

Testimony of James Zupkus 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 James A. Zupkus and 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.

I would like to express to you my disappointment at the opposition to the proposed wind project to Prospect. I would like to relate to you a similar experience I had while installing a Doppler Weather RADAR for the Unisys Corporation. I served as Engineer in Charge in over thirteen of these RADARs and installed over twenty two RADARs across the country. This new technology brought the average tornado warning time from four minutes after the tornado touched down to twenty minutes *before* the tornado touched down. The RADAR was greeted in most states by Boy Scout troops and school day trips. However, when one was proposed on a mountain across from actor Larry Hagman's mansion in the Los Angeles area, a similar opposition as that started in Prospect was sprouted by local residents.

The oppositions data in California was extracted from suspect sources, taken out of context and exaggerated in a way that would make Michael Moore proud. I see the same here in Prospect and am disappointed. I see children, seniors, veterans and even a foster child scared into the belief that all they hold sacred will be lost. I saw an opponent say on TV that he had found a report that said you can hear the turbines up to a mile away. I know you can find anything you want on the internet and as a lark I Googled, "wind turbine UFO". Sure enough there on the front page of a newspaper was an article stating a wind turbine had been struck by a UFO. The opposition in California caused an unnecessary delay just this moratorium would cause. I strongly believe that in Prospect, as in California, the real issue is the fear of decreased property values. Numerous reports show this is not the case anywhere in the country.

I urge the committee not to further delay the wind project in Prospect or anywhere else in Connecticut by this moratorium. These projects create jobs, put money into our local economy and contribute to the tax bases in the towns where they installed. In these difficult economic times and an unstable Middle East I think we need to go forward with green energy projects such as these wind projects. We currently fight wars over oil. I read a few days ago, we give 1.5 billion dollars to Egypt to keep the Suez Canal open. I believe it would be irresponsible to both the local communities, the State of Connecticut and the country not to exhibit leadership and let the Siting Council do it's job.

Thank You,
James Zupkus