



PERTH DAIRY PRODUCER COMMITTEE

c/o Henry Wydeven
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Dear Ontario Federation of Agriculture,

At the February 10, 2012 Annual Meeting of the Perth Dairy Producers, the situation regarding wind turbines was discussed extensively and I was asked to write to you, expressing our support for the position taken by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture relative to wind turbines.

Wind turbines are becoming a major concern across Perth County with long standing projects in the area west of Mitchell, around Sebringville and around Brunner with new initiatives underway in Elma-Mornington and west of Newry.

For the most part, these projects are being located on prime agricultural land and we are concerned about the amount of land being removed from production and the potential impact on our dairy operations. Under the proposal, any landowners can impose turbines on the whole community with very little effective opportunity for other landowners to provide feedback. The result is a community that is completely divided.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture effectively captured the current circumstances in Perth County when they characterized the situation regarding wind turbines as 'untenable'. In particular, we support their concerns about:

- Rural residents' health and nuisance complaints must be immediately and fairly addressed.
- Province must conduct comprehensive analysis using local empirical data to determine the adequate set-backs based on the technology being deployed.
- The regulation governing participating receptors must be amended the appropriate minimum set-back determined through analysis for all turbine developments.
- The return of some planning control for turbine installations to the municipal level.

We agree with the calls from our rural municipalities and the OFA for a moratorium of future wind turbine developments until these issues can be satisfactorily resolved.

The Perth County Dairy Producers support the need to improve air quality. We are just concerned about the impact of wind turbines on our community. The Auditor General confirmed that the use of coal fired generation plants has been declining with wind turbines making little or no contribution to achieving this objective. In fact, the intermittent nature of the power generated by wind turbines requires that they be backed up by some form of fossil-fuel burning capacity. The high premiums being paid for wind and solar power are important contributors to the rapidly increasing cost of electricity. Dairy operators face the full brunt of these increases and it is not possible to confine our activities to the lower-priced, off-peak period.

Yours truly,

Henry Wydeven,
Chair of the Perth Dairy Producers