

Testimony of Curtis Jones, P.E., LEED AP 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

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Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick and members of the Energy and Technology Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here this afternoon. My name is Curtis Jones and I am a Licensed Professional Engineer in Connecticut as well as New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont. I am also certified by the U.S. Green Building Council as a LEED Accredited Professional. I am familiar with the professionalism and dedication that BNE Energy brings to the table after working with them as a Consulting Engineer over the last six months. BNE is truly a company that will bring jobs and economic development to Connecticut.

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. This bill is simply not needed and represents a move by a very small handful of people to restrict the implementation of wind turbines in Connecticut to the detriment of the vast majority if the population in this state.

As you know, it is the responsibility of the Connecticut Siting Council to evaluate wind turbine projects over one megawatt. The Connecticut Siting Council has reliably and consistently discharged its duties. There is absolutely no evidence or testimony that they have somehow been deficient in this regard. Additional oversight of the Siting Council is not needed and will only serve to further restrict economic recovery at a crucial time.

We all know the benefits that wind turbines will bring- clean renewable energy, a reduced dependence on foreign oil, reduced air pollution, jobs and economic development. This is the reason that the Connecticut Legislature mandated that we receive 20% of our power from renewable resources by the year 2020. In fact this is the highest percentage in New England. We commend the Legislature for their foresight in this regard. In addition, President Obama in his recent State of the Union address, emphasized the need to increase the rate of implementation of renewable power.

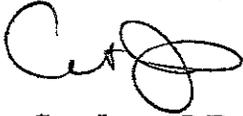
In Connecticut we don't have a lot of choices- there are no significant additional sources of hydroelectric power and the sunlight is much less than our sister states in the sun belt. Yes, we do have fuel cells here in Connecticut and they can make a contribution in specialized applications along with the ability of wind turbines to help satisfy base energy loads.

It is time to move forward and implement the installation of wind turbines in Connecticut. Let private industry use the incentives and public policy already set forth by the State and Federal Legislatures. It is a mistake for the legislature to foster regulations to encourage

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business to move in a certain direction and then almost immediately to throw up road blocks when the businesses move in that direction. We need to be able to move forward together as a State, to get our economy back on track, to promote job growth, and to reduce the State deficit without special interest groups blocking every move that would ultimately benefit the greater good.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Jones", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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