



Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

130 Spadina Avenue, Suite 301 Toronto, ON M5V 2L4

December 2, 2011

Mr. Ken Lewenza, National President

Canadian Auto Workers

205 Placer Court

Toronto, ON M2H 3H9

RE: Wind turbine at Family Education Centre

Dear Mr. Lewenza,

On behalf of the 5,200 members of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, I want to offer my strongest support for your Port Elgin wind turbine.

As a doctors' organization, our paramount concern is human health. We believe it is imperative that Ontario shut its coal-fired generating stations because they are major contributors to smog, acid rain, and climate change. But in order to phase-out coal, we must ramp-up renewable energy sources such as solar, geothermal, and wind power.

Ontario is already making great strides in its coal replacement strategy – just yesterday it announced the closure of two more units at the massive Nanticoke facility – but in order to maintain momentum, we need to continue to roll-out renewables.

We have carefully researched wind power and are convinced it is a safe technology. We take our lead in this area from Dr. Arlene King, the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health. In her exhaustive report of May 2010, Dr. King writes that "the scientific evidence available to date does not demonstrate a direct causal link between wind turbine noise and adverse health effects."

On the other hand, there is a voluminous literature showing that humans are harmed by coal. In Ontario in 2010 this fossil fuel caused over 300 deaths and over 150,000 illnesses. That's not surprising given that coal plants emit brain poisons such as mercury and lead; endocrine disruptors such as dioxin; and carcinogens such as chromium and arsenic.

All of this leads our doctors' organization to be strong proponents of renewable energy, including wind power. We are delighted you have taken the initiative to erect a wind turbine on your own property and wish to assist you in this endeavor any way we can.

Yours truly,

Gideon Forman
Executive Director



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