



Waterbury Regional Chamber  
*driving business to business*

February 3, 2011

Energy and Technology Committee  
Room 3900, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

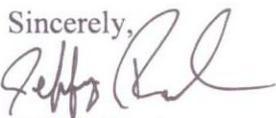
Dear Committee,

On behalf of the 14-town region encompassed by the Waterbury Regional Chamber (over 7,000 businesses employing more than 100,000 employees) I am asking that you oppose house bill 6249 – An act establishing a moratorium on the siting of wind projects until the adoption of regulations.

In these challenging economic times it is vital that we find ways to spur economic development, create jobs and grow our tax base. To do this we must address several issues, energy costs being one of them. Allowing this bill to pass would undermine the very processes that have worked in the past. Changing the rules at this point and imposing unnecessary regulations on wind energy would jeopardize the future development of renewable energy in our state. New legislation will negatively impact or halt all projects underway such as Wind Prospect.

Currently the State of Connecticut has an infrastructure set up to regulate proposals for renewable energy projects, including the siting of wind turbines. The current process was established to encourage investment in green, renewable energy projects while at the same time providing strict procedures for their approval. The siting process overseen by Department of Public Utility Control is complex and transparent. Each proposal requires months of environmental impact studies and testimony from energy experts and the public. Adding more regulations at this point would make many projects financially unfeasible and create yet another hurdle for our state's economic development efforts. If creating jobs truly is the number one goal for the 2011 legislative sessions I urge you to not pass on more regulations to the business community that will ultimately create unintended consequences.

The legislature created these processes with an eye toward balanced examination. Let the process and the current law work. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  


Jeffrey Rouleau  
Economic Development &  
Public Policy Manager