

[These letters were written by William Palmer, October 31, 2009 in reaction to the defeat of a resolution requesting a moratorium on wind turbine construction in Ontario until health effects were studied. The first letter was written to the PC members of Parliament. The second letter, which was referenced in the first, was written the same date to those most responsible for health matters in Ontario.]

Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Hardeman, Ms. Savoline, and Mr. Dunlop:

To the five of you, I offer my sincere thanks for speaking (even briefly Mr. Dunlop!) and especially for voting in favour of Mr. Murdoch's motion regarding wind turbines in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday. Each of you made it clear by standing that you support your constituents.

Mr. Wilson, as acting speaker, you get a "bye" in the following discussion.

Mr. Jakabuski, I acknowledge that you briefly spoke before the motion in support. After you had sat through the Green Energy Act Hearings, and had been supportive of those who expressed concerns, and during the following debate in the Legislature, I missed your voice during the debate, and especially in the vote. More than any other PC Party member, you had heard the most victims, yet you were absent when the counting was done. I was disappointed.

To Mr. Hudak, and the remainder of the PC Caucus, who seemed to be absent (I could not see all from my vantage point in the gallery, I admit) but were certainly silent during the debate, and who failed to be recorded in Hansard as voting in favour of the motion, I express my considerable disappointment. No doubt you were doing what you considered important work, and yet, for the 100 people in the gallery, the debate and the vote was the important culmination of years of fighting, a failure of the public comment system to listen to concerns, and anguish. Sorry, but you did not serve to represent us well.

I copy below for your information comments that I have sent today to MPP Dr. Helena Jaczek and Minister John Gerretsen. You may find my comments of interest. Some of you may take them to heart as encouragement, as they indicate that yes, I am now looking for someone else to represent me. However, I do express my disappointment that I did not see the majority of MPPs from the PC Party of Ontario being that representative on Thursday either. The majority of the party were unwilling to answer the bell to stand in support of your constituents. So what is your position? By missing the opportunity to demonstrate where you stand, when it counts, you showed that really it was not important to you that people were hurting. Many of us are now looking for someone who will actually represent us. Most of us really do not care about party politics, and posturing to try to impress people or the press, we are looking for someone willing to be true to their word, to listen to facts, and to stand up and be counted when the going is tough and your fellow human beings are hurting. You will need to show us, and me, better before you win our, and my, sustaining vote (and that is even after I acknowledge that I did purchase a membership in the PC Party of Ontario).

William K.G. Palmer

Dear Dr. Jaczek and Minister Gerretsen:

Yes, I was one of the folks at Queen's Park on Thursday, who went home disappointed. The brick wall was standing firm. Yet, cracks are starting to appear. Even *The Star* today is admitting (in an offhand way) that there are problems.

*In an extraordinary scene behind closed doors at Wednesday's cabinet meeting – where Samsung's bid to build wind turbines and other green energy gear in Ontario was expected to have been approved – insiders say ministers "gang-tackled" Smitherman, who is also energy and infrastructure minister.*

*"It wasn't just one or two, it was everyone," said one senior Liberal insider. "Things got pretty ugly."*

<http://www.thestar.com/news/sciencetech/environment/article/719166--samsung-s-turbine-deal-in-jeopardy>

Following a fact finding trip around Europe looking at wind turbines in May/June, in preparation for the international Wind Turbine Noise Conference where I was presenting a paper about the cyclic sound from wind turbines that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment refuse to recognize by applying the applicable MOE publication NOC-104, I prepared a summary for Wind Concerns Ontario members where I commented that my most influential day was spent in Gdansk, Poland. There was only one wind turbine to be seen, so that wasn't the issue that day, it was visiting the Solidarnosc Museum. I stood a long time in front of the slide show that included a photo ... of a brick wall across Eastern Europe. The captions explained the visit by Pope John Paul II to Gdansk in June 1979, almost 30 years to the day from the day we were there, when he told the people "you are not who they say you are" - "don't be afraid, change the image of the land." As you watched the wall, it started to crumble, as one country after another threw off communism, changing the face of Eastern Europe.

On Thursday, with 100 others, I sat in the Ontario Legislature, and saw a brick wall. We had fought, and fought, and fought. We had presented the truth, and stood on the truth, and pleaded for the truth. We had lobbied, we had done presentations to Ministers, we had tried darned hard, yet the brick wall was firm.

To me, the critical moment was when you, spoke, Dr. Jaczek. As Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, you effectively represented the Minister of the Environment, and thus the Premier's view. You told us that the government had listened, and had solved the problem by reviewing the independent scientific report prepared by Dr. Ray Copes, that had said the problems with wind turbines would be solved by putting in setbacks, and you stated, "we have put in place setbacks."

Hot damn! Everything I had believed in up to then crashed. For years I believed that the Government really stood for the truth. As a Scout Leader for 40 years I had impressed on my Scouts to respect the Government. Now it was gone. When I told my wife Jean after, she asked where I had been all those years. Did I really believe that? Well, yes, I did, but it's gone.

You see, as you know, the Copes report talks of setbacks, but it does not talk of 50 to 60 metre safety setbacks, and 550 metre sound setbacks, it talks of putting in place setbacks to protect against blade throw of 500 metres, for ice throw of 300 metres, and for sound to meet 40 dBA. I knew that we had met Minister Smitherman and showed him the figures, and we had testified to the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee, and had submitted comments to the review of the proposed regulations that showed why the proposals were inadequate, and we had watched as they were reduced even more, instead of listening to the facts. We had listened to Dr. Robert McMurtry testify that people were being hurt, and had seen him be ignored, and had seen a chair advertised saying "The Chair in Renewable Energy Technologies and Health will focus first on emerging science and technology related to wind turbines, and then will explore the potential health effects from renewable energy. Increasing renewable energy is part of Ontario's efforts to combat climate change, reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and help protect the environment and the communities that are home to renewable energy projects."

So the Chair in Renewable Energy Technologies and Health, will look first at emerging science and technology, so we can build more wind turbines "to combat climate change, reduce air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions" ... and then explore potential health effects, that the cleaner air gives. In his/her spare time, the Chair will help protect the environment and communities ... Don't hold your breath waiting for cleaner air or results that will identify health concerns in those communities. The Chair the Premier promised was not going to solve the health effects problems.

Now, we had just heard you, Dr. Jaczek, a Medical Doctor, a former Medical Officer of Health, a representative of the Minister of the Environment and thus the Premier, LIE to us. To say that by putting in place setbacks they had solved the problem, Dr. Jaczek, you lied to me, and to every person in Ontario. Strong words, but I have committed to stand on the truth, and that is the truth. We were lied to. Setbacks are only meaningful if large enough to do something. A 50 to 60 metre setback when the referenced document and testimony of witnesses call for a safety setback of 500 metres - and to say it solved the problem is a LIE. A 550 metre noise setback is a LIE when evidence was given to the Ministry of the Environment that their 550 metre setback would result in sound of well over 45 dBA, and included this statement: the continual reference in MOE documentation, and in press releases, identifying a 550 metre setback to homes is not representative of the setbacks that are required using the turbines commonly applied in Ontario. Calculation by the MOE of a required setback of 600 metres for the most commonly applied turbine in Ontario (the GE sle 1.5), when the calculation performed in accordance with ISO 9613-2 using the MOE criteria as identified in the "Noise Guidelines" shows a requirement for 820 to 1310 metres for 5 turbines (and more for larger numbers) and when the second most commonly applied turbine (Vestas V82) shows a requirement of 1470 to 2250 metres for 5 turbines while the MOE continue to speak of a 550 metre setback might be considered as deliberately misleading the public.

As you look at this picture, I have to tell you to imagine it showing cracks, and then the brick wall crumbles. Stand on the truth and the wall will crumble.

The crumbling is beginning. Stand on the truth. "You are not who they say you are ... don't be afraid, change the image of the land." (John Paul II)

William K.G. Palmer

A former Liberal supporter and Party Member who will never vote again for the Liberal Party in Ontario while any of the present Liberal MPPs remain, and who will work to see you replaced. And that is also the truth.