

Testimony of Martin Aikens on behalf of the I.B.E.W. Local 103 Union
Before the Energy and Technology Committee
On proposed *House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind
Projects Until the Adoption of Regulations*
Thursday, February 3, 2011

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Martin Aikens a member of the I.B.E.W. Local 103 union. On behalf of the I.B.E.W. Local 103, I am submitting this testimony in opposition to proposed House Bill 6249 An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the Siting of Wind Projects until the Adoption of Regulations.

With an eye toward the future, I.B.E.W. Local 103 has aggressively assumed a leadership role in the Renewable Energy field in Massachusetts. With government mandates in place that will ensure a continually larger share of the energy market is represented by alternative sources, Local 103 has recognized the inevitability of this market shift as well as the potential opportunities it presents.

In the Fall of 2002, Local 103 demonstrated its willingness and ability to adapt to new and emerging technological advances in energy by installing a Solar System on the roof of our Apprenticeship Training Facility. This photovoltaic system was installed by twenty-five volunteer apprentices and journeymen in one weekend, and with its high visibility presence just off the Expressway signals to all that Local 103 remains at the cutting edge of our industry. As a result of our commitment to solar energy, which includes Solar training in our current Apprenticeship Training Program and our Journeyman update classes, Local 103 is today installing solar energy in Commercial and Industrial buildings as well as residential homes throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

Now, in 2004 as technology advances continue to become reality, Local 103 similarly sits at the forefront of the emerging wind energy technology. For eight months, Local 103 has been working to design and permit a 100 k/W Wind Turbine to be located on our Freeport Street property. In early Feb 2005 we were awarded our necessary permits and construction of our own energy producing Wind Turbine. Today, the prominent visibility of this structure on our property serves to illustrate to all that Local 103 remains a leader in all emerging energy fields.

Again, the emergence of wind energy, like solar and other renewable sources, is not a "fad" destined to fade off and eventually bow to more traditional energy sources. The electricity deregulation laws passed in Massachusetts in the late 1990s mandate the development and deployment of these technologies and those who are unprepared to understand, train and work with these advancements will be left behind. As with Solar, our Apprenticeship training program does include training on Wind Energy and we plan on being just as aggressive in forging our role on the cutting edge of this new technology.

Similar to Massachusetts, Connecticut has been a leading state in promoting renewable energy. Those efforts are beginning to pay off in the solar and wind industries. Currently, there are two proposals for commercial wind in the state that are regulated by the

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Connecticut Siting Council. **These projects should be encouraged, and should set an example for more wind turbines throughout the state and throughout New England.** The legislature should not adopt additional regulations or a moratorium for wind that would send the wrong message and kill green jobs in the state of Connecticut.

Wind energy is working in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and other states throughout New England creating skilled jobs for our union members. Connecticut should not be the only state in New England without commercial wind. To the contrary, wind energy should be encouraged and promoted by the State. We need more green energy, and we need more green energy jobs. A moratorium on wind would deal a crushing blow to the wind industry in Connecticut and to people who train for these jobs in the state. Today there are thousands of people in this State training and learning to get into the Green Energy Job Market. There are already trained and waiting people for these types of Jobs, and the Maintenance Work that comes with these types of projects, Jobs , Jobs, Jobs that is what Connecticut should be looking at. Good Paying Green Jobs so people can Pay their Taxes and their Mortgages and have a Job again in the Field they are trained in. In a time when Jobs are going overseas and we have a chance for a Win, Win, with Green Energy and Green Jobs why in the world would we put a moratorium on Wind Energy? These are proven, reliable, and cost effective technologies, to have Green Electricity for the people in Connecticut. To clean up our Air for our Children and our Grandchildren and give them back what we are supposed to be the Caretaker of, A Clean Environment. We owe them that and we have the Technology to do that today so I ask you is a Moratorium what we need at this point? The Answer is NO; we need Clean Green Energy to create Green Jobs.

Additional regulations and a Moratorium on Wind Energy should be rejected.

May God Bless America and the People waiting for these Green Jobs.

Thank you for your time.

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