

Below is the resolution passed unanimously by East Zorra-Tavistock Township council, Nov 2, 2011:

Moved by Maureen RALPH

Seconded by Don MACDONALD

WHEREAS the ruling by Ontario's Environmental Review Tribunal (July 18, 2011) regarding the Chatham-Kent Breeze Industrial wind development owned by Suncor Energy stated that evidence showed that with respect to human health, there are some risks and uncertainties associated with wind turbines that merit further research;

AND WHEREAS the precautionary principle (which the 2008 Ontario Ministry of the Environment Statement of Environmental Values requires to be part in its decision making to protect human health and the environment) states if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm, then in the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, the burden of proof that it is not harmful falls on those taking the action;

AND WHEREAS Ontario's regulations do not cite any scientific proof that 40 dbA hourly-average value used as a basis for setbacks in rural areas is sufficient to guarantee the health and well-being of the people in the proximity to these facilities and give no consideration to the Low Frequency component of the noise emissions;

AND WHEREAS deficiencies have been identified in the current methodology for monitoring and enforcing noise levels for IWT's;

AND WHEREAS East Zorra-Tavistock Township residents have voiced concerns about the proximity of the proposed IWT's to residences and livestock operations;

AND WHEREAS East Zorra-Tavistock Township residents have told councillors that they do not believe that Ontario's regulations under the Green Energy Act, 2009, are sufficient to protect their health and well-being or to prevent the devaluation of their properties;

AND WHEREAS any property devaluation will have an undesirable effect on the tax base and hence on East Zorra-Tavistock Township's sustainability;

AND WHEREAS there is now supportable evidence that Ontario does not have the most stringent IWT standards in North America as proclaimed by the Ontario Ministry of Environment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock request that the Province of Ontario declare a moratorium on IWT projects and that the Province commission independent and peer-reviewed scientific studies to be completed so that Health Canada can confirm that industrial wind energy projects do not pose a risk to the community and the health of its citizens through direct or indirect effects, and from the emissions and electrical emissions from IWT-related electrical facilities to ensure that the Municipality's human and animal populations are protected from the direct and indirect negative effects of being in proximity to such facilities.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario; Ontario Minister of Health; Ontario Minister of Environment; Ontario Minister of Energy; Ontario Minister of Natural Resources; Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food; Opposition Parties; Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Oxford County Council; MPP Ernie Hardemann; MP Dave McKenzie; Oxford County Federation of Agriculture; all the local media.