversely, there can be no justification for a nearby wind turbine to represent a "taking" of their property value. To avoid this, the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC), must set regulations to be considerably distant from individual properties in residential areas. Certainly, a height-to-distance ratio of 1 to 1.1 previously discussed is totally inadequate to protect peoples' interests. Would you Mr. Stein like to live 550 feet from a 500-foot wind turbine? Neither would most people.
4. If sited too close to a residence, the sound would be a problem and the flickering sunlight would prove more than annoying. If you've ever driven along a country road with the low afternoon sun coming in through many trees and into the driver window, you know that flickering light can be debilitating, causing fatigue and eye strain.
5. The CSC must remember that it exists to protect the citizens owning properties (residences) from unscrupulous business interests whose only concern is profits. The "David" needs the CSC to stand up to the "Goliath". Industry-favorable regulations are a sure sign that the CSC is failing in its mission. We can't have the fox making the rules for the henhouse. So why are developers getting such a good deal? And let's not forget that the majority of these "developers" will be out-of-state interests.
6. The CSC also exists to facilitate and manage the proper siting of various facilities and to assist industries to accomplish this end. But it should never be done at the expense of the public. Don't forget, it is Connecticut taxpayers who support your work. The whole of Connecticut society should reap the benefits.

Finally, I find it disturbing that the date and importance of your public hearing was not better publicized to let citizens learn more and contribute comments to the public hearing. Are you really trying your best to "let the sun shine in"? And why are local planning and zoning commissions not part of the equation? Why does your website say my comments must be in by July 17 when the Connecticut Post article alerting me came out today, July 20th. Most hearings allow inputs up to the hearing itself and often during the hearing before the commission gavel to a close. Is the CSC afraid of receiving inputs? Is it open to good ideas and best practices? If it is, it should look to Europe where they are more advanced on these matters.

Also, I might add that I am somewhat familiar with wind turbines, have had a total tour of a turbine in Rhode Island including into the rotating generation portion at the top. I have been inside one and near one.

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