

David R. Lawrence, MD
200 New Hartford Road
Winsted, CT 06098

To: The Connecticut Siting Council

Re: Wind Turbine Siting Regulations for the State of CT

Dt: July 24, 2012

Dear Members of the Connecticut Siting Council:

Industrial wind turbines pose a risk to the health and well being of residents when they are sited within a distance that allows infrasound and low frequency sound to be at levels greater than 35dBA. Scientific research in the Netherlands by Pedersen and others persuasively demonstrate this. Furthermore, the World Health Organization recommends limiting noise of all frequencies to a maximum of 35dBA.

The proposed wind turbine siting regulations are inadequate to protect the well being of the residents who will live near the towers due to the excessive allowable noise. Because of this, the Siting Council will be in violation of its mission statement. The siting standards for setback should be based on scientific principles and not, as they currently are, on manufacturer recommendations. Connecticut noise statutes do not address the unique properties of noise generated by industrial wind turbines and cannot be safely applied until they are updated.

Computer models are available that can predict a safe distance from towers to residences that will keep the maximum level of infrasound and low frequency noise from exceeding 35dBA at each residence.

Sincerely,

References:

World Health Organization: Guidelines for Community Noise. (1999)

World Health Organization: Night Noise Guidelines for Europe (2009)

Response to Noise From Modern Wind Farms in The Netherlands Pedersen, et al, Journal of the Acoustic Society Am 126 (2), Aug 2009

Wind Turbine Noise, Annoyance and Self-Reported Health and Well-Being in Different Living Environments Pedersen, et al, Occup Environ Med 2007; 64: 480-486

Low Frequency Noise and Annoyance HG Leventhal, Noise and Health, 2004, 6;23, 59-72

A Review of Published Research on Low Frequency Noise and its Effects- Prepared for DEFRA HG Leventhal, DEFRA publication, May 2003

Health Effects of Exposure to Ultrasound and Infrasound: Report of the Independent Advisory Group of Non-Ionizing Radiation-Health Protection Agency (United Kingdom) Publication, February 2010)

Simple Guidelines for Siting Wind Turbines to Prevent Health Risks Kamperman, G and James, R Noise-Con 2008 Paper

Disconnect Between Turbine Noise Guidelines and Health Authority Recommendations Harrison, J, white paper, Queen's Univ, Ontario (date unknown)