

Testimony of William and Patricia Rinckel 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, our names are Bill and Patty Rinckel and we live on 55 Cambridge Drive in Prospect. We are 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.

We are avid supporters of clean energy and we are proud that the first wind project in the state is in our town. The State of Connecticut has mandated that 20% of our electricity come from Class I renewable sources including wind by 2020. Electric ratepayers throughout the state are spending a significant amount of money each year on out-of-state renewable sources in order to comply with state mandates. Now we have a wind project being proposed in the state, and the legislature is considering a moratorium on wind. This is absurd and a fundamentally flawed policy. As voters, we are very concerned about the resistance and even opposition to wind energy by our legislative leaders.

We need clean renewable energy and we need to move toward a green society. The wind proposal in Prospect is located on a great site down in the woods where there are very few homes. Some people are claiming that it is a bad location for wind, but we disagree. The proposed site is located on over sixty acres of land that is next to hundreds and hundreds of acres of water company land. It is also along Route 69 in an area of commercial and industrial buildings, cell towers and only a few homes. Wind turbines are being built throughout New England much closer to schools, churches, businesses and homes. More importantly, Wind Prospect will produce a significant amount of clean, renewable electricity from the wind with zero emissions. This is a very good thing for the environment. In addition, the project will create green jobs in the community and become a major source of tax revenue for Prospect. This is especially important in this economy. The state should not even be considering a moratorium on clean energy, green jobs and much needed tax revenue that will help fund vitally important services for education and other town functions. Now is not the time for the legislature to reverse policies and oppose green energy.

We implore you to reject a moratorium on wind energy. H.B. 6249 is bad policy and should not be adopted in any form.

Sincerely,

H. William Rinckel and Patricia A. Rinckel  
55 Cambridge Drive  
Prospect, CT 06712