

The siting of industrial wind projects in Michigan has caused terrible divisions between "participating" and "non-participating" land owners in many of the communities where they have been proposed or installed. These conflicts do not appear to be based solely on the differential economic impacts of these installations but are in large part due to the heavy-handed tactics and intimidation used by many project developers that largely reject the reasonable protection of non-participating Michigan citizens. These tactics include pushing inadequate turbine setbacks from property lines, turbine separation, etc. Smaller average land parcel sizes and population density factors in many parts of Michigan are quite different than those in much of the Plains and Central states where property line setbacks for wind projects may not adversely impact anyone!

The State of Michigan must send a message that it strongly supports the adequate protection of all of its citizens by insisting that property line setbacks, noise limits, and turbine separation standards EXCEED the unsupported "minimum" standards touted by the wind industry. This will help to guide...and support...our local zoning bodies as they craft their ordinances based on the most recent science available and the actual experiences of citizens living with established industrial wind farms.

We must never forget that a industrial wind turbine is not merely a child's pinwheel slowly turning on a summer's day, but is in fact a massive, expensive utility power generator that will have a huge impact on its surroundings for decades to come. The siting of these facilities has to be treated as such. I believe that if citizens feel that they are being properly protected in the evaluation and siting process, they may be more supportive of projects and more RE capacity can be added. Thank you.

Craig