

FairWindCT
P.O. Box 225
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Government Administration and Elections Committee
FairWindCT Testimony March 3, 2014
Opposing certain provisions in Sections 33 & 34 of HB-5049

FairWindCT is a non-profit organization that has been working since 2010 towards state regulations for industrial wind turbines that are science-based and protective of our communities' health and enjoyment of homes and property. Such protections must include consideration of noise, among other factors.

FairWindCT is opposed to certain provisions contained in Sections 33 & 34 of House Bill 5049, AA Eliminating Unnecessary Government Regulation. FairWindCT urges the GAE Committee to delete mention of 22a-69-1 to 69-7-4 in section 33, line 1571; and delete mention of 22a-69 - 75 in section 34, lines 1605-1606. The effect of repealing the regulatory and statutory sections referenced would remove all regulatory and statutory authority of DEEP to administer and enforce noise controls on a statewide scale, and in turn, relegate the responsibilities to each individual municipality.

On March 15, 2013, I testified before the Environment Committee on Senate Bill 1019, which would have eliminated the State's noise regulations and shifted the responsibility for regulating noise to local governments. That section of the bill did not pass. If it had, it would have left 100 or so towns without noise regulations of any kind. Most of the remaining towns have noise ordinances that are 10 to 30 years old.

On December 16, 2013, I submitted comments to Governor Malloy's office under Executive Order #37, requesting changes to the state's noise regulations to cover industrial wind turbines. Connecticut's noise regulations date to 1978 and do not protect residents from these stationary noise sources that can stand nearly 500 feet tall.

Eliminating state noise regulations would give instant responsibility to each town without accompanying technical assistance or funding. If this truly is the direction the state wants to move in, why not give reasonable notice to the 169 towns and cities so they can write and pass updated noise regulations (and perhaps even the necessary funding for ongoing administration, enforcement and technical assistance)? However, when it comes to the issue of noise considerations for industrial wind turbines, please keep in mind that the Connecticut Siting Council, currently charged with developing regulations in this regard, can ignore local regulations when making its decisions.

Once again, FairWindCT urges the Committee to delete mention of 22a-69-1 to 69-7-4 in section 33, line 1571 and delete mention of 22a-69 - 75 in section 34, lines 1605-1606.

Sincerely,

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