



August 7, 2018

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

It is imperative that you are aware of the continued and growing opposition to the Lighthouse Wind Project. This industrial wind project is being proposed for siting in New York State by an out of state (Virginia) corporation, Apex Clean Energy. Multiple local surveys have shown overwhelming resident opposition to the Lighthouse Wind project. This letter outlines the arrogant denial of local voices and concerns by Apex Clean Energy with respect to their proposed industrial wind turbine project in the towns of Somerset and Yates in Niagara and Orleans counties.

The two host town boards have adopted local laws restricting industrial wind energy projects within three miles of Lake Ontario, and within about 0.6 miles from residences and other sensitive noise receptors. Three county legislatures, Erie, Niagara and Orleans, have all voted unanimously in opposition to this project. We notified you in February 2018 of the formation of the POWER Coalition (Protecting {Lake} Ontario's Waterfront, Environment, and Resources). This coalition represents 12 organizations, including environmental groups, with national, state-wide, and regional membership, which have joined together in opposition to this industrial wind project.

Somerset Town Supervisor Dan Engert and Yates Town Supervisor Jim Simon have repeatedly requested a meeting with Apex President and CEO Mark Goodwin. However, in violation of the policy promoting public participation under PSL Article 10, those requests have been ignored.

It is abundantly clear that Mr. Goodwin and his advisors have chosen to willfully ignore the local community. Apex is forcing two communities in New York to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to try and prevent the installation of these skyscraper-tall structures in our towns that are home to 5,500 residents and 1,000 seasonal residents, a lakeside tourist destination, a migratory bird flyway and a short distance from Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station! Ironically, these projects are not wanted in Virginia and new wind projects are now outlawed in Maine, where our new local Apex representative is from, so they choose to dump this project on our community.

Accountable corporations and their leadership don't drag communities through this kind of expensive, time-consuming process. Local governments have spent \$250,000 to oppose Apex and will likely spend that much in the future to prevent this travesty from happening. As a grass roots organization, Save Ontario Shores has locally raised and spent over \$200,000 in the last three and a half years. If this project goes to application, a similar amount of money will need to be raised by our group at great personal cost to taxpayer voters of this state.

Earlier this year, in the wake of local opposition, Avangrid acted responsibly and ended its North Ridge Wind project in Hopkinton. Apex needs to follow Avangrid's lead and do the right thing as well.

Those who question the overwhelming opposition to Lighthouse Wind are in deep denial. There may be 10,000 or more acres under lease, but acres do not vote, people vote, and they have spoken loudly and clearly that Lighthouse Wind is the wrong project in the wrong place. Apex representatives have continued to mislead the community as to future employment, property values, and health and environmental impacts.

Perhaps most alarming is the change in the siting of the project. Apex representatives themselves acknowledge that in the approximately four years they have been attempting to push this project through, the technology has changed extensively, rendering the original plan obsolete. Apex now proposes wind turbines with a 242-foot rotor blade span, almost 100 feet longer than the size of the wind turbines considered by the PSC in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for large-scale renewables under New York's Clean Energy Plan.

We ask that you please reconsider your support of this ill-advised and locally-opposed project and ask Apex not to pursue an Article 10 application. To move forward a project faced with this level of town board opposition would be unprecedented and a momentous mistake that will haunt the State of New York for generations to come. Your immediate attention to this matter cannot be stressed enough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela Atwater".

Pamela Atwater, President  
Save Ontario Shores, Inc.