



North American
Platform Against **Windpower**

Letter to Ombudsman

Paul Dube, Ombudsman Ontario

Barbara Finlay, Deputy Ombudsman

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C.c. Interested persons

File Number 290559

November 28 2016

Dear Ombudsman Dube, Deputy Ombudsman
Finlay, Mr. Pomerant, and Ms. Driscoll:

Please accept our appreciation for the investigation of your good office into numerous complaints over years now, concerning the health, economic, environmental and legal/judicial degradation due to the proliferation of industrial wind in Ontario.

The North American Platform Against Wind Power represents over 370 groups and tens of thousands of individuals, and liaises daily with European counterparts, numbering in the thousands of groups, in our networks world wide. From this perspective, we can view that the problems around industrial wind power are not local to Ontario, as suggested by a CTV news reporter some years back and by developers, but are universal, and regrettably, emblematic of an industry that has zero controls, which is coopting governments to enhance profits: [profits concentrated in the hands of few](#), and with no net societal benefit. Please see our recent “Whereas” Document, calling for a moratorium, attached. (World wide, in 2014, industrial wind produced a mere point two of one percent, net zero. Without subsidies, loans, guaranteed loans, tax incentives, there simply is no industrial wind proliferation. It is an obsolete and nonsensical, intermittent source, always needing 100% backup from fossil fuels or nuclear, or hydro power. [The cost of wind power](#) (an oxymoron) to Ontario is estimated to be about \$110,000,000,000.00 (One hundred and ten billion). [And we are reminded weekly that Ontario dumps excess power](#) to the US, in 2013, at a cost of 1 billion.

We know from our colleagues that you have been inundated with complaints. The sheer volume of these complaints reflects the desperation felt by Ontarians. The topics in this matter for your office are far reaching, from Municipalities in General, Municipal Meetings and irregularities, conflicts of interest, Health, Law and Order, Environment and Energy, to Money and Property. It is clear to us that the entire machinery of the province has been contaminated by profit taking at the expense of the people. The public trust has been seriously broken. Indeed, we have in Ontario an “opera” of ethical failure.

At no level has there been compassion or relief. Officers charged by law with protecting public health, water safety, ignore, or bluntly turn away concerns. [The list of approved projects](#) on the Ministry (Environment) website gives your office access to a host of impacted persons and communities. NA-PAW has interfaced with most of these impacted communities, at some juncture, certainly along with other activist groups in Ontario. If you desire and request, we can suggest persons to interview from across Ontario. Likely you already have done so. Please also consult with Barbara Ashbee, whose knowledge of impacted persons is without peer. Pauli Sommer also has knowledge and trust of impacted persons, and will be a very useful source of information that you can absolutely trust and confirm.

The Medical Officers of Health protest that there is no harm: Municipalities and Boards of Health sometimes provide informal or other hearings from impacted residents, but as in Huron County, excuse or release from duty, those who are sincerely accelerating responses to the dire health impacts reported to them. (Dr. Janice Owen, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Huron County: [Please see this link for details](#) and additional questions about why officers of health are being removed, from WI to Ontario.) Similarly, [The Shirley Wind project, Brown County](#), WI, has experienced great notoriety when the Board of Health faced upheaval upon the decision of the Board that the project was “a Human Health Hazard”. *This decision reverberated world wide, and a now familiar pattern of removal of personnel occurred. However, [Dr. Jay Tibbets, who chairs the Board](#), indicates that he has no doubt that the health impacts as recorded by 11 residents are turbine induced.*

[In a significant study arising from the Shirley Wind project](#), it was ascertained, now well known by all:

*“The four investigating firms are of the opinion that enough evidence and hypotheses have been given herein to classify LFN and infrasound as a serious issue, **possibly affecting the future of the industry.** (Our emphasis)*

MOUNTING AND CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE

Ignoring these serious issues along with the effects of impulsive amplitude modulation, and the relationship to sleep disruption, is unacceptable. The MOECC (Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change) has routinely failed to be accountable and perform regular noise and impacts audits in Ontario.

Mr. Steven Cooper, a prominent acoustician from Australia, who has testified before the AU Senate in wind turbine noise hearings, as well as having first hand data at the Cape Bridgewater Project in AU, asks very reasonable and thought provoking questions of the industry:

1. *Please provide the studies upon which the wind turbine/farm guidelines have been developed.*
2. *Please identify the noise source(s) that have been used in the studies related to question 1.*
3. *Please provide the dose-response data related to wind turbines/farms upon which the guideline/acoustic criteria are based*
4. *The most common complaint from residents relates to sleep disturbance. Please provide the studies of wind farm noise that identify the noise level (in any relevant acoustic index) that gives rise to sleep disturbance.*
5. *Please provide the studies of wind farm noise that identify the noise level (in any relevant acoustic index) that will not give rise to sleep disturbance.*
6. *Please provide the studies of wind farm noise that identify the noise level that will protect the acoustic amenity of residents in proximity to wind farms.*
7. *In light of the above please identify who would be liable for the consequences of adverse impacts arising from the operation of wind turbines/farms in any Class action for a wind turbine/farm satisfying permit conditions imposed by*

Steven Cooper reflects on the complexity of studying what he calls wind turbine “dynamically pulsed amplitude modulation.”

In his paper presented in the 170th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in Jacksonville, Florida, November, 2015, he reflects on the nature of ILFN (Infra and Low Frequency Noise) related to modulation. The title of his paper is: [Wind Farm Infrasound—Are we measuring what is there or something else?](#)

[Mr. Cooper's work with residents at Cape Bridgewater, Victoria, AU](#), is landmark, with turbines off and on study reliability. This study is again **conclusive** and direct evidence of the reality of unresolved complaints and impacts on the quality of life of residents participating. Residents reported headaches, severe nausea, **sleeplessness of a debilitating nature**, difficulty with concentration, ear pressure. [Read more on the link provided.](#) Access to residents' diaries are also in this link. These diaries are of course representative of world wide complaints. *Ontario's victims' complaints are identical.*

Mr. Cooper indicates that from an acoustic perspective, there is some as yet unknown mechanism that affects people. The following position has been adopted by the Acoustical Society of America Panel on Public Policy and endorsed by the Executive Council:

May 2014
Wind Turbines

Synopsis below:

Acoustic emissions of wind turbines include airborne, underwater, infrasonic, and structure borne sounds, and have been reported by individuals living near these facilities. Wind turbine acoustic emissions and their potential effects should be investigated and fully addressed in an interdisciplinary manner. The Acoustical Society of America urges that guidelines for relating wind turbine sound descriptors to probabilities of adverse effects be developed, to aid in wise wind energy planning. Methods for measuring and quantifying wind turbine acoustic emissions, particularly at very low frequencies, should be developed that support the interdisciplinary findings.

Arising from the above position the ASA under the guidance of Dr. P. Schomer (Standards Director, Emeritus, Acoustical Society of America) invited leading acousticians around the world who have been involved in research into wind turbine noise to participate in a Wind Turbine Noise Working Group.

The group has met at the ASA Meetings in Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Salt Lake City and in the next few days in Hawaii, to hear presentations on various aspects of wind turbine noise and consider views on the acoustic measurement and analysis/interpretation of wind turbine noise.

Some of those papers have been incorporated into the Proceedings of Meetings of Acoustics issued by the Acoustical Society of America.

NA-PAW was able to obtain a briefing from Mr. Cooper just after the release of his Cape Bridgewater Study. We were also able to contact Mr. Cooper as he is currently preparing to give two invited presentations in Hawaii to the ASA Wind Turbine Working Group.

We understand Mr. Cooper's research into the infrasound signature associated with the operation of turbines has questioned the capability of standard instrumentation to accurately represent the time varying signal of wind turbines that is best described as "pressure pulsations" rather than noise.

NA-PAW had been previously advised by people in attendance to his presentations in Salt Lake City (May 2016) they were impressed with a video presentation of Cooper's analysis method that clearly showed the occurrence of amplitude modulation, frequency modulation and pulsations in the acoustic signature of wind turbines.

His second paper at Salt Lake City showed a link between the infrasound signature, power modes of the turbines (as shown in the Cape Bridgewater Study) and amplitude modulation as used in the UK.

His third paper showed infrasound threshold levels for sensation (below noise threshold) and the effect of amplitude modulation of tones on individuals as a result of investigating complaints associated with a coal fired power station and a ventilation fan associated with an underground coal mine and the

similarity to wind turbine noise. (The POMA papers for Salt Lake City are in the peer review process by the ASA).

Cooper's work agrees with Dr. Schomer, Rick James and Rob Rand that people can hear distinct variable tones that are in the acoustic signature but at very low levels near the threshold of hearing.

As referenced above, Cooper suggests amplitude modulation of wind turbines may be better described as **“dynamically pulsed amplitude modulation”**.

Cooper considers the major impact on residents impacted by wind turbines is SLEEP DISTURBANCE, SLEEP DISTURBANCE, SLEEP DISTURBANCE.

The use of noise criteria for wind turbines based upon traffic noise studies does not address or reflect the dose-response of wind turbine noise.

Cooper considers two relevant questions in addressing the impact of wind turbines on residents arise from the last item and should be a fundamental item of investigation:

1. *What level of noise from wind turbines (under any acoustic index) has been found to give rise to SLEEP DISTURBANCE?*
2. *What level of noise from wind turbines (under any acoustic index) has been found to NOT give rise to SLEEP DISTURBANCE?*

These very important studies and assessments and those of others such as Bob Thorne, Rob Rand, Rick James, Jerry Punch, Curt Devlin, [Dr. Sarah Laurie of the Waubra Foundation](#), the pioneering work of [Dr. Nina Pierpont](#), to name a few, indicate that the questions around clarity of these signature sounds and are complex and a somewhat of a “to be determined” condition. However, the **impacts registered by victims** world wide continue to show a clear dose response relationship, and irrefutable similarity. “Home Abandonment” also

world wide has become one of the earmarks of a wind industry produced societal result: desperate clusters of persons, families, who as a last resort must consider their homes hazardous, and leave. It is not something a family does easily. Then of course, there are those who stay, as self-described, in “camps,” because the cost of moving is simply not viable for them.

For further confirmation that there is little doubt about the impacts, please also view the complete and highly clear, peer reviewed, easily readable review of health related wind turbine impact studies over 40 years, by [Drs Jerry Punch and Rick James](#): *The Negative Health Impact of Noise from Industrial Wind Turbines: The Evidence*. It is our assessment that this document is really a **benchmark of analysis** and study, long to provide a reference point to the longevity of credible and professional evidence.

“Reports that many families abandon their homes after IWTs begin operation make the anecdotal evidence particularly compelling.

Studies conducted in Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, and Sweden, where residents have many decades of experience with IWTs, collectively indicate that wind turbine noise differs from and is more annoying than other sources of noise, including community, transportation, and industrial sources.”

Back in North America, the story in WI (Wisconsin) of the Human Health Hazard continues to evolve with courageous leadership of a group called BCCRWE, Brown County Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy. We refer to this parallel WI story because of obvious similarities to the evolving story of the Huron County Board of Health. We add that the Huron County Board may have representation from the community that appears conflicted, or at times residents are unclear as to how those appointments materialized. (In Councils, some members deny entirely a Conflict of Interest (COI) while in the eyes of the public, it appears obvious. Some recuse after declaring, but do not seem to leave the room as one might expect, not vote while pushing back a chair, as one might **minimally** expect.) As confusion exists, we also wrote to Minister Hoskins for details on how appointments to Boards of Health are properly

made. Dr. Hoskins referred us to the [Standards](#), which include, “effective and efficient program and service delivery, and contribute to a public health sector with a greater focus on performance, accountability and sustainability.”

While the Huron Board has now agreed to a plan to “investigate” or “study” the health impacts of residents with the University of Waterloo and Wind Concerns Ontario, there remain questions about conflicts of interest, as several professors from this cooperating university have not found clarity and productive, meaningful results in their research. Their published conclusions have led to a call for “more study”, and offer a passing condolence to the “annoyance” that persons feel attached to the projects. Several persons also reflected on the sample size of a prior study by the same professor contributing to the proposed Huron investigation, that the pre-selection of participants for previous studies may have not been suitable or representative. [Brett Horner wrote to Dr. Bigelow](#) about his concerns regarding this forthcoming proposed study or investigation:

“Based on statements reportedly made by you it appears that your experiment intends to study Ontario residents “before” and “after” they are exposed to industrial wind turbines at their homes. These Ontario residents will likely include humans who do not consent to being exposed to wind turbine at their homes.

You reportedly stated that your research is “... a unique opportunity to look at the community before and after,”. The “unique opportunity” you plan to use for your “before” and “after” experiment is a man made living laboratory where the existing living environment will be intentionally altered with the introduction of wind turbine exposures such as noise pollution and shadow flicker.

Before conducting research on the health effects of a potentially harmful exposure human participates must be fully advised of all risks to human health.

Please confirm if you intend to provide participants in your research with full disclosure of all health risks from human exposure to wind turbines. Please confirm if you intend to provide full disclosure....”

It is our view that these studies do nothing to alleviate suffering in Ontario, and that there are serious ethical considerations to conducting human subject investigations. (This is not to suggest that there are not sincere and caring and highly professional ethical professors at the University of Waterloo who understand the issues and wish to find resolution for people via turbine studies, perhaps conducted without human participants, that might benefit Ontarians.) Some in and out of the university systems are additionally questioning the ethical nature of asking impacted residents to become again, guinea pigs for yet another span of time while the misery continues. It feels a bit like an emerging “cottage industry” to study matters that are already in much if not most of the scientific community, decided. How long should we continue to study, for example, second hand smoke, or effects of asbestos, before we act? *As Mr. Cooper suggests, and we agree, the history of impacts from wind turbines may well turn out to be much larger than those from asbestos.*

It is the view of NA-PAW that the negative impacts of wind power are clear and irrefutable, and since the industry does not provide meaningful electricity nor benefit society at all, there should be an immediate moratorium on future and pending projects, and that offending turbines should be decommissioned immediately. As with the case of [Thalidomide](#), high hopes for nauseated pregnant mothers provided with promises of refreshing and deep sleep, resulted in very long term misery. Similarly, the experience of the promises of green, clean, free and safe wind power, have given us unrelenting misery of every kind imaginable. None of the claims are true.

Obfuscation by firing

Again, firings or removals of honest and courageous people appear to only stir discontent and expose the corruption; it is easy to perceive the firings as additional proof that the system is rigged. The Political Agenda appears to have merged with the private profit interests of multi-national companies and of

course, “local pickers” as well, with again, little regard for cost benefit analyses, or impacts to Ontarians.

Please investigate the removals, transfers, or firings of medical personnel in Ontario, especially with relation to industrial wind. NA-PAW has personally had the opportunity to participate in a meeting with another Medical Officer of Health, Wellington, Dufferin, Guelph, Dr. Mercer, who granted an interview with a resident at Amaranth who has suffered for nearly 11 years at a confirmed toxic homestead. This March 9, 2016, was one of the most upsetting and irregular meetings we have encountered, and it was our impression that the MOH (Medical Officer of Health) was intimidating, insultingly coddling to get information, devious, inflammatory, and obstructionist. Her two colleagues were not any more helpful. It was extremely clear that there would be no meaningful dialogue, and that the resident who had filed complaints over time, and asked legitimate questions, and gone to expense and trouble to provide electrical reports validating his family’s and animals’ impacts from toxic electrical pollution, ILFN and noise and vibration on his property, would again be stonewalled. It has proven to be so. (Dr. Mercer clearly was knowledgeable that [two other families were no longer able to live on neighboring farms.](#))

The history of residents being disappointed in Medical Officers of Health is long since the advent of wind turbines. You will see attached a letter from 2010, partially quoted with permission here, from Andrea Waddell, admonishing the former Ontario MOH, Dr. Arlene King, for similar lack of care, lack of knowledge, or obstructionist patterns. The systemic failure is deep and longstanding in Ontario.

MAY 25 2010

Dr. Arlene King,

It is about time you quit your spin of lies you tell the media. It amazes me what you seemingly don’t know or understand about infrasound. Your refusal to listen to people who suffer sleeplessness and then say wind

turbines don't cause it is nonsense. We're not talking about one or two nights of sleeplessness. This sleeplessness is **endless torture**. Lack of sleep is robbing us of our health yet you disagree that wind turbines are the cause of it.

Ms. King, here are the FACTS:

The consequences of sleep deprivation are so intense because your circadian rhythm has evolved over hundreds of generations to align your physiology with your environment, and your body clock assumes that, like your ancestors, you sleep at night and stay awake during daylight hours.

If you confuse the situation by depriving yourself of enough hours of sleep, you send conflicting signals to your body.

A single night of sleeping only four to six hours can impact your ability to think clearly the next day. Sleep deprivation can cause changes in your brain activity like those experienced by people with psychiatric disorders

In addition, too little sleep can:

- Increase your risk of cancer by altering the balance of hormones in your body*
- Increase your risk of heart disease and stroke*
- Raise your blood pressure*
- Speed up tumor growth. Tumors grow two to three times faster in laboratory animals with severe sleep dysfunctions”*

Ms. Waddell never received a reply.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

Chances of piercing the wall of apparent intentional confusion and obfuscation are minimal, nil, really. MPP Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health, and Glen

Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, (MOECC) and a retinue of Green Energy compliant officers, continue to ignore, deny, and obfuscate the reporting and mitigation of ill health the people of Ontario. Add to this silence and denial, the additional insult that people are being asked to “prove” their own ill health: imagine attending your personal physician and being asked to prove your migraine. Medical reports and testimony to one’s physician, are sacrosanct indicators: the human body is its own measurement of ill or good health. These reports must be taken seriously and in the reverent manner of receiving information from the most highly trained recorder of danger and imbalance: the human body and brain. But this is not the case: and the insult adds to the injury.

The medical complaints that have literally flooded all levels of government, your office as well, and economic impacts complaints also to the Auditor General, are not trivial, nor vexatious, and are all made in good faith. There is now a multitude of complaints, some hundreds and even thousands coming from clusters of families, and the truth is that we have no idea from the MOECC what the numbers are: we know for certain that even **with four** individuals and families consulted, we have well over 1000 complaints to the Spills Line, or to the Ministry, or to the Minister. This is from our own notes and conversations, and likely is an underestimate. Imagine the true numbers of impacted. NA-PAW has received well over 100 calls from families, individuals, who have suffered or who continue to suffer deep personal loss, financial, health, children and grandparents prematurely leaving homes, suicides, profound depression situationally induced, and communities that have been fractured, driven from normalcy by the greed of a few who sign leases: Families are driven apart, likely to never recover.

The NA-PAW files contain, sadly, numerous, copious, reports of ill health, desperate pleas for assistance, support, letters, reports. We can name families, individuals, who are now living out of province, devastated, having lost heritage farms, health, jobs. How many have not self-reported, have simply left, now living in secondary homes, or cottages, having turned the keys to the

land and home to the bank, sold at a cut rate, or abandoned. We do now know the exact numbers, but we know that Ontario is on its proverbial head with loss of every kind.

Only a small handful of projects have been thwarted. Wind power has been fast tracked, without any reference to human health protection, the environment, or economic warning posts.

[Even today \(November 27th\) there is more evidence of economic systemic loss:](#) people are being forced to visit food banks due to the high cost of energy. We have never seen this level of carelessness by a government, which is [clearly aware of the harm, and is even now admitting “failure,”](#) if not even issuing a sideways apology. [As Reg Cohn says on November 22nd,](#) “Lack of love means always having to apologize, as Kathleen Wynne has discovered.” Here is the economic and health intersection. Choosing to eat or heat. People are having a hard time reconciling that this is their beloved Ontario.

Letters and pleas and calls to Ministers, two Premiers, and to Medical Officers or Directors of Health at all levels, have been ill received or ignored. Attorney Generals, WHO (World Health Organization), even the Queen of England has received notice of the contraventions of universally held principles of human justice. See letters as attached quoting and citing the references to UN Conventions of freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and demanding equal access to the law.

“Article 11 – Situations of Risk – Governments shall take, in accordance with their obligations under International law, including International Humanitarian law and International Human Rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with Disabilities in situations of risk... This can be interpreted as including ‘protection and safety of persons from Government policies if they are a threat to the life and health of a person with a Disability’ under the terms of International Human Rights law.”

In a letter dated November 11, 2016, see attached, Ashbee, Harrington, Correia and Krogh, carefully recount a process that is a catalogue of failure in protecting human health in Ontario.

“Your letter of July 25, 2016 indicates that MOECC will undertake “continued noise monitoring”, consider a “noise reduction plan”, conduct proactive inspections of a wind facility, use enforcement tools to ensure compliance, and conduct more noise measurements if needed.

It appears this process is functionally similar to previous approaches. Outcomes appear to be related to the noise and compliance levels which have been determined through predictive computer modeling. By its nature, predictive modeling is based on expectations which appear to be less helpful than actual noise measurements. A suggestion is to improve the process by requiring actual measurements and include the full spectrum of emissions of the industrial wind energy facility (dBA, low frequency/infrasound, tonal, cyclical, radio/electromagnetic energy) and be conducted indoors under various weather and seasonal conditions and operational stages (off/on/idling/low power/ramping up or down). Resident complaints and observations of adverse effects/sensations should be integrated during actual measurements.

*MOECC guidelines continue to consider dBA as the noise indicator; **however, personal correspondence received in 2009 from the Ministry of Environment advised that in regards to “perceptible infrasound (vibration) or low frequency noise, as stated in the Proposed REA, the Ministry of the Environment intends to develop technical guidance on the monitoring of infrasound and low frequency noise.”**¹ (Our emphasis)*

The authors continue to explore the seriousness of ILFN (Infra and Low Frequency Noise) impacts and lack of testing and compliance in this regard, and refer to the case of Mrs. Shellie Correia and her son, Joey.

“During our September 24, 2014 meeting held with MOECC representatives Ms Shellie Correia advised about the risks associated with exposing her son to industrial wind turbine noise. She provided a letter from her son’s specialist that supported these concerns. However, the MOECC approved the project.”

Sadly, this is the pervasive case across the province. Approvals, without the precautionary principle, without reference to historic levels of negative health impacts. This is obviously reflected worldwide as well in what most are now calling, a pandemic.

Exploitation

In a briefer fashion, we wish to impress on your deliberations the impacts also on the environment, the economy, communities, [property values](#), and [water](#). There is no resolution now but to turn back the clock and reverse the notoriously bad decisions that led Ontario to the brink as it is. People now refer to the “tipping point,” and ask why has it taken so long. You will recall our notes to you on [Poland](#) and Bavaria, and their relatively recent legislation to protect people and the environment , as well as our communication with you about recent European contractions with subsidies for industrial wind. This remediation for Ontario cannot wait until the next election. Article 16 of the UN Convention for Persons with Disabilities again refers to rights of freedom from exploitation. *“[The definition of ‘exploitation’](#) is “to take advantage of (a person, situation, etc) esp (sic) unethically or unjustly for one’s own ends.”*

In every sense the wind industry in Ontario has taken advantage of the Green Energy Act’s pervasive powers to unethically subsume for its own ends, every health protection, protection of the environment, and has given us grossly inaccurate claims of supplying jobs and bumping up the economy. The only feature “bumped up” is profits, grotesque profits, on the back of energy poverty for the rest. Ontario now has 300,000 job losses in manufacturing in the last 8 years. Much of this is due to the high cost of power, advanced

largely by the preferred access and lucrative subsidies to wind and solar. These economic disasters in Ontario are reported daily in the news.

Ross McKittrick and Kenneth Green's piece in the Financial Post, [Ontario's Green Disaster](#), indicates that

(The pursuit of) windpower was particularly ill-considered because provincial demand tends to be out of phase with wind patterns. In Ontario, 80% of wind-power generation occurs when demand is so low that the entire output is surplus and must be dumped on the export market at a substantial loss. The province's Auditor General estimates that Ontario has already lost close to \$2-billion on surplus wind exports: Figures from the electricity grid operator also show the ongoing losses are \$200-million annually. The wind grid is also inherently inefficient due to seasonal variability. Seven megawatts of installed wind energy capacity are needed to provide a year-round replacement for one megawatt of conventional power.

The losses are borne by taxpayers, homeowners, and as noted earlier, we are now, three years later from these losses outlined by McKittrick and Green in 2013, in the sorry state of watching Ontarians use food banks. These impacts are also a theft.

Additional theft takes place in the natural world.

In the bogus claims of “saving” the planet, cleaning the air, and making “free” energy, the exact opposite has occurred. The devastating environmental impacts will be known for hundreds of years. Developers count their own mortality and we know now that [the process is truncated, hidden, and cruel](#). Birds that are injured are not counted as “dead,” left to die in rehabilitation centers, and “cleanups” regularly take place before formal mortality counts. Search areas are sporadic, cherry picked, and some 90% less than what they should be. Some have had to revert to FOIs to attempt to gain access to the industry numbers. In some instances, [the developer sues](#) to prevent that

information being obtained. What we do know is that the ring of turbines around the Great Lakes is a path of certain destruction for wildlife, birds and bats. Banding stations are sometimes reporting shocking lack of activity. The USFWS reports numbers of about 575,000 bird kills per year, and about 880,000 bats. While neither of these numbers is acceptable, and all such mortality is alarming and cumulative with other sources, the real numbers are in the US alone, from turbine impacts, between 13 and 39 million. This does not include impacts and numbers from inability to reproduce having lost a partner, damaged or removed nests, or outrageous spans of loss of habitat. Again, obfuscation for promotion of an industry that gets permits to kill, harm and harass endangered species, where others would get fines and jail. *There is something ridiculous and heinous about “permitting” what one is already forbidden, especially with the aim of sacrificing for literally nothing, but more destruction and ignoble profits. (We cannot obtain fulsome Canadian mortality numbers yet.)*

Appeals for Justice

Legal processes such as Ontario’s ERT (Environmental Review Tribunal), have largely, with a very few exceptions, dismayed and failed appellants. Tribunal after Tribunal has shown preference to the Developer(s) and failed to protect people, wildlife, including endangered species. We have witnessed some of these hearings, and read most of the Tribunal’s illogical and fact defying decisions. One is left with the impression of illogical and again obstructionist methods to promote wind agendas is clearly entrenched in this system, which purports to give citizens a chance to delay or deny a project. There is nothing clean and fair about the Ontario ERT. It is a complete sham. It is shaming and sad to watch witnesses for the proponent, shills of the industry, spout their lies and garbled misrepresentations. And then the humiliation of the result for the sincere and hopeful appellants: *permit not to be revoked*. There is only one way to describe the entire system: broken, corrupt, dysfunctional. (We would add that applications to even the higher courts appear to be grossly favoring

developers.) World and local [criticism of the ERT](#) has been swift and strong. Some call it: Ruining Ontario, One ERT at a Time.

We respectfully ask for as complete an intervention as your office can provide, and a total investigation on all the matters relayed to you by all affected and interested persons. We request that you investigate all closed Municipal meetings, as well as closed and open meetings of Boards of Health in Ontario where projects are in place, or planned.

***Please fully investigate the firing or removal of Dr. Janice Owen.** We understand that there are several FOIs in motion regarding all communications between members of the Board of Health, Dr. Hoskins, MOECC, Ray Copes. Please access these as they arrive, and provide disclosure to the public. If there is evidence of corruption and collusion, please refer these matters to the OPP and/or RCMP.*

We additionally request that you investigate all Municipal Council Conflicts of Interest, declared and otherwise, and advise in a public fashion. The councillor of Ward One at Amherst Island has continually voted in Council, despite his mother-in-law having agreed to hosting, we hear, several turbines. It does not matter how he votes: he must recuse. There are extreme ethical hazards to the integrity of Councils of Ontario, where members host turbines, or close relatives of members, or otherwise receive benefit. These matters are well known now to communities.

*Please also demand that developers and MNR and MOECC provide open and transparent access to wildlife impacts in Ontario, bird and bat kills, as well as an assessment of habitat loss, and that an independent body be assigned to this task. If these are not forthcoming, we again respectfully request that procedures be put in place to immediately review all projects, with **independent experts** in charge of informing the public of the reality of wildlife, bird and bat impacts in Ontario, and immediate mitigation for existing projects.*

Please also inform the Premier that apologies and admission of mistakes are too little too late.

(Kindly note that attachments are numerous and may require several sendings.)

With respect, and thank you.

Sincerely,

Sherrí Lange
CEO North American Platform Against Wind Power (NA-PAW)
Founding Director, Toronto Wind Action
Member, Ontario Wind Action
Executive Director, Canada, Great Lakes Wind Truth
VP Canada, Save the Eagles International
www.na-paw.org
www.windturbinewildlifehell.org
www.wind-watch.org
www.turbinesonfire.org
www.greatlakeswindtruth.org
www.windturbinepropertyloss.org
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RESOURCES

<http://www.lfpres.com/2016/11/27/new-report-says-soaring-power-bills-help-force-hundreds-of-thousands-in-ontario-to-food-banks>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/11/22/kathleen-wynne-presses-reset-button-with-an-apology-cohn.html>

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2016/11/22/kathleen-wynne-presses-reset-button-with-an-apology-cohn.html>

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2014/01/20/ontario_paid_1_billion_to_dump_excess_electricity_in_2013_ndp.html

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/orgstandards/docs/org_std.pdf

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