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Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Commerce, Utilities and Rail
(SC-CUR)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



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WisconsinEnvironment.org
(608) 261-1134 ext.
(800) 487-7654 ext.

March 3, 2008

Senator Jeff Plale
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Room 313 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Phil Montgomery
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities
Room 129 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Plale and Representative Montgomery,

On behalf of our 6,500 members, I am writing in support of wind siting reform (SB 544, AB 899). As you know, Wisconsin has tremendous potential to create more energy from homegrown, clean, renewable sources. In 2006, Wisconsin took an important step in the right direction by adopting the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Act, which will quadruple renewable energy in Wisconsin. But we must and can do much more.

There are several key elements to consider moving forward:

1. Under current law, the Public Service Commission has permitting and pre-emption authority over all power plants in excess of 100 MW, including wind energy installations. The proposed legislation would not change the threshold that triggers PSC pre-emption authority.
2. Under current law, local governments have permitting authority over all power plants under 100 MW, including wind energy installations, and no statute grants the PSC explicit authority to pre-empt their permitting decisions for power plants of this size. If the proposed legislation were adopted, wind developers would still need to file applications for permits with local governments.
3. The current permitting environment for wind energy facilities is dysfunctional. Though state law prohibits local jurisdictions from restricting wind development, unless the regulations serve to protect public health and safety, there are no agreed-upon standards available to local jurisdictions. This creates an opening for some local jurisdictions to impose

restrictions and requirements on wind developers that are expensive, time-consuming, and often divorced from scientific reality and Wisconsin experience. As a consequence, approximately 400 MW of planned wind developments, representing \$800 million in investment and \$1,600,000 per year in payments to local governments, are stalled across Wisconsin, due to moratoria and restrictive ordinances adopted by local governments.

4. The proposed legislation would require the PSC to promulgate rules setting forth permitting standards that would apply to all wind energy installations. PSC rulemaking is open to all stakeholders, including groups opposed to wind development. Interested parties would have a place at the table where they can make their case for specific provisions.
5. The proposed legislation would institute a process for appealing local permitting decisions to the PSC for projects above 1 MW. This appeal process provides developers and decision-makers alike with a tightly defined framework and timetable for preparing, reviewing and deciding on applications to construct commercial wind turbines.
6. Wind is the only renewable energy resource that can scale up to meet the utilities' current renewable energy requirements. At least 90% of the energy needed to meet Wisconsin's 10% statewide target will be generated with wind. The single biggest constraint to increasing wind generation in Wisconsin is the permitting environment, which is far more problematic here than in neighboring states. The delays and cost overruns that arise from local permitting battles are ultimately passed along to ratepayers.
7. This legislation requires the Public Service Commission to set uniform standards for local units of government to apply in permitting wind turbines in Wisconsin. In this proceeding as well as all other proceedings, the Commission has the responsibility of implementing state energy policy while protecting public health and safety. This legislation does not dictate what those standards must be. The Commission will set those standards based on both Wisconsin wind generation experience and relevant scientific analysis available from other sources.
8. This legislation is the product of compromise between the wind industry, local government associations, a broad spectrum of energy stakeholders and the executive branch. The parties came together to fashion a framework that balances the interests of the state with the desire to preserve local permitting authority. This new framework ensures greater certainty to the wind industry while preserving for local governments the authority to review and make decisions on wind energy projects.
9. As written, the legislation would not place any limitations on appeal rights to the Public Service Commission. The ability to appeal a decision by the reviewing local government is open to developers, host landowners and neighboring residences.

Thank you,

Dan Kohler

Director



**IBEW LOCAL UNION 2150
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Daniel E. Sherman, Business Manager**

March 3, 2008

Senator Jeff Plale
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
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Representative Phil Montgomery
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities
Room 129 West, State Capitol
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State's Largest Energy Union Supports Wind Permitting Reforms

Local 2150 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers would like to announce our support of legislation to streamline and standardize wind power permitting in Wisconsin. Our labor organization has supported other efforts to create defined procedures and timetables regarding other energy related projects such as transmission lines and power plants. Being the largest labor organization representing energy and utility workers in Wisconsin we have witnessed the frustrating and often contradictory processes that have stalled many of the wind projects across the state.

Our members clearly understand the strong history of local control in Wisconsin. This legislation would not remove local review of these projects (sized less than 100 megawatts); it would standardize the procedure with set timetables so that each proposed project is reviewed on a timely basis. Decisions regarding permitting should include input from all stakeholders not tabled or put through an endless bureaucratic process.

Wind energy is by far the most promising of the renewable energy sources available to be connected to the electrical grid with current technology. Local 2150 was an active participant in passing Act 141 that created the renewable portfolio standards that must be met by the state's utilities by 2015. In addition, Local 2150 serves on Governor Doyle's Task Force on Global Warming where increasing renewable standards is a likely recommendation. Wind will continue to be the logical solution to meeting those requirements.

Wind permitting standards will allow for the expansion of the wind industry to help support future base load generation sources such as clean coal technologies and nuclear power plants in the shared goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

If you have any questions regarding IBEW Local 2150's position on this issue please contact Forrest Ceel, President of IBEW Local 2150, at 262-252-2552 extension 223.

Daniel E. Sherman
Business Manager

sl/opeiu/local 9



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March 3, 2008

**To: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Members of the Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities**

Subject: Senate Bill 544 and Assembly Bill 899

Dear Committee Members:

Please let me introduce myself. I am a practicing Noise Control Consultant with over 35 years of experience in community noise. During those years I have worked with Fortune 100 firms including the Big Three Auto companies, Goodyear and others to address their noise related problems, both inside the manufacturing complex and in the communities in which they are located. In 2005 I started working with communities where industrial wind turbines were being installed. In this work, I have not only conducted my own studies, but have also reviewed the considerable amount of research that has been published on the topic of Wind Turbine Noise and Public Health and Safety.

Given my current understanding of this issue the proposed bills before the committees must be read with concern by any professional who has experience in community noise and/or land use compatibility. These bills, in conjunction with the Model Wind Ordinance (draft Feb. 2007 by the Wisconsin Task Force on Wind Siting Reform), will subject the citizens of rural Wisconsin to conditions that should not be considered acceptable in any westernized country. The complete absence of any provisions in either the bills or the model ordinance to protect the health and safety of the people who will be required to live near industrial wind turbines is unacceptable as public policy.

This difference between the content of the current bills and Model Ordinance and the current understanding of the effects of wind turbine sound on public health and safety can only be explained if their authors have either not conducted a proper study of wind turbine noise and health issues or if misinformation has been provided to the committee(s). If the former, I have excerpted some relevant information from current research papers that I would appreciate being entered into the record. Footnotes identify the relevant studies. Copies of those papers can be provided if the committees cannot locate them. If the reason was misinformation, then the advisors were not serving the needs of your committee(s) or the Public Good. Is it possible that they were affiliated with the wind industry and were attempting to capitalize on the State's need for renewable energy? Those who claim that a setback of 1000 feet and a sound limit of 50 dBA are rules that are protective cannot point to any independent scientific evidence to support their claim that these rules will protect the public's health and safety. Why and what basis would they make such claims?

In Denmark, the country that championed industrial wind development, setbacks are at least 6 rotor diameters. For a typical industrial wind turbine with 80 meter diameter blades this would be a setback of over 1,600 feet. Recent studies and papers at conferences have

suggested that 1 to 1.5 miles is the proper setback. Why should the citizen's of Wisconsin be forced to tolerate setbacks of 1000 feet?

Where is the scientific support for a 50 dBA limit? If 50 dBA is acceptable, why does the World Health Organization recommend that wind turbines be limited to sound levels of 30 dBA or less during the evening and night? The places that are targeted for industrial wind turbines are accustomed to sound levels of 25 dBA and lower during those periods. (See table 3 ISO below) Further, why does the World Health Organization conclude that use of dBA limits for industrial wind farms are not sufficiently protective and recommend the use of dBC limits? This recommendation is followed by Germany. Germany, a much more densely populated country than the rural areas of Wisconsin, has installed hundreds of industrial wind turbines, yet requires that they comply with a not to exceed limit of 35 dBA and 38 dBC or 5 dB above the background (L₉₀) sound level whichever is lower. Why should Wisconsin's citizens be at risk when other countries, with more years of experience with wind turbines, protect their citizens?

What is considered acceptable for rural communities? The International Standards Organization recommends limits of 25 dBA maximum¹.

Table 3 ISO 1996-1971 Recommendations for Community Noise Limits – limits to protect health and wellbeing

District type	Daytime upper limit	Evening time upper limit (7-11pm)	Night time upper limit (11pm-7am)
Rural	35 dBA	30 dBA	25 dBA
Suburban	40 dBA	35 dBA	30 dBA
Urban residential	45 dBA	40 dBA	35 dBA
Urban mixed	50 dBA	45 dBA	40 dBA

You may have heard from advisors that the low frequency sounds emitted by industrial wind turbines are safe. Yet, Dr. Amanda Harry found that²:

"The evidence supplied has been made by a prolonged study of research available worldwide. Some acousticians have expressed the opinion that the level of low frequency noise (in dB (A)) emitted by a wind turbine will not produce health problems. However during my extensive search of the published literature, I have been unable to find any medical evidence to support this opinion."

And,

"There is consistent evidence for annoyance in populations, exposed for more than one year to sound levels of 37dBA and severe annoyance at 42dBA. There is no doubt that annoyance from noise adversely affects human wellbeing."

¹ Phipps, Dr. Robyn, Evidence in the Matter of Moturimu Wind Farm Application, Heard before the Joint Commissioners, Palmerston North, New Zealand, March 8-26, 2007

² Harry, Dr Harry M.B.Ch.B. P.G.Dip.E.N.T., Wind Turbines, Noise and Health, February 2007.

Studies now underway by medical researchers in the US seek to address this question in more detail. Public policies set in the absence of evidence of proven safety should be set using conservative limits. Imposing limits that may include health and safety risks is not appropriate.

Studies in Sweden of over 1000 people living near industrial wind turbines for 3 years or more have shown that people are more annoyed by the sounds of wind turbines than of other common community noise sources.³ Figure 1 below shows that at 50 dBA approximately 10-15 % of the population would be highly annoyed. At 40 dBA, less than 5% are highly annoyed. Yet, when response to wind turbine sounds is studied we find that over 25% of the population is highly annoyed at 40 dBA and between 40-50% are highly annoyed at 50 dBA. Highly annoyed means highly motivated to seek redress. When considering just the sounds from the rotor blades over 80% are annoyed at 35 dBA, which is the upper limit permitted under German standards. Why should Wisconsin's rural communities be forced to tolerate 50 dBA?

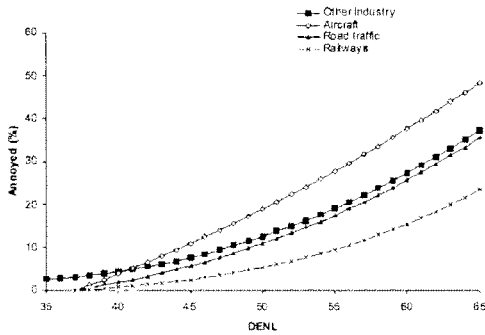


Figure 1. Polynomial approximations of dose-response relationships between day-evening-night level (DENL) and annoyance of noise from industry other than seasonal industry and shunting [Miedema and Vos 2004], and between DENL and annoyance from transportation noise [Miedema and Oudshoorn 2001]. The curves describing response of transportation noise were forced through zero at 37 DENL [Miedema and Oudshoorn 2001].

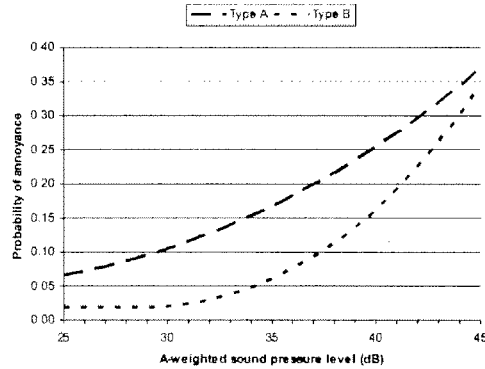


Figure 11. Estimated probability of annoyance with wind turbine noise outdoors, related to A-weighted SPLs in landscapes of type A (rural, with low background sound levels) and type B (suburban).

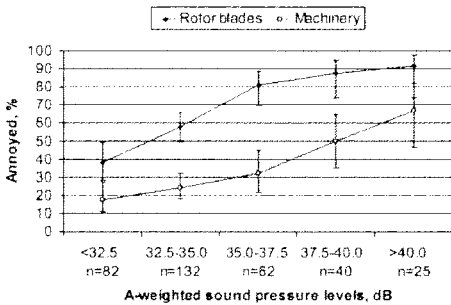


Figure 8. Proportion of respondents who noticed sound from rotor blades and machinery respectively, outside their dwelling in Study I, in relation to A-weighted SPLs in 2.5 dB intervals.

³ Pedersen, Eja; Human response to Wind Turbine Noise- perception, annoyance and moderating factors; Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Institute of Medicine, The Sahlgrenska Academy, Goteborg University, Sweden. (2007)

If you have been advised that 1000 foot setbacks and 50 dBA sound limits were the standards used in the rest of the world you have been misinformed. Countries that base their guidelines on the expertise of independent noise control professionals would never consider those limits as adequate to protect the health and safety of the citizens. As discussed above, countries with industrial wind turbine experience have found that people find wind turbine sounds more offensive than traffic, rail, air, and many of the industrial sounds to which we are routinely exposed.

I strongly urge the committee to reconsider its current bill and make the needed changes to assure that any guidelines issued by the State implement reasonable and accepted sound limits for industrial wind turbine siting. Require that the installation and operation of one or more industrial wind turbines does not increase the background sound levels ($L_{90\text{night}}$) that are common to your rural communities by more than 5 dBA or dBC. This simple rule will be no more restrictive to wind farm development than rules already accepted by the wind industry in other parts of the western world.

Sincerely,

For E-Coustic Solutions



Richard R. James, Mem. INCE



Clay Banks Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy
1440 County Road U, Sturgeon Bay WI 54235

March 3, 2008

To: Representative Phil Montgomery, Chairman and Committee Members
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE on ENERGY & UTILITIES

Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chairman and Committee Members
SENATE COMMITTEE on COMMERCE, UTILITIES & RAIL

From: Jeanne Dimick-Rego
MEMBER - CLAY BANKS CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE WIND ENERGY
DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Dear Representative Montgomery, Senator Plale and Committee Members:

Below is my written testimony in opposition of proposed Assembly Bill 899 and Senate Bill 544.

I am a member of the Clay Banks Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy and I coordinated an advisory petition effort in late April 2007 in the Township of Clay Banks opposing commercial wind turbines because of their adverse and negative impacts on those that must co-exist close to them. We have 228 signatures on file from full and part time residents and these have been presented to the Clay Banks Town Board. We collected 183 signatures alone the first weekend. The remainder of these signatures were received from packets we left at residences to mail to me and a mailing effort in July to part time residents whose permanent residences are not in Clay Banks. All those who have signed this petition overwhelmingly support the Clay Banks Town Board and their appointment of the Clay Bank Wind Energy Committee to craft and put in place a wind energy ordinance for our township.

We are only minutes away from the Township of Lincoln in Kewaunee County and understand all too well the negative impacts commercial wind turbines have had there. Individuals in Lincoln Township have had to deal with the loud thumping noises and strobe effects from the rotating blades. Noise and strobing causes headaches and migraines, sleeplessness, sympathetic heart rhythms - just to name a few health problems. For some individuals where remedial measures to shield them from the noise and strobing failed, finally had their homes purchased and razed by WI Public Service. Others felt the need to pursue legal action against WI Public Service for remedial measures. Still others have wished to move from Lincoln Township, but are unable to sell their homes because families will not even consider their homes because of their close proximity to the wind farms. Most people work all their lives to live in the community of their choice. A home and property are also for a majority of us, our largest financial nest egg. We in Clay Banks did not relish the idea of a similar outcome here. This is too much for the State and PSC to ask of the regular person. By removing the siting control of wind farms from local governments, the very individuals we the electorate put in place, are not able to protect the well being of our own communities.

In following the development of the Clay Bank Wind Ordinance, much public input and testimony for the Clay Banks Ordinance was based on credible and scientific sources: i.e. WHO (World Health Organization), National Academy of Sciences and the EPA. Wind sponsored studies were also used for references including 'Permitting of Wind Energy Facilities', 'NYS Energy Research & Development Authority', and 'Technical Considerations in Siting Wind Development' to name a few. The Clay Bank Wind Energy Committee used all the resources I mentioned, as well as others, to establish noise standards and set backs of 1/2 mile in the Clay Banks Wind Energy Ordinance from any inhabited structure. With all this publicly provided testimony and the local wind developer having first hand knowledge of these facts and resources along with the citizens in attendance at these committee meetings, NOT ONCE did the local wind developer present a counter study to dispute the facts or source materials presented and used by the Clay Banks Wind Energy Committee - is this because they could not?

I strongly encourage that you do not approve the wind siting reform proposed by the PSC. I do not want my local government body to loose control of their ability to craft and enforce ordinances including an ordinance for wind siting that protects my well being. I believe the Clay Banks Town Board and their Wind Energy Committee have done thorough and responsible research over the past nine (9) months to craft the Clay Banks Wind Energy Ordinance. The Clay Banks Wind Energy Committee consists of current and past town board members, a structural engineer, environmental engineer, physics major and an emergency services member.

Our local wind developer has complained loudly that no other industry is held to the same high standards being placed on them by local governments as they are to develop these wind turbines/farms. **Truth is in fact other energy facilities are held to high standards.** Today neither a coal, natural gas or nuclear power plant would be allowed to be built 1000' from an inhabited structure and be expected co-exist with it for 20-30 years. Long and short of it is these wind turbines and farms are an energy generation system and they do create noise and light pollution from the rotating blades. I also seriously question that there are enough transmission lines in place in the State of Wisconsin for large scale wind farm development to connect and tap into.

Am I for renewable energy - **YES - absolutely.** It just needs to be done **responsibly** with sound scientific studies being used for proper noise levels and set back standards from inhabited structures. I respectfully encourage a common sense approach for the development of renewable energy in Wisconsin using a credentialed citizen's panel like the Township of Clay Banks.

Thank you for reviewing my written testimony.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Dimick-Rego
Member - Clay Banks Citizens for Responsible Wind Energy

Jeanne Dimick-Rego
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March 3, 2008

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Room 313 South, State Capitol
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Representative Phil Montgomery
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities
Room 129 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Letter in Support of AB 899

As Chief Development Officer at Horizon Wind Energy, I am writing in support of AB 899, legislation reforming Wisconsin wind permitting.

Horizon Wind Energy develops, constructs, owns and operates wind farms throughout the United States. Headquartered in Houston, Horizon Wind Energy was recently purchased by Energias de Portugal for \$2.8 billion. Horizon owns wind farms in New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Illinois, Minnesota, and Texas, and is currently developing over 10.8GW of wind farms across the country, including Wisconsin.

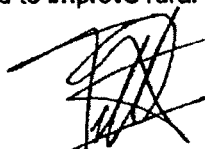
The Upper Midwest is a very important region for Horizon Wind Energy's growth, but we need proper wind permitting legislation in order to move our projects forward. Horizon has been actively developing projects in Wisconsin since 2002. We have been lucky—our projects are in counties where the local policymakers support wind energy for all of the positive attributes that it provides. However, to expand our development across the state we need consistent state-wide regulation.

Even with the passage of AB 899, local governments are still very much involved. If the proposed legislation were adopted, wind developers would still need to file applications for permits with local governments. Horizon Wind Energy very much believes that a successful wind project works in partnership with the local landowners and the community, and a successful project brings together a diverse group of stakeholders for mutual benefit.

Currently, however, local governments can restrict wind development by making such onerous setbacks that no wind farms can economically, or sometimes even feasibly, be constructed. Although the landowners want the project to be constructed so they can share in the revenue stream, local authorities can keep the project from ever breaking ground.

The proposed legislation would require the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules setting permitting standards applying to all wind energy installations, and gives a process for appealing local permitting decisions to the PSC for projects over 1MW. This appeal process provides developers and decision-makers a defined framework for preparing, reviewing, and deciding on applications to construct a commercial wind farm.

Legislation (SB 459) enacted in March 2006 increased renewable energy requirements for Wisconsin and established an overall statewide renewable energy goal of 10% by December 31, 2015. Wind is currently the only renewable resource that is scalable to meet this goal. As the single biggest constraint to increasing wind generation in Wisconsin is the permitting environment, the passage of AB 899 is a very important step to increase clean, renewable energy and to improve rural economics in Wisconsin.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Alonso', written over a horizontal line.

Gabriel Alonso
Chief Development Officer
Horizon Wind Energy





Michael J. Allen
ATTORNEY AT LAW

March 3, 2008

Senator Jeff Plale
Room 313 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Phil Montgomery
Room 129 West, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

**Re: Wind Permitting Reform Legislation
Assembly Bill 899 & Senate Bill 544**

Dear Senator Plale and Representative Montgomery:

I would like to add my voice to those of many, many others across the state in favor of the wind permitting reform legislation embodied in Assembly Bill 899 and Senate Bill 544. There is much to recommend the legislation and I will not repeat the many good points made by others. Rather I will limit myself two observations from my own personal experience as a municipal official/City Attorney and attorney practicing in the renewable energy field.

First, it is hard job to sit on a Town Board and make decisions that affect your best friends, neighbors and relatives. It is even harder to make decisions about emotionally charged issues without agreed upon standards. In the case of wind-siting, I have personally observed meetings where the level of debate was near-hysteria. On one occasion, the spouse of one of the Town officials charged with making the decision tearfully pleaded with the body on which her husband sat not to let the turbines go up, because the resulting reckless-driving tourist traffic to gawk at the turbines would kill a generation of children. What is the likelihood that her husband's resulting no vote was based on an objective consideration of the evidence? It is not fair to Town officials to put them into this type of emotional situation without objective standards that can be readily applied to make a decision.

Second, it is my impression from talking with utilities and wind energy developers who operate in states across the Midwest that it is far more difficult and more

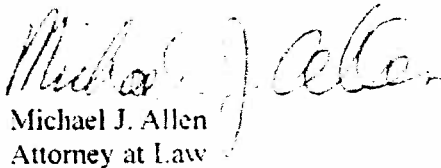
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Legal Support Today for Tomorrow's Energy Needs

expensive to site wind energy in Wisconsin than in its neighboring states, including Iowa. If true, this siting disadvantage is bad for Wisconsin's ability to achieve energy independence, it is bad for its economic development, and it is bad for the many, many Wisconsin farmers who wish to develop wind as another cash crop from their farms to balance out some of the risks from farming. Moreover, if one thinks more broadly, it is bad for Wisconsin in general, as it impedes Wisconsin's ability to make the transition away from scarce fossil fuel energy resources that generate greenhouse gases to non-polluting renewable resources.

The proposed legislation does not eliminate local control, rather it will provide local officials reasonable guidance in the form of standards created by the Public Service Commission, a body with abundant experience and expertise in this area. The standards will be adopted following an open and fair rulemaking proceeding. The proposed Wind Permitting Reform Legislation is sensible and should be made law.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Allen
Attorney at Law



March 3, 2008

Senator Jeff Plale
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Room 313 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Wind Siting Reform Bill, SB 544.

Dear Senator Plale,

In June of 1999, Madison Gas & Electric and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation commissioned 31 utility-scale wind turbines in two townships in Kewaunee County. During the permitting process for those turbines in 1998, all sorts of dire predictions were made about the quality of life, property values, and public health and safety dangers that would occur if the turbines were actually installed and allowed to operate.

In response to the community's concern, a moratorium was put in place in Lincoln Township, Kewaunee County, where I live. In December of 1999, I was named as the Chairman of the Wind Turbine Moratorium Study Committee by Arlin Monfils, Lincoln Township Chairman. The job of the committee was to determine the impact that the wind turbines had or would have on the community. Again, dire predictions about public health and safety, property values, and quality of life were bandied about. We listened, evaluated the concerns, and made suggestions to the Township as to how to improve the conditional use process in Lincoln Township.

The upshot of all of this, with the hindsight of eight and a half years of operating experience in Kewaunee County, is that none of the dire predictions have transpired. Not one. No ice has been hurled at anyone, no traffic fatalities have occurred from distraction, no one has become an epileptic from looking at the turbines, property values have not plummeted, and there has not been a mass exodus from the area. Life has gone on, more or less, as it did before.

Be that as it may, Lincoln Township has repeatedly been held up as an example of failed wind farm siting. Sure, the landscape has changed a bit, which was the biggest concern of those opposing the wind farms: they simply did not want to look at the wind turbines. But that happens with any new house construction, farm expansion, cell tower installation, or four lane highway. However, the dire predictions never happened, and it looks as though they never will, based on our experience, as well as experience in other locales hosting wind farms.

Wind opposition basically comes in two forms, those who do not want to look at the wind turbines, and those who resent that fact that their neighbor receives a payment for hosting a turbine or turbines, but they do not. Sometimes these two resentments are tied together. However, those opposing wind turbine have discovered framing their opposition this way

gets them nowhere. Based on state statutes, a wind turbine installation can essentially be halted only if that installation poses public health or safety hazards.

As such, these folks reconfigured their opposition in terms of public health and public safety, regardless of what the records show. They discovered that if they want to hold up a wind farm project, all they need to do is to conjure up a hodgepodge of accusations, and the zoning administration or applicant is sent on a research project to find a response to these outlandish accusations. A case in point is the accusation that person will become an epileptic from looking at the rotation blades of wind turbine. When it was pointed out that ceiling fans at any home improvement center have the same frequency as wind turbines and therefore would be responsible for untold numbers of epileptics being hospitalized after shopping at those stores, this fantasy health accusation was quickly dropped.

But the tactic remains. Throw any and all accusations of public safety or, especially public health, at the public hearing, and time is spent unraveling the muddled accusations. And these tactics, obfuscation and delay, have proven to be quite successful.

It is for this reason that I ask you to pass a wind siting reform bill, one that mandates that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to develop rules for permitting standards for wind farms down to single 1 MW turbines installations. The PSCW has experience with in this area with both the Forward Wind Project and WE's Blue Sky Green Fields Wind Project.

Valuable years have been wasted arguing about minutia and fantasy inflictions that have not come to fruition, in Wisconsin, in the United States, or in other countries with much higher densities of wind farms than found anywhere in the US. I urge you to pass the Wind Siting Reform Bill.

Mick Sagrillo

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March 3, 2008

Senator Jeff Plale
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Room 313 South, State Capitol
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Representative Phil Montgomery
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities
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Please support AB 899/SB 544

I am asking for your support to the two above mentioned bills to set uniform standards for local units of government to apply in permitting wind turbines in Wisconsin.

Wind energy sites in Wisconsin are spread among many counties and areas of different local review and approval. A statewide framework needs to be put in place in order to help facilitate standard practices in the process of siting wind farms.

Thank you for your favorable consideration to this important tool in helping Wisconsin attain a self-sufficient future.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Palm
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March 3, 2008

Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities, & Rail
Madison, WI

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities, & Rail,

On December 5, 2007 the Town Board of Town of Woodville unanimously approved a Wind Energy Systems Licensing Ordinance. The Town finds that Wind Energy Systems operating in the Town require special licensing by the Town in order to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town and people in general. In this regard, the Town adopts and incorporates by reference a report issued by the National Research Council entitled Environmental Impacts of Wind-Energy Projects, May 2007 ("2007 NRC Report").

It is the intended purpose of the Town to regulate Wind Energy Systems to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the Town of Woodville and to establish reasonable and uniform regulations for the operation thereof so as to minimize potentially dangerous effects of these Systems on the community.

Hundreds of Wisconsin citizens have spent thousands of hours of their time, and thousands of dollars of their hard earned money, to inform their local elected officials of the many alarming public health and safety issues involving industrial wind generators. It would be a very sad day for the State of Wisconsin if the Senate rushes ahead with Senate Bill 544 without any public input. Community groups have been completely shut out of the process of putting this bill together. Bills of this importance should not be rushed through.

There is a similar piece of legislation that my representative in the Assembly received Friday, February 29th. I'm not sure when the Senate received their version. It is my understanding that this bill wasn't even on your committees agenda until late Monday, March 3rd. It is my sincere hope that you'll give the proper time for both sides of this issue to be heard. Also, it is my hope you'll decide that local communities, like the Town of Woodville, can rightly decide how to properly protect the health, safety, and well being of our citizens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ric Van Sistine
Sec. – Town of Woodville Plan Commission
N6851 Elm Rd
Hillbert, WI 54129



March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

I strongly oppose the bill (AB 899) that may soon be coming to vote which would give the Public Service Commission control of the siting of all industrial wind turbines and would take away local control. No local input is very poor policy.

This wind energy push is horrible on multiple levels. There are a plethora of health and safety factors that need to be mitigated by having proper setbacks (1 to 1.5 miles from residences).

Please be aware that the State Wind Model Ordinance is not based on fact and scientific documentation, but rather, was put written by a group of stakeholders. The bottom line is this: these industrial machines should not be placed near people.

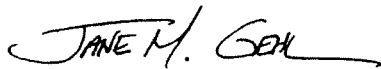
Other obvious negatives are the lowering of property values and environmental factors such as ground water contamination and irritation to all wildlife.

Moreover, wind energy has proven to be an extremely inefficient energy source. Despite what wind advocates tell you, Wisconsin rates among the lowest states in the US for wind speed (rated a 2 out of a possible 7 for wind rates).

Our tax dollars should not be used to subsidize this farce of a renewable energy form.

Please oppose this bill (AB 899) and keep control of wind tower siting in the hands of local government. If wind turbines are irresponsibly sited throughout our area, we will be witnessing the devastation of Calumet County as well as our quality of life. All residential and economic development will come to a screeching halt.

Thank you,



Jane Gehl
W4852 Escarpment Terrace, Sherwood, WI 54169
920-989-8633
janie@athenet.net



March 3, 2008

Senator Jeff Plale
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Room 313 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Sen. Plale,

I am writing regarding Bill AB 899 on Wind Permitting Reform.

Twenty one states have more installed wind capacity than Wisconsin. Absent coherent national energy policy, other states have quickly responded to the dangers of global warming and rising energy costs by encouraging wind development, regarded as the most modular cost-effective renewable energy technology. Wisconsin's wind projects, at scales both at the wind farm level and at the individual consumer level typically have to traverse a permitting gauntlet that can be years in duration. Wisconsin's statutes concerning wind permitting are frequently ignored or subverted by local zoning processes.

Wisconsin's stated energy policy, including its Renewable Portfolio Standard, is in direct conflict with permitting practices in many areas of the state.

The fact that small wind turbines for residences or farms are frequently treated with as hostile a reception as megawatt scale turbines speaks to a permitting environment in many Wisconsin jurisdictions that no longer examines the merits of permitting with a balanced perspective.

There has been a wave of investment in manufacturing facilities and services across the country, including in states that do not have a large wind resource. Wisconsin is certainly missing out on additional returns including lower pollution costs, creation of new technology employment and growing income for those communities in which wind farms are installed.

To address the need for Wisconsin to move forward in meeting the energy challenges that are already upon us, Assembly Bill 899 reduces the most egregious impediments to uniform regulation and permitting of wind energy projects in Wisconsin. There is a recent precedent for the recommended siting reforms in 2003 Wisconsin Act 235 - Livestock Siting and Expansion.

In conclusion, I support Assembly Bill 899 because it creates a more impartial regulatory approach, establishing the conditions for permitting standards that are uniformly applied by local governments to all wind energy projects, regardless of size and location.

Sincerely,

Shelly Laffin
P. O. Box 687
Spring Green, WI 53588



March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

I understand that the Public Service Commission is going to introduce a bill this session on wind energy. From what I hear, they are going to propose that they take all control away from every community to rightly decided what their community will look like.

I feel Wisconsin does not have a lot of wind energy potential compared to Western States and what potential we have tends to be in the Great Lakes.

Please do not pass this bill because it is getting rushed through without much public input. There are many health and safety concerns that need to be acknowledged.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Cummings". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Terri Cummings
135 North 2nd Street
Hilbert, WI 54129
920-853-3275



March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

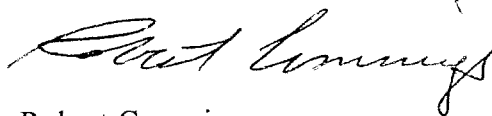
I respectfully ask that you oppose the bill that is being introduced this session on wind energy. From what I hear, they are going to propose that they take all control away from every community to give that control to the Public Service Commission, similar to what has been done with mega-farm siting.

Elected officials in Wisconsin need to protect their constituents from the health and safety issues that result from living too close to wind turbines.

Please take time to properly study this issue. The citizens of Wisconsin deserve that.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Cummings".

Robert Cummings
135 North 2nd Street
Hilbert, WI 54129
920-853-3275



March 3, 2008

To the Senate,

This May we found out that 400 plus foot wind turbines were to be built near us with the possibility of these being 1,000 feet from people's homes. We became very concerned and asked our State Representative Al Ott, why the state made such an ordinance that didn't protect people more. We were told that the towns and county have the right to make stronger ordinances. We have been working hard to inform our boards and the community and have made some step towards protecting people. Now it looks like the wind industry wants us, "NOT TO HAVE A VOICE IN THIS PROCESS". Please let the towns and counties have the right to set the regulations on wind turbine sitings. The towns and counties should have the right to protect the health and safety of the people who live there.

If the wind industry and our government feels this is so important, then have the wind industry buy the land and site them in areas away from people. Unfortunately, this issue of wind turbines is a 30 year old technology that is not efficient and will not correct our energy problems, and we are wasting our money on this technology. There are far more effective ways to help this; bio-mass, solar and geothermal are just some. California is now using a new and much smaller wind turbine which sounds promising. We should not waste billions of dollars on technology that is not going to help.

Once again, please let the counties and towns have a voice in this process.

Ray and Diane Hoerth
N 4181 Moehrke Rd.
Chilton, WI 53014
dmhoerth@tcei.com
920-849-9874



March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

I would like to make you aware that the wind energy initiative and the ubiquitous access to wireless communication initiative cannot co-exist. These are two initiatives that are supported by President Bush and Governor Doyle.

No wireless broadband can exist where wind turbines are present, thus harming the ability to provide access to people across America. And where no communication exists, no opportunities exist. Wind turbines will crush economic development.

Wind Turbines emit a frequency that disrupts cellular phone services and wireless broadband connectivity. Is it right for Calumet County and other parts of Wisconsin to limit its communication infrastructure? Is it fair for citizens to be thrown back into out-dated technology?

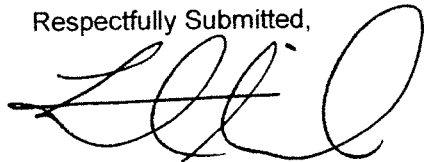
Exposure to technology results in higher education, more opportunities and equality for those who have access. Why would Wisconsin discriminate against its own people? I encourage legislators of Wisconsin to not limit powerful communication technology. Denying the children and businesses of Calumet County access to technology that will allow them to communicate with the rest of the world would be economic and educational suicide.

Governor Doyle has spoken widely on the topic of broadband access to rural America, and we should follow the State's lead to provide these services to all of Calumet County. As indicated in Governor Doyle's Grow Wisconsin agenda, "To remain competitive in offering a quality life style and a healthy economy, Wisconsin must ensure the availability of advanced telecommunication services to all areas of the state. Since the volume of data traffic now exceeds the volume of voice traffic, areas that do not have access to broadband are at a competitive and economic disadvantage."

This initiative was in place long before wind turbines entered the discussion. Because of the mass disruption in communications that wind turbines cause, a choice now needs to be made-- Economic and educational Equality for Calumet County and all residents of Wisconsin or ignorance and indifference for its citizens.

As the saying goes, "You reap what you sow".

Respectfully Submitted,



Todd C. Thiel
439 West Main Street
Hilbert, WI 54129
920.853.7771 telephone



March 3, 2008

Senator Jeff Plale
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Utilities and Rail
Room 313 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Representative Phil Montgomery
Chairman, Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities
Room 129 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Plale and Representative Montgomery,

Sorry I cannot be present in person. Thank you for the opportunity to share my viewpoints on wind energy in this letter.

First, wind energy technology has evolved over the past decade or so and is now a viable option in many locations and affordable.

Second, developing wind energy will produce jobs that are desperately needed.

Third, global warming is our present reality. As parents, we have a responsibility to our children and grandchildren to reduce future harm by investing in effective green energy technology instead of exacerbating the problem of global warming by keeping our heads in the sand so to speak with a business as usual orientation. Business is all about innovation. Wind technology use tops the list.

Finally, my 9 year old son plays a video game called City Life. Guess what the main power source is? Wind technology. I look at the cities and towns he develops with wind turbines lining some streets. You know it doesn't look bad at all. If my 9 year old son can design with wind turbines, we can too!

Sincerely,
Jenna Schieffer
3017 S Howell Av
Milwaukee WI 53207
Mettajenna@gmail.com



March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

I encourage you to please oppose this bill (AB 899) and any bill that would take away local control for the siting of industrial wind energy systems and give control to the Public Service Commission.

There are many health and safety problems that must be mitigated by proper siting of industrial wind turbines. I support a responsible set-back distance of 1 to 1.5 miles from residences.

Many hours and many dollars have been spent researching this topic. All scientific documentation points the need for such a set-back in order to mitigate noise and the subsequent health problems that arise from the low-frequency noise.

As an elected official, your top priority is to protect the citizens of this great state. Please do your part and put health and safety first. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janice Christensen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

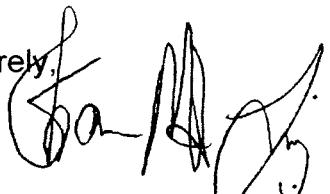
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Sincerely,



WFS 89 Quinney Rd
Chick WI 53014

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

*Mayor Matt
W4815 Dick
Chilton WI 53014*

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Kautz".

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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As an elected official, your top priority is to protect the citizens of this great state. Please do your part and put health and safety first. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark Van Arman
917 S Royal Ave
Fond du Lac WI

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

Karen Van Asten
97 S. Royal Ave.
Fond du Lac, WI
54935

920-923-4429

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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As an elected official, your top priority is to protect the citizens of this great state. Please do your part and put health and safety first. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eugene Meyer
W 4854 Banner Rd.
Chilton, Wis 53014

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

Donc Meyer
44854 Banner Rd
Caledonia, WI
53014

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

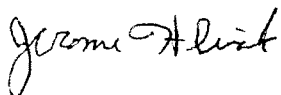
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Sincerely,



3709 E Co Hwy BB

Two Rivers WI 54241

(920) 776-1732

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

I encourage you to please oppose this bill (AB 899) and any bill that would take away local control for the siting of industrial wind energy systems and give control to the Public Service Commission.

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Sincerely,

Jaqueline Douglas-Bangert
JW5343 Hwy 151
Chilton, WI 53014
920-849-2441

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

Paul O. Gehl

Carol H. Gehl

P. O. Box 303

Hilbert WI 54129

Phone 920-853-3038

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,


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Sincerely,


N3295 MINAHAN RD
CHILTON, WI 53014
920-847-2068

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

Tom Spyl
N 2025 FAIRVIEW RD
HILBERI, WI
54129
1-920-989-2004

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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As an elected official, your top priority is to protect the citizens of this great state. Please do your part and put health and safety first. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Plale
101895 Shady Lane
New Holston, WI
53061

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

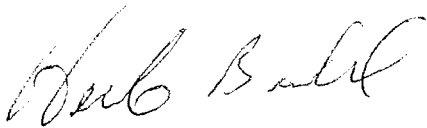
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Sincerely,



HERBERT BUHL
W 1875 SHADY LANE
NEW HOUSTON, WI 53061

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

Michael Schmidt
W4915 Cty. H
Chilton, WI 53014

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Senator Jeffrey Plale, Chair
and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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As an elected official, your top priority is to protect the citizens of this great state. Please do your part and put health and safety first. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Kaup
N 2179 LAKE SHORE DR
C MILTON, Wis 53014

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

Art Hoerth
N4528 Macleod RD,
Chilton, WI 53814

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

Paul W. Steffes
N 2293 Co C
Chilton WI 53014

March 3, 2008

State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

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and Members of the Senate Commerce, Utilities & Rail Committee,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brenda Ludwig".