



The Corporation of the

Township of Uxbridge

In The Regional Municipality of Durham

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April 14, 2009

Barbara Ashbee-Lormand
335498 7th Line, Amaranth, RR#1
Shelburne, Ontario
L0N 1S5

Dear Ms. Ashbee-Lormand:

Your letter to the Hon John Gerretsen has been sitting on my desk for some while. I did not want to let it go without some type of response but I was equally unsure as to how best to react. I needed some time to "think" about it.

Now having done that and found some "quiet time" I am responding.

As the Mayor of Uxbridge, our Council had to deal with an application for the installation of several wind turbines on a piece of rural land in the northern part of our Municipality. It was exactly as you described, the project was heavily subsidized to the point that it was totally unachievable, as a business proposition, without the subsidies.

Fortunately we had a lot of vocal opposition who banded together to bring the type of information to the table that you listed concerning the devastating impact on people living in the vicinity and the project got defeated at Council.

I felt at the time, that it was totally ludicrous for the Province to abdicate their policy responsibilities and leave the decision on where wind farms can be placed or not placed to local Municipalities who each (all 445 of them) would have to engage consultants to perform studies to determine the appropriateness or not of each proposal. Now, what is equally disturbing to me is that the Province is threatening to overrule a Municipality, in the Green Energy Act, that denies the right to a developer to construct a wind farm.

The fact of life is that wind farms are not efficient and certainly are not viable without these huge Government subsidies. I have it on good authority that the wind turbines are (at best) only 15% effective and in high winds do not work at all (they have to be shut down).



Distributed solar is a far better option than wind and should be the target of Government subsidies, NOT wind power. I do not understand the apparent inability or unwillingness of Government Ministers to see the obvious.

This letter does not bring you much in the way of direct support except, hopefully, to let you know that you are not alone in this matter and I hope you will keep up the good fight.

It is time we learned from other people's mistakes (The experience in Europe for example) and stopped blindly charging down a road that is known to be destined to failure just for the sake of "appearing" to be Green.

If it helps, feel free to share this letter with whoever you please, including Government Ministers.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Shepherd". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bob Shepherd
Mayor, Township of Uxbridge