

Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)

From: Harrington, Grace (HOU) on behalf of Keenan, John - Rep. (HOU)
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 4:37 PM
To: Eicher, Christopher, (HOU); Holland, Liam (HOU); Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)
Subject: FW: December 3, 2013 Hearings before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

FYI testimony

Grace Harrington

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From: Linda Ohkgawa [<mailto:lohkagawa@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 4:11 PM
To: Downing, Benjamin (SEN); Keenan, John - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: December 3, 2013 Hearings before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

December 3, 2013

Sen. Benjamin B. Downing
Rep. John Keenan
Members of Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

I regret that illness did not permit me to testify in person today, as I had planned.

I **oppose** S1591 and H2980 relative to the WESRA. Please accept my written testimony.

Every day I must cope with the consequences of poor siting of two wind turbines by state agencies that skirted local bylaws and local citizens. We must not give up the complete local control of energy facilities in our towns and cities! They are left holding the bag after the turbines are up, as illustrated in my testimony below.

WESRA Testimony (H.2980 & S.1591) – December 3, 2013

Linda Ohkagawa, 821 West Falmouth Highway,
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Due to the overwhelming influence of the MTC/CEC, I feel that Falmouth was de facto under a WESRA. The whole idea of "by right" siting, no special

permit, no local public hearings, lack of pre-construction studies (for example shadow flicker), and ignoring red flags in sound study data resulted in siting *too close* and turbines *too big*. This has brought significant harm to neighbors and our town.

The town is incurring substantial financial injury, and the state executive is stonewalling responsibility and requests for financial assistance with threatening letters about repayment of grants and REC's and dictating hours of operation.

The state agencies made a colossal blunder in siting Falmouth's turbines—too big, too close—that they refuse to acknowledge. The way they have treated our town officials, as well as abutters, should be a cautionary tale to all communities and local officials across the state.

We are a home rule state. Do not allow the Governor and his cohorts' ambitious agenda jeopardize local control of local issues. The state agencies' track record in wind turbine siting is poor, as I am sure you will hear from folks in other communities. Do not let the state executive meddle in local affairs as they have in Falmouth. Now we must turn to our legislators and proposed legislation, such as the Wind Energy Relief Act (H.2987, H.2969, S.1604) for help in resolving the dilemma Falmouth is in.

Citizens and legislators beware—do not let WESRA go forward. Next it could be you, like me living in a house 1225 feet (property 988 feet) from a 1.65 mW (or greater) power plant. From the moment "they" decide your municipality is in a "significant wind resource area," the state will start telling your local officials what to do. Under WESRA's expedited processing, you will have little or no recourse. Local bylaws, so carefully crafted by local bodies to fit local circumstances can be waived. Appeals will go to the Energy Facilities Siting Board itself, which will be the exclusive means of review. So far, we are only finding recourse in the courts, and by attempting to limit appeal, they could deny us our judicial rights.

Do not provide the executive, CEC, etc. the power to impose more of these projects on the unwilling and the unknowing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Ohkagawa
West Falmouth, MA

