

## Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)

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**From:** Keenan, John - Rep. (HOU)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013 3:29 PM  
**To:** Eicher, Christopher, (HOU); Holland, Liam (HOU); Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)  
**Subject:** FW: The Wind Energy Siting Reform Act Bill # H2 980 S 1591

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**From:** kathryn sternstein [<mailto:trinakbss189@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2013 7:33 AM  
**To:** Keenan, John - Rep. (HOU)  
**Subject:** The Wind Energy Siting Reform Act Bill # H2 980 S 1591

Dear Rep. Keenan,

I hope that you and your family are very well.

Below are my comments on the latest version of the WESRA bill.

George Bachrach president of the Environmental League of Massachusetts testified at the December 3rd hearing on the Wind Energy siting Reform Act. He is an enthusiastic supporter of this bill which seeks to "speed up" the siting of industrial wind turbines in Massachusetts. In truth it reduces the power of people to make their own decisions about whether they want wind turbines in their neighborhoods. Taking away this right is, I hope you will agree, a very bad idea.

In his statement to lawmakers on the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee Mr. Bachrach said "Wind energy is the future". He also said that "to think that progress in this area can come without harm is a misconception" And he further stated that "somewhere there is the notion that we cannot build wind energy unless no one gets hurt." Where one wonders has Mr Bachrach been? He seems to be unable to see the source of this "misconception" and this "notion". In their eagerness to sell us all industrial wind turbines wind salespeople and advocates have repeatedly told us all that wind turbines were benevolent, quiet, pollution free machines which would produce inexpensive "green" electricity and reduce CO2 in the atmosphere. "They won't hurt you" we were told. Complaints about adverse health effects on people and animals, the destruction of the landscape, reduced property values and ill effects on tourism were usually dismissed as meaningless carping by cranks.

Now that the heap of evidence that this sales talk was to put it politely inaccurate has grown to be too large to be dismissed we are being told by Mr Bachrach that the turbines will hurt us but that they will still be good for us. "Trust me" he says

If we are to put up with a future which includes the degradation of our environment in the form of huge industrial machines which disfigure our mountains and seascapes, produce sleep disturbing noise, kill birds and bats reduce property values, and kill off the tourist industry then we will have to expect at the very least that the turbines will really reduce CO2, will provide a large percentage of or electricity at affordable prices and that the wind industry will be able to exist without the extraordinary government subsidies the it now enjoys.

There are number of well researched well documented articles which have appeared in recent years which conclude that none of these basic requirements will ever be met. One of these articles written a few years ago is The Problem With Wind power by Eric Rosenbloom and another more recent article The True Cost of Wind Energy (2012) is by Robert Bryce. Anyone can look up these articles and others and judge the evidence for themselves.

#1 Reduction of CO2 It is now well known and verifiable with just a little research that wind turbines do not reduce CO2. Among other problems wind is too variable and wind needs constant back up from fossil fuel plants, The turbines are also very inefficient working typically at only 20% of capacity. It should also be noted that highest percentage of CO2 pollution

comes from cars, trucks, ships, airplanes and heating. Only 39% of every generated in the US comes from electrical generation

#2 Amount of Electricity Produced by Wind Power The evidence that wind turbines now and in the future will produce even a fraction of the power demanded does not exist. Wind turbines underperform to an enormous extent. In February of 2003 the output of more than 6000 wind turbines was 0. On shore turbines in the UK produce 24% of capacity the average in Germany 1998- 2003 was 14.7%. In the US according to the Energy Information Agency capacity performance in 2002 was only 12.7%.

#3 Cost In Government Subsidies And what about the government subsidies for which we all pay? Wind advocates inevitably say that the subsidies for oil and gas are higher than those for wind. Another visit to the on line site of the Energy Information Administration will dispel this notion. In 2008 the EIA did a study comparing the subsidy per BTU of energy subsidies for oil and gas and those for wind. The tax preference for oil and gas is \$0.03 per million BTU of energy produced. The Production Tax Credit (PTC) gives the wind energy sector \$2.2 cents for each kilowatt of electricity. Raw per kilowatt subsidies for wind are 200 times greater than those given to the oil, gas sector.

The passage of the WESRA bill would be a huge disservice to the people of Massachusetts. Wind turbines are NOT the future.

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