

Testimony of Paul Vallillo 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 Paul R. Vallillo 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 have lived in Prospect since 1994. I have watched Prospect grow as more and more folks moved into town. Along with this growth have come growing pains. Some schools have become obsolete and overcrowded. We now have 4 traffic lights – there were only two when I moved in, the result of increased traffic.

When I learned about the wind project back in 2006 I was very excited. Here was an opportunity for Prospect to accomplish several beneficial goals: a. increase tax revenue to the town; b. develop a large site in a way that minimally impacts the environment; and c. start us on the road to renewable energy with Prospect leading the way.

From the time that BNE Energy, Inc. (“BNE”) received approval from Planning and Zoning for approval of the meteorological tower in October, 2008 up until BNE’s informational session at the Firehouse in October, 2010, there was nothing but positive feedback from town officials and fellow residents.

BNE has followed the rules prescribed by the legislature, submitting its petition to the Siting Council. This is the process that has been developed after due consideration of many legislators for several years and many sessions. This Committee, more than any, has been responsible for encouraging the development of green energy in Connecticut, knowing all along the potential impacts that development proposals may raise.

I implore this Committee to reject proposed HB6249. This bill is a knee-jerk reaction to a few people who seek to derail wind development based upon NIMBY-ism. The stated urgent energy needs of the entire state should not be held hostage by a few folks. I urge you to do the right thing. Changing the rules in mid-stream is not good for Connecticut energy policy and it will have a chilling effect upon current and future renewable energy investment in Connecticut.