

July 21, 2009

Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
Province of Ontario
900 Bay Street, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2E1

Attention: The Hon. George Smitherman

Dear Minister Smitherman:

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce welcomes the efforts by the Ministry of the Environment regarding the implementation of the Green Energy Act. A consistent set of regulations will be of great benefit for Ontario and the developers of alternative energy.

At this time, on behalf of the Board of Directors representing our membership and our interest in prosperity of our economy, I would like to bring forward the following concerns regarding the specific requirements that were recently proposed as part of the Green Energy and Green Economy Act regulatory framework.

- The proposed regulation specifies a minimum setback of 550m. As the international standard calls for 350m, the province has proposed Wind Turbine setback standards that do not comply with international standards.
- As the international standard is 50m, we are concerned that the Ministry is proposing a rear or side lot line or a road setback of 125m (tower height plus the blade length).
- The Chamber would like to receive clarification that the noise guidelines used to develop the regulations are in accordance with the existing Ministry of the Environment noise level requirements.

The above aspects of the proposed regulations will have significant impact by limiting growth of wind turbine projects within the Chatham-Kent area. Municipal leaders of Chatham-Kent have invested considerable time and efforts to develop a 430 metre setback from receptor and a 25 metre setback from side to rear lot lines. The present Chatham-Kent guidelines would be a fair compromise to the proposed 550 metre and 125 metre setback as proposed by the Ontario government. We would suggest the current Chatham-Kent setbacks could serve as a guideline for the province. Additionally, attraction for this industry may be at risk and current economic opportunities already in process in Chatham-Kent may well be jeopardized under these new restrictions if not, at a minimum, grandfathered into implementation.

The Chatham-Kent Chamber requests information that will address these concerns and provide justification based on science for the proposed setbacks and standards.

Sincerely,



Daryl Dawson
Chair

C: Premier of Ontario, Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Minister John Gerretsen, Ministry of Environment
Marcia Wallace, Manager Ministry of the Environment
Pat Hoy, MPP Chatham-Kent Essex
Maria Van Bommel, MPP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
Mayor Randy Hope