



Town of Henderson, NY
12105 Town Barn Road
Henderson, New York 13650
(315) 938 - 5542
www.townofhendersonny.org

April 11, 2016

Hon. Kathleen Burgess

Secretary to the NYS Public Service Commission

3 Empire State Plaza

Albany, NY 12223

Dear Secretary Burgess,

This is in regards to the Article 10 siting application of Apex Clean Energy for a commercial wind farm on Galloo Island in Lake Ontario, directly off the shoreline to the Town of Henderson (Matter # 15-01278/case # 15-F-0327). *While Galloo Island lies within the boundaries of the Town of Hounsfield, it is, in fact, much closer to the shoreline of the Town of Henderson.* The closest point in the Town of Hounsfield is almost 13 miles away while Galloo Island's closest proximity to the Town of Henderson is approximately 6 miles. As you can see, any potential negative impact created by the construction of a wind farm on Galloo Island will be felt much more heavily in Henderson.

In order to fully understand the potential impact, the Town of Henderson commissioned a study by researchers from Clarkson University and Nanos Research. The lead researcher from Clarkson, Dr. Martin Heintzelman, specializes in energy related topics and has published other studies looking at the impact of wind farms in New York State. We would like to submit the report on the results of this study to the Public Service Commission for consideration during the Article 10 siting deliberations for this matter. We believe it is important for the PSC to consider the potential consequences from a wide perspective which would include areas beyond the boundaries of the town in which the wind farm would be located. The focus of this study was specifically on the impact to the Town of Henderson should the project come to fruition. We would expect, however, that this project would have similar impacts on other towns along the shoreline that share similar characteristics to Henderson and a similar proximity to Galloo Island.

As you will see, the main finding is the impact on the property values in the Town of Henderson. Dr. Heintzelman and his colleagues project a total property value loss of between **\$39.8 and \$43.2 million dollars**. That is a loss that the town, which according to US Census data *is one of the 10 poorest communities in New York State*, can ill afford. The budgets of the Town as well as the local school district depend on property values.

The Town of Henderson is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

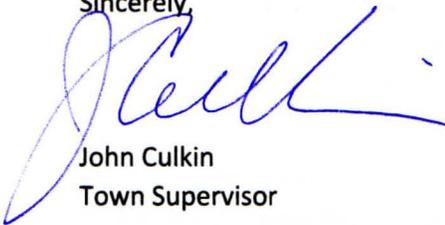
The study also finds that any positive economic benefits created by the construction of the wind farm will be temporary and will be less than that claimed by company proposing the wind farm. An ultimate increase of 6 jobs in the entire geographic area, none of which are expected to benefit Henderson, *seems a poor reason to cause a \$40 million dollar loss to a town already struggling.*

Lastly, much of Henderson's income derives from tourism and recreation tied to our beautiful harbor and the main portions of Lake Ontario along our shoreline. Based upon the literature they reviewed, Dr. Heintzelman and his colleagues project the impact on tourism in Henderson to be very minimal. We would like to submit a second study, one by researchers from North Carolina State University (NCSU), that did find significant tourism impact if offshore windmills were closer than 8 miles away. As pointed out earlier, Galloo Island is approximately 6 miles away from much of our shoreline. (This is not necessarily to dispute Dr. Heintzelman's findings. It is to provide additional sources of information for consideration by the PSC as the NCSU study was not among the literature reviewed as part of the Henderson study.)

In closing, we reiterate our request that the PSC consider the potential impact of constructing a wind farm on Galloo Island from a global perspective that factors in repercussions beyond the borders of the municipality in which this project is proposed to be sited. One would hope that those who will decide this matter have some sympathy with the Hippocratic Oath taken by medical doctors to do no harm. *We believe this study shows clear and convincing evidence that approval of this project would, indeed, do harm. **Significant harm.*** Given the dubious benefits of wind farms in the renewable energy universe, causing harm to this extent seems a poor decision.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



John Culkin
Town Supervisor