

**Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)**

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**From:** Keenan, John - Rep. (HOU)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2013 10:47 AM  
**To:** Eicher, Christopher, (HOU); Holland, Liam (HOU); Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)  
**Subject:** FW: Please vote NO to H2980

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**From:** STEPHEN RYACK [<mailto:gensystems@verizon.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2013 5:09 PM  
**To:** Keenan, John - Rep. (HOU)  
**Subject:** Please vote NO to H2980

Stephen Ryack  
PO Box 61  
Heath, MA 01346  
(413) 337-4005

November 11, 2013

Dear Representative Keenan:

I urgently ask you to oppose House Bill H.2980 regulating the siting of land based industrial wind turbines in our State. The Bill severely limits local control of zoning for land use. This Bill is a misguided effort to ram a uniform industrial energy policy on the cities and towns of our Commonwealth. It is intrinsically undemocratic in intent and disastrous in the consequences it would have on the rural environment and economy of our region, to say nothing of the quality of our lives.

Worst still, the horrendous costs to our communities would not be offset by any benefit to the cause of reducing global warming. I call your attention to studies done by the Renewable Energy Lab of the Dept. of Energy which shows that Massachusetts does NOT possess a significant wind resource for *Land*-based turbines. At best, the Federal government shows the State could generate about 1000 megawatts of electricity from onshore wind at 100% efficiency (the wind blowing 24/7, 52 weeks a year) at optimum speeds. The actual efficiency is under 30%, so that the total wind resource is about 300 (Hundred) megawatts. But, the State uses 6000 (Thousand) megawatts on average, annually. The three hundred megawatts from land wind turbines is only 5% of the six thousand megawatts of electricity the State needs. Since the generation of electricity from fossil fuels accounts for only 27 % of the State's total CO2 emissions, the 5% displacement of fossil fuelled power by wind, would reduce CO2 emissions by .27 of 5% or 1.35%, a trivial amount by any standard.

The promotion of land based wind turbines in our State is a pet project of our Governor, who is driven by political correctness. It has no scientific merit whatsoever. There IS scientific merit to the Governor's policy in the Mid-West and the Plains where the wind resource is over a thousand times greater than that of Mass. Perhaps the Governor can run for office in those States when his term expires. And please understand that this is NOT a partisan issue. As a lifelong democrat and

previous supporter of the Governor I am appalled at the Governor riding roughshod over the scientific evidence and the democratic will of the citizens of our towns and villages.

Wind turbines are huge open air industrial machines, exceeding the height of most of the sky scrapers in Boston. Massachusetts west of the Connecticut River is the last vestige of rural America in our region. Their obtrusive presence in our quiet peaceful landscape would be a sacrilege to the values of conserving the pristine quality of our environment. I won't enumerate all the other costs in terms of the noise, inner ear effects, depreciation of property values, loss of tourist revenue etc. Suffice it to say, that without any palpable benefit to the climate, there are only painful costs to be incurred in forcing our towns to acquiesce to their siting. And the cost is not only to the rural character of the environment. The cost is to the climate itself. For by diverting *scarce* resources *away* from the alternatives which WOULD have a robust impact on the climate, the Governor's policy is actually harming the climate. The CO2 reduction to be had from wind is trivial compared to that to be had from energy conservation. Increased efficiency in energy utilization, green building design and rehabbing older structures delivers a far greater bang for the buck than any of the meager effects of wind.

Again, Rep Keenan I am asking you to please oppose any legislation which would mandate the siting of wind turbines in the State. Please trust the democratic will of the people as expressed in town meetings and other venues. For it is THEY who would have to live with these machines and bear the brunt of their effects. Please vote NO to Bill H. 2980.

Sincerely,

Steve Ryack