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Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Premier Dalton McGuinty
Rm 281, Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

EBR Number: 011-0089

Renewable Energy Approval Requirements for Off-shore Wind Facilities

As the worldwide damage from climate change continues to mount, it is urgent for Ontario to develop more community based renewable energy, including off-shore wind. Your Minister of Energy and Infrastructure is proposing to create a blanket ban on all wind developments within 5 kilometres of shore. This would effectively kill any off-shore development close to Toronto, where the power is needed most, as the lake depth that far from shore makes wind development impractical. Noise restrictions, setbacks, and limited wind also present severe obstacles to any onshore wind development in the Toronto area.

We are very proud of your leadership in bringing Ontario the *Green Energy Act*, but its promise will not be realized if too many obstacles are placed in the way of building substantial amounts of wind power. Wind is the only renewable energy source now competitive with fossil fuels, and other jurisdictions that have rapidly increased their renewable portfolio at a reasonable cost have done so relying heavily on wind.

As you know, Premier, there is overwhelming public support for more renewable energy in Ontario. We need to ensure that all wind developments meet stringent environmental guidelines. However, there is little rationale in the proposal to justify an arbitrary 5 km minimum setback. The current Renewable Energy Approvals (REA) process was set up to identify and mitigate environmental issues that affect wind power developments. Let the REA do the job it was meant to do.

Denmark has long been a leader in renewable energy. One of Denmark's early off-shore projects is a project situated less than 4 kilometres off-shore of its largest city, Copenhagen. Imagine a Toronto waterfront that rivals the forward thinking that made Copenhagen and Denmark leaders in the field of community-owned wind energy projects.

VISION	INNOVATION	EXCELLENCE
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I therefore urge you, Premier, not to approve the proposed 5 kilometre minimum setback for offshore wind turbines.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Saxe', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dianne Saxe
Barrister and Solicitor
Ph.D. in Law

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