

From: Catherine Bayne
Sent: Saturday, December 08, 2012 3:56 PM
To: BOS
Subject: 12/11 LCPA Hearing

To the attention of Marin County Board of Supervisors re:12/11 LCPA Hearing:

Since tourists from California come to our wild land and some of us have relatives who now live in your beautiful coastal area we know of your issues with industrial wind turbine developments. We too are threatened and so I make so bold as to offer observations gleaned over a whole tourism season in the hopes that it will encourage caution and conservation of your landscape amenity which I and others have enjoyed on past travels and would be loathe to know had been vandalized. Please consider my cautionary tale with respect to tourism.

"Who but a lunatic," I asked, in conversation with a man over the map of proposed industrial wind turbine (IWT) developments, "who but a lunatic, would ever think one of the cleanest parts of the cleanest of the Great Lakes would be a good site for something which could leak..." ; "...WILL leak!", he interjected emphatically. He went on to explain his qualifications to hold that view; as a mechanical engineer he had 35 years working in Operations and Maintenance and said with assurance that if a thing has moving parts it will leak. He sat in his truck parked on the Alona Bay scenic lookout gazing out at the majesty of Lake Superior and he signed a letter to the Premier of Ontario demanding a halt to the wanton industrialization of Canada's natural heritage treasure.

Lake Superior Action Research Conservation (lsarc.ca) is collecting the letters to make the case that the landscape values of this area support local, regional and international tourism. NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) name-calling by government and industry, though always inappropriate, is particularly egregious here on the Trans Canada Highway, this is our nation's FRONT yard.

One might even say it is akin to a National Gallery because the unspoiled vistas are the conjoining of our Cultural and Natural Heritage; the Living Art which inspired the Group of Seven continues to enchant other artists and tourists from around the globe. They recognize in this reality the image of Canada they have beheld in their mind's eye; to Canadians this is the wild we know so well it is part of our self-image.

A woman heading East on her first trip out of Northern Saskatchewan, eyes agleam as she marvelled at the majestic scenery said with sudden passion, "It makes you proud to be a Canadian!" She is not alone in being moved, many experienced travellers from around the globe asked, "What do you need me to do?" , "Can I still sign your letter if I am not a resident?"...even before I finished indicating the proposed projects, their stage in the Renewable Energy Approval Process, the location of the existing (since 2006) Prince Windfarm, grid performance data and the extent of its visual blight relative to the point at which we stood.

A camper who had just spent the night at Pancake Bay Provincial Park confirmed the 30 km visual intrusion as she had gone to the shoreline expecting to enjoy the great starry bowl of the universe mirrored in Superior only to be so distracted by flashing red lights marking the southern horizon that she had angrily blurted out, "What the hell is THAT?" Cottagers with property on the waterfront even 40km distant, though now long exposed to the erosion of wilderness allure, still react viscerally to the mention of the industrial blot on their landscape.

The Irish developer of the Bow Lake Project proposed for a minimally impacted forest/wetland complex adjacent to Lake Superior Park and a mere five kilometres from the Great Lake's shores had discounted the effect of IWT on the landscape amenity using a Scottish Government report. The biggest insult was not that we did not merit our own study, it was that the Scottish report actually admitted a negligible negative effect on "national" tourism but such a drastic effect on wilderness areas that they should be given special planning consideration! This gross misrepresentation of the study was pointed out, both to the developer and Government, but to no avail.

A convincing 89% of people approached on the scenic look-out were committed enough in their objection to the industrialization of this iconic landscape to sign and sometimes personalize with added comment, our letter to the Premier. Their postal codes indicate a wide range of provinces, states, and countries represented; they often represent places which have already been invaded to their social, environmental and economic detriment. Spot canvassing at other locations such as tourist businesses, cottages on waterfront roads and remote hunt camps in the surrounding area achieved an even higher percentage (90-100 %) participation.

As disillusionment with the green energy "unreliables" increases, so too will tourist antipathy for the flashing, flailing symbols of towering disregard for hard Science. The thousands of people who have fought to protect their own tourism areas are becoming a voice against the proliferation of IWT everywhere. Who would want to spend money on a holiday get-away which runs a gauntlet of industrial power infrastructure? It may not be long before there is a demand for truth in advertising; travel agents should be ready to offer a money-back guarantee for a Turbine-Free Vacation.

Catherine Bayne
BayNiche Conservancy
MRH ON P0S1H0
www.bayniche-conservancy.ca
Member: www.savetheeaglesinternational.org
Member: www.lsarc.ca
Member: www.greatlakeswindtruth.org