

Good evening Chairman Burroughs, Council Members, staff and ladies and gentlemen of the gallery,

My name is Shellie Correia and I live in West Lincoln. I would like to speak to you about a presentation made by Tom Rankin at a previous council meeting regarding the region's decision to support Wainfleet and West Lincoln in their unwilling host declarations.

Mr. Rankin later told local newspapers that he was "disgusted" with the events. I must say that I was absolutely disgusted to hear the things he was saying to Council. It seems to me that the region's decision had been made in support of your own member municipalities and their citizens and that is what you are supposed to do.

To begin, I would like to clear up some of the statements that Mr. Rankin made to you.

He claimed that people love wind turbines in Germany and they don't have any complaints. Is Council aware that there are nearly 700 anti-wind action groups in Germany alone? There are hundreds more all over Europe who are continuing to fight irresponsible siting of wind turbines as well other issues such as energy poverty as a result of the subsidies being paid out to developers. Germany has also recognized that wind turbines can never be reliable and as a result, they are now building new, clean coal plants. I have provided you with documentation in this regard. Mr. Rankin also said that there are no issues with wind turbines in Alberta. While I don't claim to have reviewed each and every project in Alberta, I did look at a countless number of them and the closest turbine to home distance I could find was 1.7 kilometres. Is it any wonder they aren't complaining?

Mr. Rankin suggested that Niagara Region needs wind turbines in order to be the "Green Energy Capital of Canada." That is completely untrue and in fact rather

insulting. These “faux-green” machines have resulted in the need to spill water at Niagara Falls to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars. Niagara Falls is the source of the cleanest and greenest energy of all and I submit to you that we have always been and will continue to be, the green energy capital. Factories that build the turbines parts, which are un-recyclable by the way, emit a variety of toxins and carcinogens into the air. I know you are aware of this issue because it has been brought to your attention that the Welland plant that will build turbine blades is currently listed for public comment on the environmental registry. Take a look at the toxins they spew into the air over Welland. Wind turbines are symbolically green – at best.

Mr. Rankin says that wind turbines do not devalue property. That is just laughable. You don't even need to do a study on that one. Do you know anyone who would choose to live by a wind turbine when they have the option of living far away from one? Show me someone who would choose to live by a noisy, flickering, LFN producing eye sore in the sky. Mr. Rankin quoted two studies that claim there is no impact on value but I don't believe he bothered to tell you that both were commissioned by the wind industry. He didn't bother to tell you how badly criticized the reports are either. They included houses 8 to 10 kilometres away from the turbines as a means of masking the impact to the homes that were much closer to the turbines. He said that prices went up in Chatham Kent when the wind turbines arrived. He, like other wind proponents have chosen to interpret it that way but the study, conducted by ReMax, actually was about how the current high price of soy beans and a few other crops has driven up the price of farm acreage and only acreage. I have provided you with a report by McCann Appraisals which tells a completely different story and by the way, which was independent rather than commissioned by someone with a stake in it. If you don't want to take the time to read the report, you can simply ask yourself one question and that is “*why do realtors now make you disclose wind turbines as they do other undesirable structures in a neighbourhood?*”

Mr. Rankin then took issue with Mayor Jeffs and said there was no issue until she arrived. He claims there has been no new information in the last 10 years. I almost laughed out loud, along with many others in the gallery. There are developments on this issue every single day. Main stream media have made it a major issue and there is always a new report on either the health effects, the loss of democracy, the ever increasing cost of hydro due to the subsidies involved, wind developers suing Ontario citizens and of course, the 67 (and counting) municipalities who have declared themselves unwilling hosts. It has also been demonstrated that coal plants can be very clean simply by adding inexpensive scrubbers and filters. Contrary to Mr. Rankin's claim, there is news everyday about wind energy and the scales are tipping towards proving how ridiculous it is.

Mr. Rankin claims that a survey showed 80% of the population want wind turbines. Let me tell how that figure came about. The study was commissioned by CanWea who by the way, wrote the one and only statement to be used in the survey. The statement was *"Do you feel that wind energy is one of the safest forms of energy as opposed to nuclear or coal?"* Let me read that to you again - *Do you feel that wind energy is one of the safest forms of energy as opposed to nuclear or coal?* Gee, do you think that it is possible to provide any answer other than "yes?" Even Oracle, who conducted the survey, made a point of stressing that CanWea provided the one and only statement to be asked in the survey. They then took the survey question and made 1000 phone calls, the distribution of which was based on population density. So.... Given that 85% of the population in Ontario live in urban areas, according to Stats Canada, is anyone surprised at the results? This is how the wind industry twists things – they load surveys, misinterpret studies and buy favourable results.

Mr. Rankin told you that there are no health effects from wind turbines. This is absolute nonsense. The majority of the studies he cites were commissioned by the industry or like the Ontario government, an organization that has a pro-wind stake in the matter. He said that there are 18 studies proving that there are no

health effects. In answer to that, I can produce even more than that saying there are health issues and yes, they have been peer reviewed. Is council aware that that Dr. Arlene King's report was exposed under the Freedom of Act for using a creative play on words? Documentation was produced showing how she and her team carefully inserted the word "direct" when speaking of health effects. They couldn't honestly make a claim that there are no health effects so they instead changed it to read "no **direct** health effects." With cigarettes, the health effects are caused indirectly but it doesn't make them any less serious. For wind turbines, I don't expect any real issue with a direct effect such as one of them falling down on me. It is the indirect effects that are the issue.

I would now like to tell you about my personal struggle to protect my son. I have brought the matter to the wind developers in this room and they have not done a thing to help. My son's specialist has provided a written opinion saying that he absolutely cannot live anywhere near a wind turbine and I have shared that with NRWC. They claimed they would get back to me. They didn't bother and the next thing I saw was their application being submitted to the Ministry of Environment. How is that they can claim to be good neighbours and good corporate citizens yet they don't even bother to respond to the documented health issues of a child? I have been left with no choice but to secure a lawyer to protect my son and I am told that this will be a precedent-setting case. Neither the wind developer nor the government can claim to have been unaware of my son's issues. I have made sure that all documentation related to my son's health has been sent by registered mail and I have followed up regularly.

This Council, in previously choosing to support the Townships of Wainfleet and West Lincoln, made the right decision. You should not over turn that now because wealthy wind investors didn't like it. Please do the right thing and support your municipalities.

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