

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
WIND ENERGY RESOURCE ZONE BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING 1 -- THUMB AREA  
At Huron County Expo Center  
170 West Soper Road  
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

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Public Hearing held before the Wind Energy  
Resource Zone Board, at the Huron County Expo Center,  
170 West Soper Road, Bad Axe, Michigan, on Monday,  
August 24, 2009, at 11:00 a.m.

BEFORE:

David Walters, Board Chair  
  
Robert Ianni  
  
Thomas Vitez  
  
Trevor Lauer  
  
David Wright  
  
Mary Templeton, Board Vice Chair  
  
John Miceli  
  
David Bertram  
  
Julie Baldwin, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT:

Judy Palnau  
  
Thomas Stanton  
  
Sally Talberg

REPORTED BY:

Allan J. Strong, CSR-2197

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1 Trevor Lauer, from DTE Energy, and I represent the  
2 utilities on the board.

3 MR. WRIGHT: Good morning. My name is  
4 David Wright, and I am with the Ecology Center, and I  
5 represent statewide environmental organizations on the  
6 board.

7 MS. TEMPLETON: Good morning. My name is  
8 Mary Templeton, and I represent the public at large on  
9 the board and also serving as the vice chair.

10 MR. MICELI: Good morning. I'm John  
11 Miceli with Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative of  
12 Cadillac, Michigan, and I represent the alternative  
13 energy suppliers on the board.

14 MR. BERTRAM: I'm David Bertram with the  
15 Michigan Townships Association from Lansing, and I  
16 represent local governments.

17 MS. BALDWIN: Good morning. I'm Julie  
18 Baldwin, and I represent the Michigan Public Service  
19 Commission on the board, and I am also serving as the  
20 board secretary.

21 MR. WALTERS: I would also like to  
22 introduce Judy Palnau. She's our public relations  
23 person from the Michigan Public Service Commission. She  
24 will be here to assist us as well.

25 (Ms. Palnau raised her hand.)

1                   We have an agenda here this morning.  
2           Everyone have a copy of that? I should speed along.  
3           What we are going to be doing, starting with a short  
4           presentation this morning, probably take about 20, 25  
5           minutes, on what the board has gone through to date,  
6           where we stand on our report, and that sort of thing,  
7           and then, we'll -- our primary reason we're here today  
8           is to take comments, and we'll do that, then, right  
9           after the presentation.

10                                 (Mr. Walters made his presentation of an  
11           overview of the board's proposed report.)

12   - - -

13                   MR. WALTERS: We are going to be going  
14           through the comments in order that they were received.  
15           If you did not fill out a card, you still have an  
16           opportunity to do so.

17                                 Each comment will be limited to three  
18           minutes. Obviously, we have a lot of comments that we  
19           have to get through today. What we will be doing is,  
20           there will be a slide. When your presentation is  
21           started, the projector will turn yellow. You will have  
22           15 seconds left for your presentation. It will turn to  
23           red, give you an indication that you have 15 seconds to  
24           wrap up.

25                                 And please use the mike, for everyone, so

1 we can all hear you clearly and the public can hear you  
2 as well.

3 MR. STANTON: If anyone has a card that  
4 you want to turn in, turn it in to me or Christine from  
5 the Public Service Commission staff. If you will just  
6 pass it on the end of the row, we will pick it up.

7 (Christine stood.)

8 MR. WALTERS: Please forgive me if I say  
9 anybody's name wrong, but I will try to do this as best  
10 as I can.

11 The first person that we have to speak  
12 this morning is Yvonne Bushley.

13 Will you please come up and go to the  
14 podium.

15 MS. BUSHEY: It's Bushey.

16 MR. WALTERS: Bushey. I'm sorry.

17 MR. BUSHEY: Good morning, everyone.

18 Thank you for this opportunity for the  
19 public to express their opinions.

20 I represent a family of 22 members. We  
21 have five sons and 10 grandchildren. We would like to  
22 see renewable energy, clean renewable energy, in our  
23 State of Michigan. We have the potential for it.

24 We have the farmland available for it.

25 Many of our farmers have recognized that we need to

1 preserve our farmland for productivity.

2 We have the best in Huron County of the  
3 farmland. We need to produce whatever we can to help  
4 the whole country. If we build residential homes in the  
5 farmland, those residential homes then take away from  
6 the potential of producing a product in Michigan. So we  
7 have an obligation, an accountability, to use the  
8 farmland for the best available produce.

9 The Alliance for Climate Protection  
10 launches a nationwide push to support clean energy jobs.  
11 In an ad entitled Family Values, the economists and the  
12 scientists have been making for years this statement:  
13 We need to transition to a clean energy economy that  
14 will create good paying jobs made in America, to cut  
15 harmful carbon pollution that threatens our planet and  
16 lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

17 The environmental issues that I am  
18 concerned about are the coal-fired plants' emissions.  
19 Coal-fired plants account for 87 percent of utility-  
20 related to nitrogen oxide pollution, 94 percent of  
21 utility-related sulphur dioxide pollution, and 98  
22 percent of all utility-related mercury pollution.

23 Do you want children and your animals  
24 eating fish from the polluted mercury in our streams and  
25 lakes? I am concerned.

1                   The economic benefits: We need to  
2                   improve our local economy by increased personal property  
3                   tax base for the township, the county, and the state.  
4                   We just read in the paper where the public school  
5                   district received \$45,000 this year to help out in their  
6                   school. That benefits all of us.

7                   And our township receives funds, our  
8                   farmers receive it. All of us benefit. We share that  
9                   with the community.

10                   Landowners receive income, which helps  
11                   ensure viability of the farming community. Do you know  
12                   that agriculture employed 23,000 more workers in the  
13                   past year than any other industry? And agriculture is  
14                   almost No. 1 now in the State of Michigan.

15                   MR. WALTERS: I'm going to have to cut  
16                   you off, because your three minutes are up.

17                   MS. BUSHEY: That's good. Thank you.

18                   MR. WALTERS: Thank you very much.

19                   (Applause)

20                   Marilyn Peplinski.

21                   MS. PEPLINSKI: Hello.

22                   Our experience living next to a wind  
23                   turbine at 1300 feet in distance has been a living  
24                   nightmare. When the turbines first started to spin and  
25                   create noise in November of 2008, we were essentially

1 indoors in a very well built home. But we could many  
2 times hear the turbines through the day and through the  
3 night inside of our home.

4 My husband, David, found that he would be  
5 awoken in the night and would then stay awake for hours.  
6 This, unfortunately, has gone on ever since with David  
7 having to use a variety of medicinal help for the  
8 ability to get to sleep and to stay asleep. White  
9 noise machines do not mask this disturbance.

10 This is also affecting our two children  
11 and me. We have chosen not to use sleep aids, and on  
12 nights when it is noisy, the children and I toss and  
13 turn and are fatigued throughout the next day. So, with  
14 school starting soon, we have had to secure an apartment  
15 to sleep in. And the World Health Organization has  
16 stated that noise effects on children can have lifelong  
17 negative implications both cognitively and physically.  
18 This is the World Health Organization that has said  
19 this. The turbines are essentially chasing us from our  
20 home.

21 The reality of our living nightmare is  
22 that we are not only woken from the sound that you can  
23 hear, but there is a low-frequency noise in our home  
24 that you can feel at night and sometimes all throughout  
25 the day. This sound can be related to a helicopter

1 hovering nearby for extended periods of time. And,  
2 unfortunately, these low-frequency sensations will  
3 create a panicky feeling. This not something you can  
4 get used to, and we cannot continue to live this way.  
5 In reviewing their guidelines, we have discovered that  
6 the World Health Organization deems our home environment  
7 "dangerous for public health." This is my home.

8 The first and primary responsibility of  
9 government is to protect its citizens. I feel that the  
10 board of commissioners has turned a blind eye to  
11 credible scientific evidence on the welfare of its  
12 constituents. It has, instead, allowed itself to be  
13 manipulated by the promise of tax revenue and the  
14 influence of large corporate interests.

15 The inherent noise byproduct of the John Deere  
16 Wind Energy turbines is not allowing our family to  
17 safely stay in our home.

18 The World Health Organization has set guidelines  
19 to protect people from industrial noise. The  
20 Huron County ordinance has not followed these  
21 guidelines. And who is protecting the fundamental  
22 rights of Huron County residents?

23 Our experience is not unique. It mirrors the  
24 experiences of many Bingham Township families,  
25 those in other states, and in other countries. We

1 don't want what is currently happening to our  
2 family to happen to yours. It is undeserved, and  
3 it is unacceptable.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. WALTERS: Eugene Champagne.

6 MR. CHAMPAGNE: Champagne.

7 MR. WALTERS: Thank you.

8 Good day. I am going to have to read  
9 quick here. My name is Eugene Champagne. I reside near  
10 the center of Harvest Wind Farm, Oliver Township, Huron  
11 County, Michigan. The last almost two years surrounded  
12 by commercial wind turbines. I have three surrounding  
13 my house, all at approximately 1400 feet each. Believe  
14 me I have the experience and knowledge in this area.

15 I would first like to talk about dealing  
16 with developers. The developer of Harvest Wind Farm is  
17 John Deere. When I attend meetings around Huron County  
18 and observe them in action with governmental units, I'm  
19 impressed. I just wish I could say that in my dealing  
20 with them. My TV signal was interfered with by the  
21 turbines. They corrected it right away on a verbal  
22 agreement. However, when I started working on getting a  
23 written agreement, I ran into a block wall. I also have  
24 noise issues and shadow-flicker issues. When I went to  
25 my Oliver Township board with my complaints, their

1 response was, they did not feel they had the authority  
2 to act. So I was on my own. If you are ever on your  
3 own dealing with John Deere, BELIEVE ME YOU ARE  
4 DEFINITELY ON YOUR OWN.

5 On the topic of expected community and  
6 public acceptance. My opinion on this has not changed  
7 since I made my testimonial video in February of this  
8 year, stating we are placing these turbines too close to  
9 residences. I based the opinion on my experience, and  
10 look at the number of complaints we have coming from the  
11 Bingham Township Wind Park.

12 On the social and political  
13 considerations. This is a most hurtful topic. I have a  
14 lot of friends around this county, and it is not a  
15 pleasant sight watching what is happening in their  
16 communities. Many of us in Huron County have watched or  
17 followed the happenings in Lake Township and what it is  
18 doing there. I visited at Paris Township, where, I  
19 feel, it is also starting to heat up. Commissioner  
20 Peruski was attending the last Paris Township meeting I  
21 wa at and may or may not remember my plea or caution to  
22 them, which was, "Please do not let this issue tear your  
23 community or township apart."

24 Also on the political and social point.  
25 On April 22nd at Earth Day, I invited my State

1 Representative, Terry Brown, out to my place to observe  
2 my situation and to talk. He lives five or six miles  
3 from me. I guess I just have to be patient -- it's only  
4 been four months. I also invited out for a visit my  
5 District Commissioner, Steve Vaughn, but at a later date  
6 than April 22nd. Also a no-show. Without disturbing or  
7 disrupting this meeting, if you have invited a  
8 representative of yours out to your place that would not  
9 come out, would you please silently raise your hand for  
10 the information of this board.

11 (There was a show of hands.)

12 Thank you very much, and thank the board.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. WALTERS: Tim Lalley.

15 MR. LALLEY: Good afternoon.

16 My name is Tim Lalley, and I am a member  
17 of the Lake Township Planning Commission. Since our  
18 township does not fall under county zoning, myself and  
19 others have been working for quite some time on drafting  
20 a wind ordinance specific to our township. The issue  
21 that has received the most criticism from developers and  
22 landowners is that of siting and safe setbacks.

23 According to Michigan State University  
24 Land Use Policy Institute, mentioned in your proposed  
25 report, the estimated number of commercial scale wind

1 turbines in Region 4, which includes Huron County, will  
2 be between 2000 and 4000 turbines. This does not even  
3 take into account the transmission towers that will  
4 accompany those turbines to export any generated power.

5 Siting this many turbines that stand  
6 almost 400 feet tall will be critical to the health,  
7 safety, and welfare of those residents living nearby.  
8 It will also be critical for the protection of those  
9 residents' property values as well.

10 Increasing setbacks from homes will have  
11 some effects. First, it will reduce the number of such  
12 turbines that a developer can site within a certain  
13 area. This will undoubtedly affect that developer's  
14 profit margin, but it will also reduce the chances that  
15 someone living in a home in that area will be negatively  
16 impacted both physically and economically.

17 Our local governments' priority is the  
18 health and welfare of the residents of Huron County.

19 Credible health and sound studies have  
20 been done and continue to be done to help in siting  
21 these turbines in a safe and proper location.  
22 Michigan's own Lawrence Technological Institute, which  
23 was hired by the Wind Working Group, recommended  
24 consulting with a noise expert to determine appropriate  
25 noise standards to be included in the Michigan siting

1 guidelines. This was never done.

2 To quote the Acoustic Ecology Institute  
3 in a special report on wind energy noise impacts:

4 "If the thousands of wind farms to be  
5 built in the coming decade are placed too close to  
6 homes, the industry will be faced with an echoing chorus  
7 of complaints and resistance for years to come, even if  
8 it manages to invent much quieter machines. Better to  
9 be conservative, so as to build a reservoir of goodwill  
10 rather than a rising tide of complaints.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. WALTERS: I'm not sure on the writing  
14 here. Perushi?

15 MR. PERUSKI: My name is Thomas Peruski,  
16 and I live a half a mile west of Ubly. This is my  
17 opinion.

18 There are four windmills encircling my  
19 property, and on given days you can't do anything about  
20 it. The noise is very profound.

21 I don't have -- I don't have most health  
22 concerns about anybody else. I shut the windows down, I  
23 turn the airconditioner on, and I still have that noise  
24 from the airconditioner.

25 Recently, I took a poll in Ubly in

1 different coffee houses and restaurants. Seventy  
2 percent were against the noise. Residents of Ubly have  
3 heard the windmills, and they are at least half a mile  
4 and better away.

5 I used to have a lot of wildlife around  
6 my property. There is no wildlife. Completely none.

7 I've also heard that the windmills they  
8 are looking at putting them out offshore. Water is a  
9 great sound conductor. What's going to happen to our  
10 fishing industry? It's going to be completely depleted.

11 All you small businessmen, when nobody  
12 wants to live on their property or has to go away, what  
13 are the taxes going to be. Ubly School got 45,000.  
14 What is that? That's a kick in the pants.

15 I have to look at them windmills every  
16 day probably for the rest of my life, probably for your  
17 kids' life, and who is going to take them down when that  
18 electricity produced there will be gone? Nothing.

19 The environment is impacted. You look  
20 out there. I put a lot of money in my house, half of my  
21 retirement.

22 What happened? I didn't know that -- I  
23 blame the commissioners and the zoning board in my  
24 community for not telling us until the construction  
25 started.

1                   What am I going to do? My property, real  
2                   property, value is worth approximately 125,000. Anybody  
3                   that gives me that can buy my house.

4                   First of all, what you do is you come  
5                   over and sleep at night. On given nights, this ain't  
6                   every night, but on given nights, you can't sleep. You  
7                   have to have the airconditioner on.

8                   I like sleeping in the open air. A lot  
9                   of people do.

10                  Another insight is, is people are talking  
11                  about taxes. Like I said before, when all the taxes --  
12                  when all the people are gone --

13                  MR. WALTERS: Thank you, Tom. We have to  
14                  stop you.

15                  MR. PERUSKI: All right.

16                  (Applause)

17                  MR. WALTERS: Clay Kelterborn.

18                  MR. KELTERBORN: Good morning. I want to  
19                  thank this commission for being here to receive our  
20                  public comments.

21                  I am here on behalf of a lot of property  
22                  owners in Lake Township who are requesting that Lake  
23                  Township be excluded from any wind energy zone for the  
24                  following reasons.

25                  On the first account, Lake Township is a shoreline

1 community that extends approximately well over  
2 three miles inland from Lake Huron. In the center  
3 of Lake Township is Rush Lake, which is a state  
4 game area which is a little over 1300 acres. It's  
5 used every year by migratory geese, swans, and  
6 other waterfowl. And Lake Township is also  
7 partially bordered by a river system, the Pigeon  
8 and Pinnebog Rivers. In 2007, the Lake Township  
9 Planning Commission received a letter from the  
10 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service which stated:

11 "We particularly encourage placement of  
12 turbines away from any large wetland,  
13 stream corridors or wooded areas,  
14 including the areas mentioned previously,  
15 and avoid placing turbines between nearby  
16 habitat blocks. Lake Township has two  
17 significant rivers systems that course  
18 through the Township. The Service  
19 recommends that no turbines be located  
20 within three miles of a Great Lake's  
21 shoreline."

22 Now, this letter was written specifically  
23 for Lake Township by the Fish & Wildlife. I would think  
24 that this would fall under the criteria of a sensitive  
25 area under the things that you are looking at.

1 "In addition, we strongly recommend that  
2 turbines be located as far away from any  
3 national/state wildlife refuge as  
4 possible. Lake Township includes the  
5 Rush Lake State Game area centrally  
6 located within the Township."

7 That is a quote from the U.S. Fish &  
8 Wildlife Service.

9 Secondly, there is a density issue within the  
10 agricultural district of Lake Township. As I said  
11 before, it is only about three to three and a half  
12 miles deep at the deepest point away from the  
13 shoreline, approximately nine homes per square  
14 mile. Our township has done a lot of studying,  
15 and they have not been able to identify any areas  
16 of Lake Township that would be able to accommodate  
17 industrial scale wind turbines within recommended  
18 setback guidelines.

19 Lake Township is a bedroom community that relies  
20 upon a seasonal tourist economy. Within Lake  
21 Township is the Sleeper State Park campground, the  
22 Caseville Golf Course, and other tourist-based  
23 businesses. Industrial wind developments within  
24 the boundaries of Lake Township will limit not  
25 only further residential growth but negatively

1           impact the tourist economy, which Huron County  
2           relies upon.

3                     Just a couple other points I would like  
4           to make.

5                     Many people are supportive of wind  
6           energy. Those same people are also concerned about the  
7           impact of poor planning, as we have evidenced here in  
8           Huron County with improper setbacks.

9                     My question to you is, what good is  
10          renewable energy if it is chasing people from their  
11          homes?

12                    In April 2008 I spent my vacation touring  
13          wind farms in Wisconsin, talking with people, sitting in  
14          their homes, visiting with them, those who live next to  
15          wind turbines. The purpose of my trip was to learn  
16          firsthand what to expect since we were just getting  
17          started with wind development in our area.

18                    What I learned in Wisconsin and here in  
19          Huron County --

20                    MR. WALTERS: I have to cut you off.

21                    I just want to remind everyone that they  
22          do have the opportunity, if their comments are over  
23          three minutes, to submit written comments, and we will  
24          consider them.

25                    WOMAN: Excuse me. I deferred my three

1 minutes.

2 MR. WALTERS: Yes, we're not deferring.

3 OTHER WOMAN: So did I.

4 MR. WALTERS: We're not deferring. If  
5 you want to speak, you can speak --

6 WOMAN: We were told we could.

7 OTHER WOMAN: Yes.

8 MR. KELTERBORN: I only have about a  
9 minute left, if you could give the latitude.

10 MR. WALTERS: We are going to finish.  
11 Three minutes is the limit, and then, if you want to  
12 submit longer comments, we have pages, you can go on the  
13 internet, submit as long a comment as you'd like. We  
14 have a lot of people that have to talk this morning, so  
15 three minutes is it, so go ahead and finish.

16 MR. KELTERBORN: Thank you.

17 When I was in Wisconsin, I also found  
18 that we have the same problems here in Huron County.  
19 You can't look at wind energy as a one-size-fits-all  
20 arrangement. With the mixed land uses that are  
21 scattered throughout this county, there are areas that  
22 just aren't suitable for wind development, because they  
23 will have a greater negative impact on landowners.

24 Our state lawmakers, through legislation,  
25 have mandated an RPS. The wind energy developers are

1 knowing these requirements, and they are signing leases  
2 with landowners. These are things that we all know.

3 Meantime, developers are doing their job.  
4 They are not concerned the politics and the conflicts of  
5 interest, the investments residents have in their homes,  
6 or their quality of their life. Their job is to develop  
7 a wind farm to meet the mandated RPS requirement.

8 We are here today to give you our  
9 comments because your job is to determine whether or not  
10 this area is a suitable location. It is not. You  
11 cannot choose an area based solely upon wind speed data.  
12 Many people have chosen this area as a place to live,  
13 raise their families, work and vacation. If this area  
14 were 100 percent agricultural land not having any  
15 residential influences, you might be able to get away  
16 with wind farms. However, with the guidelines being  
17 used in this area, such as inadequate setbacks, which  
18 are placing people in harm's way, impacting their health  
19 and their investment, it would have to be without  
20 conscience that you would recommend this area for  
21 commercial wind development of any scale. Our message  
22 to you is that many of the people of Huron County,  
23 contrary to what our County officials have led you to  
24 believe, do not want to be living in a wind energy zone  
25 for the State of Michigan. Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 I also have petitions signed by over 130  
3 people. Thank you.

4 MR. WALTERS: Ric Gellhant.

5 MR. GELLHANT: I will do mine online.

6 MR. WALTERS: We have one that is to be  
7 read into the record by Tom Stanton.

8 MR. STANTON: I am Tom Stanton, and I am  
9 the renewable energy section manager for the Michigan  
10 Public Service Commission staff, and was asked to read  
11 this into the record today. This is from Dennis and  
12 Darcy Mausolf of Ubly, Michigan.

13 Any new wind turbine construction should  
14 be stopped until the health and noise issues are  
15 resolved. Improper zoning and little research has led  
16 to several complaints being filed in Huron County. John  
17 Deere, the wind farm operator, is doing little to  
18 resolve these issues. We own a home in the Ubly John  
19 Deere Wind Farm, surrounded by wind turbines, the  
20 closest being 1,100 feet from our home.

21 MR. WALTERS: Robert McKie.

22 MR. MCKIE: Good morning.

23 My name is Bob McKie of Huron Township.

24 The lady, you represent the general  
25 public on this board?

1 MS. TEMPLETON: I am.

2 MR. McKIE: Okay. I think we are trying  
3 to ramrod these bills through like they are trying to  
4 get the health care bill through. It's all at the last  
5 minute. I think that the board when they are going into  
6 an area that's unique, they should adapt a policy where  
7 they get -- like in Huron County here, they should have  
8 someone from tourist industry, they should have somebody  
9 from the agricultural, and a resident, because these  
10 windmill farms do represent a lot of problems.

11 And they don't come out until after the  
12 fact. The studies, in my opinion are sided towards the  
13 developers, and we are not addressing the true problems.  
14 It's just like high-voltage lines, electromagnetic  
15 fields. They stay away from them

16 You can call Detroit Edison, and they  
17 will check to see if they got too much magnetic field in  
18 the area, if you want to build a home.

19 So we got to address these things  
20 seriously, not just for the money aspect of throwing  
21 them up. I don't care if we put up 10 million windmill  
22 turbines in this country. We are not going to still  
23 manufacture enough electricity. We are going to still  
24 need clean burning coal and nuclear facilities.

25 And I don't think that the board's going

1 to do a fair shake here, since they are going to have to  
2 file a report in October.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MR. WALTERS: Robert McLean.

6 MR. McLEAN: Good afternoon.

7 Some of the many reasons Huron County  
8 should not be designated a wind resource zone are this  
9 is one of the most unique peninsulas in the country,  
10 surrounded by one of the largest bodies of fresh water  
11 in the world. If it is not okay for us to drill in the  
12 Alaska wildlife area for oil, why should it be okay here  
13 to destroy the residents' quiet, peaceful lives,  
14 jeopardize their health, safety, and welfare, while  
15 scarring the land and waterfront as well as severely  
16 degrading their largest investment, their homes? Are  
17 the land and wildlife in Alaska more valuable than the  
18 people, land, and water in Huron County?

19 To litter our land and waters with over  
20 1,000 turbines and the hundreds of miles of transmission  
21 lines and towers for an unreliable, overpriced, heavily  
22 taxpayer-subsidized source of power is complete madness  
23 and is driven by financial greed, not intelligence. The  
24 most important reasons for zoning are to protect the  
25 health, safety, and welfare of the people while

1 conserving and protecting property values and preventing  
2 incompatible land uses from locating in a given area.  
3 Installing hundreds of these commercial turbines within  
4 1,000 feet of homes is similar to allowing hundreds of  
5 auto parts stamping plants making noise running 24/7  
6 alongside our homes and is something an intelligent  
7 planner would never do. The placement of these turbines  
8 so close to homes with the resulting severe loss of  
9 value and the salability is exactly like an armed  
10 robbery -- the only thing missing here is the gun!

11 The information is out there and very  
12 easy for all of you to see. Why do we have to continue  
13 to make the exact same mistakes here in Huron County  
14 that have been made around this country and in the world  
15 abroad?

16 The current setbacks in Europe are one  
17 mile or greater -- one mile, I said -- while in our own  
18 county we are currently at 1,000 feet -- it's a pittance  
19 -- and the allowable noise level here is at 50 db + 5,  
20 which is twice the normal ambient quiet night in my  
21 area. Certified sound engineers state that an increase  
22 of 5 db or more, people will find very objectionable. I  
23 am completely disgusted that our head of zoning in this  
24 county has failed us so badly and continues to do so  
25 with over 20 years of experience. I ask you, whose side

1 is he on here? Who is he working with and for?

2 On June 13th at the close of the 72nd  
3 annual Thumb Electric meeting, I met with Senator Barcia  
4 and State Representative Brown, I told them both of my  
5 concerns. They both fully agreed there were problems  
6 that needed to be corrected. At that time the senator  
7 told me, and I quote, "We are looking at a moratorium at  
8 the state level." I have seen nothing to indicate this.  
9 I asked the state rep if he would go to a residence  
10 where there were problems. He said yes and that he knew  
11 of the man and planned to go to see him the following  
12 week. To this day he has never contacted Gene  
13 Champagne. I will ask you whose interest are these  
14 people really concerned with, the wind companies or the  
15 residents that elected them?

16 People, open your eyes and do your  
17 homework. Wind power is not the miracle you have been  
18 currently sold. Yes, it has some potential, but the  
19 rush to throw them up and the manner in which we  
20 currently are doing it will cost us all very much for  
21 many years if we do not wake up.

22 This matter is desperately in need of  
23 some very good investigative journalism so that --

24 MR. WALTERS: I'm sorry. Thank you,  
25 Robert. I am going to cut you off.

1 MR. McLEAN: All right.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. WALTERS: We're going to have Edward  
4 Demps speak, and Warner Price will be up next.

5 MR. DEMPS: I will not speak. I will not  
6 comment.

7 MR. WALTERS: Valerie McCallum.

8 MS. McCALLUM: My name is Valerie  
9 McCallum. I am the clerk of Lake Township. I am here  
10 to speak from the perspective of a public official.

11 Lake Township does not have any wind farm  
12 yet. However, the anticipation of a commercial wind  
13 energy development within our township has ruptured our  
14 community into two factions, creating divisions not only  
15 at the Township meetings, but between neighbors,  
16 friends, and families. This same division has happened  
17 in communities across the country and is occurring  
18 simultaneously in other Michigan communities.

19 The Lake Township Planning Commission has  
20 been ridiculed by one side for taking its time and doing  
21 the research and praised by the other side for the same,  
22 only to be sideswiped by the political machine of the  
23 Township Board after two years of work and a wind  
24 ordinance that would protect the health and safety of  
25 the people of Lake Township.

1                   We are all familiar with the saying  
2                   "politics corrupts." After serving for 10 years on the  
3                   Lake Township Planning Commission and nine years as  
4                   Township Clerk, I have seen the worst of politics in the  
5                   last year.

6                   Your job today is to listen to public  
7                   comments on your proposal to designate this area as a  
8                   suitable wind energy zone for the State of Michigan.

9                   Huron County has 93 miles of shoreline.  
10                  Based upon the recommendations of the Great Lakes Region  
11                  of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, commercial  
12                  wind turbines should not be located within three miles  
13                  of a Great Lakes shoreline. On what basis did your  
14                  Board arrive at a one-mile buffer?

15                  Your report, on page 61, states:

16                  "The amount of land zoned as residential in the  
17                  identified regions is unknown and gathering such  
18                  information is beyond the scope of this analysis."

19                  The rural/agricultural area of Huron  
20                  County has varied uses with numerous residential  
21                  homesteads, which makes commercial scale wind  
22                  development impossible to achieve without impacting our  
23                  residents' health, safety, property values, and quality  
24                  of life. These wind farms are industrial machines and  
25                  they are being located haphazardly next to residential

1 dwellings. This goes against common zoning protocol of  
2 separating incompatible land uses.

3 On page 50 your report states:

4 "The board also found that there is the potential  
5 for wind energy to be a commercial source of  
6 generation in the state, and particularly in these  
7 regions. The board's assessment does not  
8 consider, however, site-specific issues that may  
9 affect the viability of any particular location to  
10 support the commercial wind systems. For example,  
11 local zoning, social factors (such as public  
12 acceptance) . . . ."

13 As to local zoning, townships and county  
14 governments do not have the expertise or the financial  
15 resources themselves, nor the political will to require  
16 the developers to pay for independent qualified experts  
17 to conduct studies necessary to ensure appropriate and  
18 adequate zoning regulations. And in the case of Lake  
19 Township, when our Planning Commission spent two years  
20 doing their research based upon existing information to  
21 create a wind ordinance specific to Lake Township and  
22 its natural features and existing development, they were  
23 attacked by DTE for not being conducive to wind energy  
24 development, and the Planning Commission has been  
25 requested by the Township Board, two members of which

1 have a financial interest in the development of wind  
2 energy within the Township, to rewrite the ordinance  
3 with the assistance of DTE, the wind energy developer.  
4 This flies in the face of common sense and rational  
5 prudence and reeks of impropriety -- or put more simply  
6 -- it's letting the fox guard the hen house.

7 Your report also mentions social factors  
8 such as public acceptance --

9 MR. WALTERS: I have to cut you off.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. WALTERS: Marjorie Colletta.

12 MS. COLLETTA: Hello.

13 Wind-generated electricity costs at least  
14 two to three times more than electricity generated by  
15 natural gas. A report by the Department of Energy  
16 estimated the federal capital subsidy of 2-1/2 cents per  
17 kilowatt [sic] and the generation subsidy at an  
18 additional 2 cents per kilowatt [sic]. These two  
19 subsidies account for two-thirds of the return for wind  
20 turbines according to a major Washington law firm. To  
21 purchase wind-only power is estimated by Consumer  
22 Reports to cost 2 cents per kilowatt [sic] more than  
23 conventional power sources even after the subsidies.

24 The reason why wind power is more  
25 expensive is simply physics. The most wind is near the

1 coasts and in the mountains. The Thumb is rated a 3 out  
2 of 7 on the federal wind scale, which is just fair. The  
3 developers of wind power quote how much power the  
4 turbines can generate, not what they are likely to  
5 generate. In low wind locations like this area they  
6 will never operate at near rated capacity.

7 Wind power even in windy areas rarely  
8 hits rated capacity. The California Energy Commission  
9 calculates that the actual capacity only hits 25 percent  
10 of rated capacity. This is because wind is variable,  
11 intermittent, and cannot be relied upon.

12 Wind power is also expensive because we  
13 are jamming in technology that isn't competitive. Why  
14 does DTE keep building these expensive and unsightly  
15 machines if they aren't going to save us money? Because  
16 the state has a law that says they have to generate  
17 renewable power without regard to how much money it  
18 costs the ratepayers. Better technology is being  
19 developed now in our universities, but because of the  
20 mandate, DTE has to install these large and noisy units  
21 right now.

22 Wind turbines take up a lot of land. The  
23 Institute for Energy Research estimates it takes 2,000  
24 times more space than conventional power sources. In  
25 Michigan the land with wind is by the coasts and it is

1 expensive and faces lots of opposition from local  
2 residents. The Thumb is attractive not because there is  
3 good wind, but because we are willing to rent our land  
4 cheap.

5 The current power grid is centralized.  
6 Large factories and cities are served by nearby power  
7 plants. Because there is little manufacturing in the  
8 Thumb, the power will need to be routed a long way to  
9 the cities. The loss of power makes it silly to build a  
10 conventional power plant here. But we propose to do  
11 that with the wind turbines, anyway.

12 The real problem with wind power is that  
13 it is a creature of government incentives and mandates.  
14 What the government gives, it can take away. California  
15 had an explosion of these units installed in the mid-  
16 1980s based on similar favorable tax credits. Within  
17 five years after the tax credits expired many of these  
18 units were out of service and abandoned by the companies  
19 that built them. Just imagine what a 400-foot tall  
20 rusting stationary wind turbine will look like that sits  
21 for 20 years.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. WALTERS: David Peruski.

25 MR. PERUSKI: Good morning. I'm the

1 Huron County Commissioner for District 2, which includes  
2 Bingham Township.

3 One of the things that I saw in this PA  
4 295, Part 4, Section 147, was that this board has to  
5 make recommendations to the MPSC on several issues. I  
6 sincerely hope that this board will not make a  
7 recommendation to the MPSC to take zoning out of local  
8 people's hands. Whether you like our zoning or not,  
9 it's still our zoning and needs to be kept local.

10 Also in your report, I noticed that the  
11 word noise was only once mentioned, on page 35. There  
12 seems to be no consideration in your report, and I  
13 understand it's a proposed report, to use any kind of  
14 noise criteria.

15 We have been working on a subcommittee on  
16 the board of commissioners with our planning commission  
17 to develop potential changes in our zoning ordinance,  
18 and we are finding problems from several perspectives,  
19 distance, decibels, the dba scale, the dbc scale. I  
20 think we need to get this distance at setback, dba's,  
21 decibels, a scale at decibels, and c scale corrected  
22 before we have anything more to do with new  
23 construction. We have to get it right first.

24 I also noticed that this board has nobody  
25 from Huron County on it, also has nobody representing

1 the counties whatsoever. You do have several more  
2 meetings. I would recommend to this board that you have  
3 some representation from this county or somebody  
4 representing the county's interest. You have townships,  
5 you have cities, you have everybody on this board that  
6 lives not in this area, but some place that there will  
7 be no turbines built. And I also ask this board to make  
8 recommendations to the PSC that some funding be allowed  
9 to study the health problems that these people are  
10 experiencing.

11 I have been out to several of the spots  
12 where these turbines have been creating some problems.  
13 I have been to Verona Road, Sanabel Road, Atwater Road,  
14 McCallister Road, Purdy Road, and there are problems  
15 with the noise. I haven't, you know, camped in  
16 somebody's yard overnight, but when they say they can't  
17 sleep, I believe them.

18 Also, too, there's an offshore study  
19 going on. I don't see any representation from Huron  
20 County. We have got 93 miles of shoreline and no say in  
21 it.

22 To conclude, I think this board needs to  
23 put some considerations in for people's health, they  
24 need to put some consideration in for setbacks, in  
25 conjunction with noise levels. I don't think anybody

1 here is going to argue that these turbines aren't  
2 coming. They are coming. We have to make the best  
3 accommodation for the safety and health of all Huron  
4 County residents.

5 (Applause)

6 MR. WALTERS: Curt Watchowski, did I hear  
7 you say your are going to defer?

8 MR. WATCHOWSKI: Yes.

9 MR. WALTERS: Angie Weber.

10 Jerry Peplinski, are you going to speak?

11 MR. PEPLINSKI: No.

12 MR. WALTERS: Louis Colletta will be  
13 next.

14 MS. WEBER: Hi. My name is Angie Weber.  
15 Just to give a little bit of background, my family and I  
16 live about 1500 feet from the nearest turbine working  
17 and to the Ugly project.

18 When the turbines initially began  
19 spinning, our first problem was noise. We have not  
20 gotten used to the noise, but the noise is becoming less  
21 of a problem, because as time has gone on our family is  
22 feeling a level of anxiety. I can't say that you can --  
23 for us, anyway, I can't necessarily feel the turbines,  
24 as to say that I can feel the vibration or anything, but  
25 there's a level of anxiety that we have been feeling,

1 and can tell when they start spinning, and you can tell  
2 when they stop spinning

3 Recently -- well, my husband farms. We  
4 farm and have cattle. So vacations are sometimes hard  
5 to come by, as you farmers know. So one thing we enjoy  
6 doing is camping out in our backyard. We have four  
7 children, ages three to 11.

8 We tried this a couple weeks ago, and we  
9 will not be doing this again. It's not possible. My  
10 husband could not sleep at all. Three of the children  
11 slept in a tent with him. Two of them took naps the  
12 next day. Eleven-year-olds do not take naps, eight-  
13 year-olds do not take naps.

14 We can feel the -- we can feel the change  
15 in our family. There have been disturbances. There is  
16 nothing you can do about it. Sometimes you can turn a  
17 fan on, but instead of -- all you're doing is making  
18 something louder. So instead of having your windows  
19 open at night, we have fans running at night. So,  
20 hopefully, be louder than the wind turbines are to kind  
21 of balance it out.

22 I realize there's a great financial  
23 benefit to many people in this county, but I am asking  
24 those people to take their neighbors' livelihood and  
25 their neighbors' situations into consideration. A lot

1 of landowners have signed up where they do not have  
2 homes. We have homes.

3 We need to preserve farmland of Huron  
4 County. I'll give you that. But I can't speak for the  
5 other areas you are considering, but Huron County does  
6 not have a real big housing boom right now. So I think  
7 we need to preserve the families that are in Huron  
8 County and be sure that the setbacks and the noise  
9 levels and things are taken into consideration, because  
10 families are who are going to be hurt right now.

11 I know it is going to take time, it is  
12 going to take money to study these things, but these are  
13 things that are happening to us. We don't have an  
14 option of packing up and leaving. Our entire lives'  
15 investments are where we live right now. We have to  
16 make the best of it.

17 But some better setbacks with some better  
18 ordinance could have changed this and could have  
19 preserved the existence that we had before, and it's  
20 forever changed. Maybe we will get used to it, maybe we  
21 won't. I can't see that my kids are going to want to  
22 come back and build a house on the corner of the  
23 property. They are going to have to put up with it long  
24 enough, and I can't see them wanting to come back to  
25 this.

1                   It's changed. It's changed our  
2                   community, and I really hope you take the people into  
3                   consideration along with the birds and bats and what  
4                   other environmental issues that are being considered.

5                   Thank you.

6                   (Applause)

7                   MR. WALTERS: Did Louis Colletta want to  
8                   speak?

9                   MR. COLLETTA: I will defer.

10                  MR. WALTERS: Tom Burks.

11                  Did you want to speak?

12                  MR. BURKS: (Shaking head)

13                  MR. WALTERS: Maris Fravel.

14                  MR. FRAVEL: Good morning.

15                  My name is Maris Fravel, and I reside in  
16                  Port Austin for seven months of the year.

17                  I worked 44 years for Bechtel, designing  
18                  and building electric power stations for their clients,  
19                  including Detroit Edison's Belle River power plant near  
20                  St. Clair.

21                  During that time and since, power plant  
22                  costs have increased as their designs incorporated  
23                  expanded environmental considerations in response to new  
24                  regulatory requirements. These new requirements were  
25                  imposed due to steadily increased awareness of the

1 nature of power plant effects on the health of the  
2 environment and consequently on the health of the  
3 people. Incorporating environmental considerations in  
4 power plant design was not in any way a voluntary action  
5 by the electric utility firms. No major electric  
6 utility has gone out of business as a result of such  
7 incorporation.

8 Like many, I am in favor of energy  
9 production methods such as wind turbine generators that  
10 are alternatives to those that require the burning of  
11 fossil fuels. They well understood to be a major  
12 contributor to global warming.

13 However, Huron County is now faced with  
14 the environmental effects of wind turbines on the health  
15 of its citizens arising from wind turbine setback. This  
16 is akin to the increased awareness previously mentioned  
17 that the electric, the major electric power industry  
18 went through.

19 Much information is available on the  
20 internet and in published form, including reports and  
21 formal testimony from individuals whose health has been  
22 adversely affected by a wind turbine installation. You  
23 can find this at [wind-watch.org](http://wind-watch.org).

24 Physicians in Ontario, England, and New  
25 Zealand have documented common ill health effects among

1 people living near wind turbine generators. The  
2 symptoms developed only after the start of turbine  
3 operation, and are relieved when the people leave the  
4 wind turbine area. The symptoms include:

- 5 sleep disturbance
- 6 headache
- 7 ringing or buzzing in the ears
- 8 ear pressure
- 9 dizziness, vertigo
- 10 nausea
- 11 visual blurring
- 12 racing heartbeat
- 13 irritability
- 14 problems with concentration and memory
- 15 panic episodes with sensations of internal
- 16 pulsation or quivering which arise while awake or
- 17 asleep

18 You have already heard some of that, similar examples of  
19 that described today.

20 A new book, "Wind Turbine Syndrome" by  
21 Dr. Nina Pierpoint of New York, is about to be published  
22 containing thoughtful medical research on the issue.  
23 She has determined the primary cause to be the effect of  
24 low-frequency wind turbine noise on the inner ear. Dr.  
25 Pierpoint recommends a setback of 1-1/4 miles from

1 homes, or anywhere else that people congregate.  
2 Highways are also a problem for motorists with seizure  
3 and migraine disorders and motion sensitivity.

4 I urge the State of Michigan, this board,  
5 and Huron County's Commissioners to declare a moratorium  
6 on further wind turbine development until the health  
7 effects are understood and accommodated with properly  
8 and humanely based setback criteria.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 MR. WALTERS: Jeanette Hagen.

12 Keith Iseler will be next.

13 MS. HAGEN: My name is Jeanette Haven,  
14 and I am a landowner at the Michigan Thumb Windpark, and  
15 I work for John Deere Wind Energy. I helped to develop  
16 and construct the windpark in Ubly. I too am surrounded  
17 by wind turbines and do not experience the negative  
18 noise and vibration issues that others have spoken  
19 about. The closest turbine to our house is less than  
20 1,000 feet, and the farthest is well over 2,000 feet. I  
21 also work within 500 feet of two turbines. Also, none  
22 of the 85 landowners of the Ubly wind park have  
23 experienced negative noise and vibration issues in any  
24 of the conversations that I have had with them, and I  
25 ask all the time.

1 I believe in the wind parks that have  
2 been and are being developed here in the Thumb.  
3 Although John Deere Wind Energy has had nine official  
4 complaints on the project, they are working on  
5 resolutions to them, and I believe they will be resolved  
6 positively.

7 The wind parks here are good for the  
8 area, and I would like to state some of the positive  
9 aspects of the wind parks.

10 Tourism brings money to the area in the  
11 form of restaurant, hotel, and gas station business. As  
12 of today, I have given 785 people tours at the Uibly site  
13 since May. Seven hundred eighty-five people spending  
14 money.

15 The developers that work for John Deere's  
16 two wind parks are local. John Deere also has many  
17 employees and contractors that come and go every week  
18 working on parts of the wind parks that are outside of  
19 the scope of our maintenance technicians, and these  
20 folks stay at local hotels, eat at the restaurants, shop  
21 at the local stores, get gas at the gas station, and  
22 tour the area. And we hire local companies to help  
23 maintain and supply our offices.

24 All of the operation and maintenance  
25 technicians that work for both wind parks are hard

1 working people, and these are good paying jobs.  
2 Although we do not have as many employees as a factory,  
3 we also are paying easement payments every quarter.  
4 That is hundreds of thousands of dollars going right  
5 back into the local economy here. I have estimated that  
6 the money being paid out for easement payments would  
7 equal approximately 30 factory jobs here. That is in  
8 addition to my job and all the operation and maintenance  
9 workers at the site. This is for the Uibly project only  
10 as I do not have all the figures for Harvest.

11 A millage was passed last year for the  
12 Uibly School District. Our millages -- our mills for the  
13 year were to be 1.5 assessed to each landowner in the  
14 Uibly School District. Because of the wind turbines  
15 installed and operating and being assessed as personal  
16 property, this year the mills will be significantly  
17 reduced to .9 mills. This is a beautiful benefit to  
18 those of us affected by the millage. This directly  
19 benefited every one of us who live in the Uibly School  
20 District and pay tax.

21 The personal property tax that will be  
22 paid to Bingham and Sheridan Township totals over three-  
23 quarters of a million dollars THIS YEAR ALONE, and  
24 Bingham will keep approximately 80,000 of them.  
25 Sheridan will keep a smaller share. The county also

1 gets a cut, as does several other entities.

2 Our way of life is changing because the  
3 world is changing, and although we may try to hold off  
4 change for as long as we can -- most of us realize that  
5 change is the only way to survive. Wind power is one of  
6 those ways. Many people say that we should not be  
7 focusing on the money, but we have to tell that to all  
8 the folks out of a job and looking for work up here --  
9 WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON THE MONEY ALSO. It is what keeps us  
10 alive. If someone has a better idea that brings money  
11 and jobs to the area now and helps keep farmland as  
12 farmland, then I am ready to listen and to help.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MR. ISELER: I will defer.

16 MR. WALTERS: Is that Keith Iseler?

17 MR. ISELER: Yes. Thank you.

18 MR. WALTERS: Jeanne Henry.

19 Kathy Bremer, are you wishing to speak?

20 MS. BREMER: No.

21 MR. WALTERS: Then Lowell Kraft will be  
22 next.

23 Lowell Kraft, would you want to speak?

24 MR. KRAFT: Yes.

25 MS. HENRY: Thank you to the board for

1           letting us speak.

2                           I guess I could kind of do play on that  
3 cell phone commercial: Do you hear us now?

4                           There have been people who have been  
5 trying to express caution about wind energy developments  
6 on a large scale as we have been seeing for months and  
7 months and now years, and they have been brushed off.  
8 They have been minimized.

9                           While new development -- I feel as though  
10 it's being steamrolled in our direction. And you know  
11 what I also think? and this just may be my opinion, but  
12 I think some of these utility companies came up here and  
13 thought we are just a bunch of hicks, just a bunch of  
14 suckers here in Huron County, and we have been paid off  
15 cheap. And that is one of my opinions.

16                           We have had the ever presence in Lake  
17 Township of DTE. They are everywhere. They are at  
18 every meeting at any level. They are what I call  
19 influence pedaling, with all of their various dinners,  
20 and they are offering steaks and drinks to people who  
21 are leaseholders or potential leaseholders. And there's  
22 always the check-passing photos in the newspaper of all  
23 the wonderful things they are doing for our community.

24                           Well, I don't buy that for a minute. I  
25 really don't.

1                   In talking with these individuals, the  
2                   representatives from DTE, they are not very informed  
3                   about the projects they are even working on. They don't  
4                   seem to have a concern about some of the concerns and  
5                   health issues and what I consider to be a potential  
6                   blight issue.

7                   Those of you too who like I was two years  
8                   ago think that wind energy is a great, because I am for  
9                   progressive, renewable, alternative energies, but can  
10                  you just stop and picture what our area is going to look  
11                  like with hundreds and hundreds, if not thousands, of  
12                  these 400-foot structures? A few of them now may look  
13                  quaint, a few of them now may attract tourists. But so  
14                  does a freak show attract tourists. We do not want this  
15                  entire area to look like Wisner, to have all kinds of  
16                  objects that are producing energy. In their case it  
17                  smells like the devil.

18                  But we don't want that blight, do we?  
19                  Are you willing to -- we have beautiful farm fields. I  
20                  think they are beautiful. Some people say, "Oh, it's  
21                  just a bunch of flat land." I see it differently, and I  
22                  always have.

23                  I would like to appeal to those folks who  
24                  think that this development is a good idea, to think  
25                  twice. I would love to have the members of this board,

1 our county commissioners, our representatives, our  
2 senators, anyone who will listen to think about our  
3 benefits and, again, the ecology and the environment.  
4 This is very, very dear to us.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MR. KRAFT: I'm Lowell Kraft. I live on  
8 Sand Point on the western side of Huron County.

9 I have lived on the shore many, many  
10 years, and I think it's a nice place to live. I enjoy  
11 the wind. Last night we didn't have much, but, boy, the  
12 night before had an awful lot. It was pretty noisy on  
13 the shore.

14 I would like to see Saginaw Bay  
15 considered as a site for wind farms. We could locate  
16 those in places where nobody is close to the shore.  
17 There are those over on the western side of the Thumb or  
18 on the eastern side of Saginaw Bay where you probably  
19 wouldn't see much of them, you certainly wouldn't hear  
20 them, because they are offshore far enough.

21 Now, the Fish & Wildlife have indicated  
22 they don't want anything out on Saginaw Bay. There are  
23 installation and construction procedures that I am  
24 somewhat familiar with having been in that work nearly  
25 all my life, to have a one time installation that is not

1 disruptive to the environment, or not majorly  
2 disruptive.

3 Obviously, being sited out in Saginaw Bay  
4 it would get the benefits of the west-to-easterly flow  
5 of the winds, the natural winds, and it would be  
6 something that I think we could all be proud of.

7 The servicing costs, if you could locate  
8 them much closer together than we have on land, even  
9 though they would have to be serviced either with a  
10 traveling service barge or an air boat.

11 I don't think these are insurmountable  
12 reasons. We have another reason to be located in  
13 Saginaw Bay. The existing corridor of transmission  
14 lines that runs from Bay City to Detroit is much closer  
15 to anything in Saginaw Bay. Just drive through these  
16 spaghetti towers of transmission lines. So that's an  
17 important consideration to move the wind turbines  
18 offshore.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. WALTERS: Charles Henry.

22 Nancy Korleski will be up next.

23 MR. HENRY: Thank you to the board for  
24 allowing us a chance to speak.

25 My name is Charles Henry. I'm a resident

1 of Lake Township.

2 And I'm as green as anyone in this room,  
3 and I believe in alternative energy, source  
4 alternatives, and I just don't believe that this  
5 particular -- there are areas within our country and  
6 within our county that are better suited than others.

7 It comes to mind of areas in New Mexico,  
8 in North Dakota, in South Dakota. Maybe the winds don't  
9 blow there as much as some of you would like, but there  
10 are different areas around this country that are away  
11 from people.

12 And to me what I am hearing from all of  
13 the folks out here that have so eloquently expressed  
14 their views -- Mrs. Peplinski, Mr. Champagne, Mr.  
15 Peruski, Mrs. Weber -- I think pretty much capture what  
16 needs to be evaluated as we move forward. I can't  
17 understand why in Huron County we have a 1,000-foot  
18 setback from these energy factories, yet the World  
19 Health Organization recommends 1.5 kilometers, in Europe  
20 they recommended one mile. And I just don't understand  
21 why our county is not protecting its citizens.

22 In my view, one of government's  
23 responsibilities, its biggest responsibility, is to  
24 protect its citizens, and I don't think that our county  
25 and possibly this board is focusing enough on the

1 Peplinskis, the Champagnes, the Peruskis, and the  
2 Webers. Please do not ignore their complaints. They're  
3 real.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. KORLESKI SHEWARD: Well, I had a very  
7 nice talk to give, but many of the wonderful people  
8 mainly said everything I wanted to say.

9 My name is Nancy Sheward. My maiden  
10 name's Korleski. My mother lives in Kinde on a 100-  
11 year-plus farm. My family, most of my family, have  
12 moved to the city at a young age to get jobs, but we  
13 come back to visit the farm regularly.

14 I don't want to see a turbine set up in  
15 my mother's farm. I don't want any turbine set up in  
16 any of Huron County. The main reason, and I am sure  
17 most of us will agree, if not all, that your children  
18 who have moved away, they come back here not only to see  
19 you, but to see this beautiful area, the lakes. the  
20 farmland, and the lady mentioned about tourism. The  
21 tourism in this county is because of the Great Lakes,  
22 the quietness in the fields. When I come up to my mom's  
23 farm, I walk outside, and I can hear the birds. I don't  
24 hear them in the city.

25 Now, why did I leave the farm? At a

1 young age my parents wanted me to get an education. So  
2 I attended college. I went on, I had a wonderful  
3 career. I made a lot of money throughout my career. I  
4 am now beginning my retirement years, and I would like  
5 to bring some of my money back to this area to live as I  
6 age. But if this is going to happen, I may elect to go  
7 down South, because this is totally ridiculous.

8 And I agree with all of you the noise --  
9 I can agree with you -- I feel sorry for you with the  
10 noise and the health problems that everyone's bringing  
11 up.

12 And last, I would like to know who on  
13 this board is aware, and in the audience, of, a raise of  
14 hands, who T. Boone Pickens is. Has anyone ever heard  
15 of him? Anyone, please raise your hand on the board.

16 (Show of hands)

17 I am requesting you explain to all of us  
18 before we leave here today of what happened to him.  
19 What happened in the Panhandle of Texas, why turbines  
20 are not now being set out. Do you want this area to be  
21 nothing but dust for your children and grandchildren?  
22 Because if these turbines are going to be put up, that's  
23 what it's going to do. There is no proof yet. You are  
24 just making projections.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 One other thing. I want to agree with  
3 the gentleman about Terry Brown. My brother, who is a  
4 businessman in Chicago, has done the same, called or e-  
5 mailed, spoke to his secretary back in 2007, and we are  
6 still waiting to hear from Terry as well. It's pretty  
7 sad for a Huron County state rep, when my state rep, and  
8 I live in the Detroit area, when I call with a --

9 MR. WALTERS: We have to cut you off.

10 MS. KORLESKI SHEWARD: -- problem they  
11 respond.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. WALTERS: Charles Parcels.

14 David Berger is up next.

15 MR. PARCELLS: Thank you very much.

16 I too have concerns. My family was  
17 offered wind leases a year, year and a half ago, and so  
18 I worked on it very hard. I studied them. And speaking  
19 for myself, I found them unsignable, too risky, too many  
20 problems I couldn't work out, and who I blame was the  
21 state for not enacting a body of law similar to mineral  
22 leases. If mineral leaseholders had to go through the  
23 same thing as farmers with these wind leases, you  
24 wouldn't have a very orderly oil patch up north.

25 The other thing that concerns me that you

1           have done is you have outlined very large areas where  
2           you think wind towers ought to go. Anybody who is  
3           considering buying residential property in those areas  
4           would be kind of foolish to do that until these issues  
5           get wound up.

6                                So you are not doing a favor to the  
7           real estate market in hundreds of square miles of areas  
8           in Michigan.

9                                This happened in Huron County about 40  
10          years ago. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed  
11          something some of you may remember, called the Sewage  
12          Farm. What happened to the real estate market while  
13          that was on the table? Not a good situation.

14                               What we have now is a sewage farm in the  
15          sky as far as residential real estate goes, and I would  
16          recommend to you that you clarify where windmills might  
17          go or might not go, so that you don't burden all the  
18          residential real estate in all those areas while you sit  
19          around making up your minds where things should happen,  
20          because nobody is shopping for a windmill farm during  
21          this.

22                               Thank you.

23                               (Applause)

24                               MR. WALTERS: Thank you.

25                               David Mr. Berger.

1 Anthony Forlini up next.

2 Is David Berger here?

3 Anthony Forlini.

4 MR. FORLINI: Thank you. My name is Tony  
5 Forlini, Harrison Township Supervisor, further south  
6 from here.

7 This has been very informational for me,  
8 hearing all these complaints. Harrison Township -- I'm  
9 also here with Jackson House, which is one of our  
10 trustees.

11 We are interested in doing wind turbine.  
12 The comments that we are hearing is very informational,  
13 because some of these wind complaints I haven't heard in  
14 the past.

15 The thing that we are referring to is we  
16 are being excluded from this study, and I'm not sure  
17 why. Harrison Township has some great locations for a  
18 wind turbine out on the lake, Lake St. Clair.

19 You know, just recently I was in Toronto,  
20 in downtown Toronto, which is an urban area, obviously,  
21 right by the water. They have a turbine, and I went up  
22 to it, didn't hear any noise. So, maybe it's a  
23 different sizing. I don't know what the differences  
24 are.

25 But it was -- it was very majestic, and

1           it was very nice to see that in an urban area.

2                         Some of these exclusions that you have in  
3           your report totally would exclude Harrison Township,  
4           though, from having a wind turbine. We are close to the  
5           water. We are -- there are roads. We couldn't put  
6           anything, I think it was, 150 meters from the roads and  
7           wetlands, which we do have.

8                         So we would like to be considered in  
9           this, and as we look into the research, we hear about  
10          tourism. I think that the positives for our area is we  
11          are close to the grid, some of the tourism that we are  
12          talking about, eco-tourism, I think are all positives  
13          for our community.

14                        I would like to know a little bit more  
15          about the wind. As a matter of fact, I am going to  
16          leave here and probably drive by some of these wind  
17          farms and see what we are talking about.

18                        But what we are certainly talking about  
19          in Harrison Township is only one or two, and they would  
20          be right off the lake. I think another positive would  
21          be they would be a great navigational marker.

22                        Now, we would like to be considered, and  
23          we are doing research on this right now to see if that  
24          makes sense. This was informational for me certainly to  
25          hear everybody else's opinions, but we would like to be

1 considered in the report.

2 (Applause)

3 MR. WALTERS: Maryanne Williams, do you  
4 want to speak?

5 MS. WILLIAMS: No, thank you.

6 MR. WALTERS: Patrick McCollough.

7 Mary Nowak on deck.

8 MR. MCCOLLOUGH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
9 and members. I have run a number of these kinds of  
10 hearings myself as a former member of the state senate,  
11 the director of a federal regulatory agency charged with  
12 protecting the public from nuclear power plant  
13 considerations following Three Mile Island.

14 I know your statutory limitations, and I  
15 understand that they are not being listened to.  
16 According to your own examples, you are not considering  
17 social, economic, or environmental factors, you are not  
18 considering local zoning restrictions, and you are not  
19 considering competing land uses.

20 That leaves you off the hook on most of  
21 the things presented except the public health matters.  
22 And I would hope -- I'm going to give you my conclusion  
23 first, so that I can get to them -- I would hope that  
24 the report, the final report of this body, calls for a  
25 study of public health impacts. Minimally, if the whole

1 board doesn't do it, there ought to be at least a  
2 minority report calling for public health impact  
3 studies.

4 (Applause)

5 There also ought to be a requirement or a  
6 recommendation that you study the environmental impacts,  
7 because, while you are not charged with it, you can  
8 still call for it. We are in the middle of the biggest  
9 Great Lakes flyway in North America, and we have huge  
10 migrations of birds. The farmers know, in the spring,  
11 you see the hawks, all the hawks and all of the  
12 predatory birds going through. You see every kind of  
13 bird that populates North America comes down through  
14 Huron County. It is one of the major flyways.

15 So you ought to recommend a study of that  
16 even though it is not within your purview.

17 You need to recommend a minimum -- or a  
18 maximum number of windmills per square mile. Most of  
19 these farms are located in wastelands, deserts,  
20 mountains, where people don't live. People live here, a  
21 lot of people.

22 And there ought to be a maximum number,  
23 so that we don't get, based on what you told us, half of  
24 the windmills, half of 4,000 windmills in this initial  
25 building operation placed at one area, one county, and

1 some surrounding portions. That's just too much impact.

2 The fact is it'll make the biggest change  
3 to Huron County and in the Thumb since the great fires  
4 of 1871 and '81. You won't recognize this area.

5 At night you might as well be in  
6 southeast Detroit, near the oil refineries with the  
7 blinking red lights blocking out the sky.

8 (Applause)

9 Now, how about the fact -- you can't  
10 consider this, but this is important, especially for the  
11 local public officials who are charged with protecting  
12 --

13 MR. WALTERS: We have to cut you off  
14 now. That was three minutes. If you wish to submit  
15 additional comments, you can.

16 MR. McCOLLOUGH: I certainly will. Thank  
17 you.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. WALTERS: Mary Nowak.

20 John Horny up next.

21 MS. NOWAK: Three minutes is not a long  
22 time, but I wanted to remind everyone they can go to  
23 wind-watch.com [sic] for all the people in this, this  
24 U.S., and Canada and Europe complaining about the noise  
25 and all the terrible things that happen to them. One of

1           them wrote an obituary for Skypower, which is a building  
2           company that went bankrupt.

3                       And he is celebrating for one reason  
4           alone: my neighbors nor I shall have to live with them  
5           as corporate neighbors! They don't deserve to, because  
6           they do not treat the people with due honor and respect.

7                       And the same thing happened here. Novo  
8           went around secretly to all these farmers and signed  
9           them up. We knew nothing about it. Our zoning board  
10          never told us anything, anything about it. They said  
11          they had little things in the paper about it, but who  
12          reads all the little things in the paper?

13                      So, by the time we found out, we had  
14          nothing to go by that we could stop this.

15                      Please read wind-watch.com [sic]. They  
16          are so happy this company has gone bankrupt, because  
17          they don't have to deal with them, because they went  
18          around secretly, made you sign contracts that night,  
19          because they came to our house, and I could tell they  
20          were in a hurry to get that signature before people  
21          found out.

22                      And my husband and I refused to sign  
23          anything. I am glad we did, because they would be very,  
24          very close to our house if we had not.

25                      Thank you very much.

1 (Applause)

2 MR. WALTERS: John Horny.

3 Susan Schrader will be up next.

4 MR. HORNY: Hello. My name is John  
5 Horny. I am the commissioner in the first district.

6 I would like to see windmills on every  
7 residence in this county. They're noiseless, they have  
8 been fought by big companies forever.

9 A good friend of mind brought the first  
10 one in at Lakers High School. He had all kinds of  
11 problems tying into the grid. It was only last October  
12 this was permitted.

13 These windmills are noiseless, they are  
14 40-foot high, will not kill any birds.

15 If you want to talk about new  
16 construction and new jobs in this county, you should  
17 certainly look at having windmills everywhere. But they  
18 have been restricted on zoning. A lot of it's from  
19 higher up. We don't have, the little people don't have  
20 the money to produce this. I would like to see the  
21 Michigan Public Service Commission to look at this as an  
22 option.

23 That amount, if it was done on every  
24 piece of property, would certainly approach what the big  
25 windmills are. I know we have the problems with them.

1                   We have also other sources of energy that  
2                   could be utilized and supported, such as methane  
3                   digestors. We have got so waste over here that could be  
4                   used for an energy. And it's, all it is, we are  
5                   polluting our streams, we are doing a lot of things that  
6                   we should be doing, but all could be converted to  
7                   energy.

8                   Teletype, paper, weeds, and all these  
9                   things could be turned to energy. We're doing it a  
10                  Thumb Industries. This is a place for disadvantaged  
11                  people. They have already hired 10 new people. They  
12                  are making paper helmets, and they are getting a good  
13                  price for it. This recent week catastrophe that we had,  
14                  if we utilized the straw, the pulp, and for heat, that  
15                  we could produce electricity.

16                  We could pay for more than what the  
17                  insurance companies pay these farmers. So, there's a  
18                  lot of opportunity, and it's not that the windmills  
19                  cause problems. They should definitely be located in  
20                  areas where they are not going to impact anything.

21                  Well, thank you.

22                  (Applause)

23                  MR. WALTERS: That was the last comment  
24                  sheet that we received. Does anybody else wish to  
25                  address -- you have already addressed.

1 MR. McLEAN: I would like to finish what  
2 I started.

3 MR. WALTERS: No, we are limited to three  
4 minutes. Someone else would like to speak.

5 MR. KRZEMINSKI: Ron Krzeminski, of Lake  
6 Township.

7 Just for curiosity, show of hands who  
8 would like windmills.

9 (There was a show of hands.)

10 And a show of hands who do not want  
11 windmills.

12 (There was a show of hands.)

13 That's for the board, just to look at.

14 MR. WALTERS: Thank you very much.

15 Anyone else?

16 MAN: What about Mackinac Island?

17 MR. WALTERS: This isn't a question-and-  
18 answer period.

19 Anybody else like to speak, please come  
20 to the podium.

21 (Mr. Monsell (sp.) stood.)

22 State your name. And, when you are done,  
23 if you could, come back up and fill out a card as well.

24 MR. MONSELL: Good afternoon. My name is  
25 Dan Monsell. I do not live in Huron County; however, I

1 do own property in one of the other designated regions.

2 This is a public hearing for the State of  
3 Michigan, is it not?

4 MR. WALTERS: It is a public hearing for  
5 the whole state, correct.

6 MR. MONSELL: I just want to point that  
7 out to people.

8 I'm a concerned citizen of the state.  
9 There are very, very many positive benefits to  
10 alternative energy sources. I might just -- and I have  
11 been listening to feedback, and there are significant  
12 concerns with this type of system; however, there are  
13 also benefits. So you need to keep that in mind.

14 Not living here, I don't see it in my  
15 backyard; however, just like to remind you that other  
16 energy sources have significant environmental, social,  
17 health issues as well, which you are not seeing about,  
18 but you have the benefit of getting the energy from  
19 them. So just keep that in mind as you are working  
20 through some of these issues.

21 It would appear to me that the board  
22 would likely take into consideration what appears to be  
23 the most significant concern, which is setback and  
24 noise. Those two kind of go hand in hand, and the  
25 further you are away, the quieter it will become. So, I

1           guess as a board you should definitely take that in  
2           consideration and move forward with that.

3                         Those are a couple items I just wanted to  
4           point out. And I hadn't really intended to speak today  
5           but just wanted to let people know there are other folks  
6           in the State of Michigan, and honestly we are all in  
7           this together.

8                         Our state is in a troubled time right  
9           now, and we could really use some additional jobs as a  
10          result of manufacturing, which would come from the  
11          demand from renewable energy sources. Whether it's wind  
12          or solar, there is a lot of work right now in the solar  
13          field and increase in demand for that product, and we  
14          could be creating manufacturing jobs here for many, many  
15          components that go into the turbine and would need to be  
16          supported after they go in.

17                        So, thank you for your time and work in  
18          putting this together. I know you guys have put a --

19                                 MR. WALTERS: Where are you from?

20                                 MR. MONSELL: Ann Arbor.

21                                 -- lot of time an effort and done a lot  
22          of research and I think have done a good job. Thank  
23          you.

24                                 (Applause)

25                                 MR. WALTERS: Anyone else?

1                   I think we have two individuals here that  
2                   I would like to go ahead.

3                   MR. STACHECKI: I just wanted to say my  
4                   name is A. J. Stachecki. I am representing  
5                   Congresswoman Candice Miller. I just wanted to let you  
6                   know I was up here monitoring, taking down notes, and  
7                   I'll be sure to report back to the congresswoman on what  
8                   I heard today.

9                   This, from the congresswoman's  
10                  perspective, she is supportive of green technology,  
11                  alternative energies, but she believes it meets all-  
12                  inclusive energy compliant, nuclear, clean coal,  
13                  everything on the table, so just wanted to let you know  
14                  that I was here and the congresswoman will be briefed on  
15                  what happened here today.

16                  Thank you.

17                  (Applause)

18                  MR. WALTERS: Again, if you could state  
19                  your name and --

20                  MR. SCARBER: My name is Bob Scarber  
21                  (sp.). I live in Lake Township.

22                  A lot of the concerns I heard have to do  
23                  with the health effects of the turbines, and it seems  
24                  conspicuously missing from your committee. Is anybody  
25                  representing the public health community?

1                   I was at one of Commissioner Damrose's  
2 meetings, where I heard Dr. Bush of the Huron County  
3 Health Department say that he couldn't speak with  
4 certainty about the health effects of turbines, and I  
5 would expect that's probably a universal sentiment in  
6 the medical community. I encourage you to get some  
7 input from the public health community and physicians.

8                   Thank you.

9                   (Applause)

10                  MR. WALTERS: I think that's everyone.

11                  Anyone else?

12                  We are going to go. I don't want to shut  
13 you off.

14                  MR. AGEE: My name is Aubrey Agee, and I  
15 work for one of these facilities.

16                  I am really deeply concerned to hear all  
17 the issues. I'm representing myself. Anything that we  
18 can do to make things better, we will -- I mean, that's  
19 our job. We don't want to harm anybody in their homes.  
20 That's our goal. If we have got to talk to the  
21 engineers and manufacturing facilities to make things  
22 better, then that's what we need to do. So I am hoping  
23 that this communication keeps going and that we hear the  
24 concerns and so that we can, you know, in the near  
25 future, long-term, whatever, get these issues worked

1 out.

2 On the other side, you know, one thing I  
3 did recognize is that, you know, these two facilities  
4 that are here in Huron County, there's about 12 people  
5 that are employed from Michigan. A lot of people lost  
6 jobs in the last couple years. I know we had over 200  
7 people come within the community within the last year  
8 that inputted about \$1 million in Huron County alone in  
9 hotels, expenses, and food and groceries, and gas as  
10 well.

11 So, again, I want to keep hearing these  
12 concerns, so that we can make a better product. Again,  
13 I am here representing myself, but also, you know, I  
14 want, you know, all things to be considered, also  
15 positive impacts as well. So, but now I do appreciate  
16 all the concerns that have been stated.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MR. WALTERS: The people who have made a  
20 presentation, if you could fill out one of the cards, so  
21 we get your name and your contact information, we would  
22 appreciate it. Go up to the tables that are here by the  
23 doorway, and if you could just tell us again what your  
24 name is and that you did speak. We would appreciate it.

25 Anyone else?

1 MR. McLEAN: (Raising hand)

2 MR. WALTERS: I suggested already, we are  
3 only give you three minutes. Anything else you can  
4 submit in writing. You have had that opportunity. And  
5 I thing we want to hold to that.

6 MR. McLEAN: I am willing to wait. If  
7 there's not time, fine, but there is time. We are  
8 supposed --

9 MR. WALTERS: I think everyone was in the  
10 same situation as you are, and everyone was limited to  
11 three minutes. We are not going to go through everyone  
12 again. So, if you, again, would like to submit written  
13 materials, please do.

14 MR. McLEAN: Thank you.

15 MR. WALTERS: Anyone else?

16 (No response)

17 Hearing no additional comments, I will  
18 entertain a motion from the committee to adjourn.

19 (There was a motion to adjourn.)

20 All in favor.

21 (Ayes)

22 Opposed.

23 We stand adjourned.

24 (At 12:48 p.m., the public hearing was  
25 concluded.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Allan J. Strong (CSR-2197), do hereby certify that I reported in stenotypy the foregoing proceeding had in the within-entitled matter, being Michigan Public Service Commission, Wind Energy Resource Zone Board Public Hearing 1 -- Thumb Area, before the Board, at Huron County Expo Center, 170 West Soper Road, Bad Axe, Michigan, On Monday, August 24, 2009; and that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct transcript of my stenotype notes.

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Dated: September 7, 2009

Jmas.103

AJShs