

Dear Mr. McGuinty,

My name is Barbara Ashbee-Lormand. My husband, Dennis Lormand, and I live in the second phase of the Melancthon Amaranth Windfarm. You may recall, Mr. McGuinty, that we are having noise and vibration issues at our house. I cc'd you on a letter December 31st, 2008, that I sent to Mr. Gerretsen. I did not receive a response from any of your offices, including Mr. Gerretsen's, Mr. Smitherman's or yours. On January 15th, my MPP, Sylvia Jones in Dufferin, sent Mr. Gerretsen a letter asking that he pay attention to my letter and requested a response. On January 20th, I finally received a phone call from the Guelph branch of the Ministry of the Environment.

Mr. McGuinty, I am not going to go into that phone call in this email, but trust me it was very enlightening.

We are on noise study #3 now. There is still no resolution to the extreme vibration and humming we experience on many nights, not to mention the noise from what seems like the general working of the turbines that has surpassed the MOE guidelines. We are suffering severe sleep deprivation and mental stress and my husband is also experiencing ringing in the ears, tinnitus, on a mostly regular basis now. Even our dog has been affected. The kicker is, our house is so vulnerable now we could never sell. I would not sell it to an unwary buyer. It would be totally unethical and so our biggest investment is now virtually worthless as it sits. Property values increase with turbines? I don't think so.

I cannot begin to tell you how painful it is to see what the papers are reporting about your apparent disdain for NIMBYs. I still have not had a visit from any of you. Our wind company, that we have patiently been trying to assist, has embarked on yet the third noise study because they are stumped at finding out what is causing the racket that keeps us awake night after night. They called the first study results wishy-washy and inconclusive. After the second one they acknowledged there is a problem and they are over the guidelines but after 2 months, sir, and going into our 3rd, they still have no idea what is going on. How can you stand, telling the province and the world, how wonderful Ontario is for pushing through wind energy projects, when the companies can't even fix what they've gotten themselves into? I am pretty sure this issue is bigger than a wonky fan blade, sir. One would think that you would be trying to work with municipalities to figure out what proper setbacks and placements should be, not removing them completely from the process. Let me give you a hint here . . . They are too close to residences!

I am fully aware that my husband and I are not the only victims of this mismanaged process. I can only pray the others can come forward and speak out as there are many. In my last letter I asked your officials to speak to people to find out what is going on. I do not know if that has happened. All I know, sir, is that we are living, make that existing, in nights of hellish noise and vibration, and the wind companies' apparent lack of understanding of their product baffles me.

I plead with you, once again, to stop this before you allow any more of these wind farms to proceed until you get the equipment, setbacks and proper environmental and health studies completed.

I do not understand why this is so important to you that we don't matter. Are we simply expendable rural residents?

Do the right thing Mr. McGuinty. Work for your constituents' well-being, not against it. I am sad to have to use the term again, but you should be ashamed of yourself and your Ministry.

Most Sincerely,
Barbara Ashbee Lormand and Dennis Lormand
Shelburne, Ontario

Feb. 13, 2009