

SEEK TRUTH -- DEMAND PROOF

*Please attend an informational meeting on April 23rd at 6:30 PM
L'Anse High School cafeteria*

The Vote in L'Anse Township on **May 7th, 2019** will determine the approval of changes to the Zoning Ordinance to allow wind energy within the forest district. This letter is to present to you, the L'Anse Township Voters, the facts.

A change was made to the L'Anse Township Zoning Ordinance to correct a glitch in order to avoid a potential exclusionary lawsuit by RES/Weyerhaeuser that would be difficult to defend. The previous ordinance provisions would permit, by special land use, LWECD (Large Wind Energy Conversion) systems in a conservation area but not in the forest district that allows for "resource development". The Township had legal counsel guiding the "correction". The zoning regulations will still consider LWECD as a "special use" which requires submittal of an application with considerable data and supporting information for the Township to consider before any LWECD will be allowed. The change was made to be fair, as the Township would want to do for any landowner.

"Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition (UPEC), representing hundreds of U.P. and other Michigan citizens, wish to convey their position on the proposed Summit Lake Wind Energy Project. UPEC believes that global warming is one of the gravest threats to our planet and humanity, and that the United States must work toward significant reductions in the emission of carbon dioxide, which is a major contributor to global warming of the atmosphere. Wind energy will play a role in providing renewable electricity and a reduction in carbon emissions". www.upenvironment.org Source: Position Paper Dated July 21, 2018

The Summit Lake Wind Project will have large-scale, significant, long lasting positive impacts to the natural environment and to the local economy and well-being of the citizens of the Upper Peninsula.

Following are some of the more significant facts regarding potential impacts that are likely to result from the construction and operation of the proposed project.

1. **FACT** - Climate change has already caused changes in several ways that are harmful to us, to the ecosystem, and to the nature that we enjoy. The Audubon Society strongly supports properly sited wind power as a renewable energy source. Climate change is now affecting bird species behavior, ranges, and population dynamics. (www.wnmufm.org/post/disastrous-effects-climate-change-are-happening-now-report-says) (<http://naturecanada.ca/what-we-do/bird-conservation/climate-change-birds/>)
2. **FACT** - Tourism growth has increased in counties where wind turbines are present. Some counties are providing tours of their wind farms. Tuscola, Osceola, Mason, Huron and Gratiot counties have all seen an increase in their tourism and economic prosperity. Baraga County tourism is experiencing a decrease of 1.5% according to Tourism Economics/MSU Extension, 2016.
3. **FACT** - Property Values are surging in counties with wind farms. (MSU/Extension via Creative Commons) **Fact- From 2015 thru 2018** L'Anse Townships tax base has decreased by **7.4%**. The impact to the whole township will be significant in property value increases due to the wind turbines.
4. **FACT** - Property Tax Revenues will increase for all entities involved. Senior Citizens, Ambulance, Fire, Road Commission, Schools, Townships and County will all benefit greatly, increasing services for years to come. It is important that you vote **"YES"** in this serious life changing opportunity for L'Anse Township.

5. **FACT** – It is anticipated that **8 to 10** full time jobs with earnings of **\$45,000 to \$65,000** annually will be created. During the construction period, approximately **300** temporary jobs will be generated. All of these are qualified local jobs. Local businesses will provide food, gas, motels, groceries, supplies and services to all the workers and their families. We need this growth and prosperity for L’Anse Township.
6. **FACT**- Other issues being discussed – **LIGHTS** – with regulated radar lighting systems, airplanes will interact with the system to turn the lights on and off when within 500’ of the turbines. Lights **will not** be on at all times! **FLICKER AFFECT** – this is the sun flashing through the wind turbine blades at only a specific time of year like the sun passing through the trees as you drive. There are no homes within miles of the turbines to even see this affect. **NOISE** – Turbine design and technology has advanced exponentially. They are quieter and safer than ever before. There are no homes within seven miles of this project. A turbine is no louder than your own refrigerator in your home.
7. **FACT** – The Summit Lake Wind Project will operate on **less than ½ of 1%** of our forest in L’Anse Township. The project will also improve road access to the area and other enhanced outdoor recreating features. The proposed turbines will be placed in areas that maximize wind power and minimize visual impact and **no** turbines will be built on **Mount Arvon**. The small footprint allows us to preserve recreational opportunities the public enjoys, such as hunting, hiking, fishing, and snowmobiling.
8. **FACT** – The energy produced by wind turbines will be placed on the grid and be purchased by our energy providers, which in turn will be at a cost cheaper than other energy sources. Wind energy is the cheapest to produce. This will stabilize the cost to providers keeping our consumer energy costs stable and not rise in the future. You will see these affects at home for many years to come.
9. **FACT** – There will be a decommissioning bond placed on the project for removal of all infrastructure restoring the land to better or original condition. The Township will not be responsible for this cost. Maintenance of the wind turbines will be the cost of the company building the project. (RES)
10. **FACT** – There has been concerns about wind turbines starting forest fires. In the remote event (**less than 1%**) of a turbine fire, the turbine automatically shuts down and sends a signal that there is a problem. The MDNR along with the local fire department will respond and be specially trained with equipment purchased by the developer. These fires are contained to the turbine itself.
11. **FACT** - We need a critical mass of volunteers and people to support our infra structure in L’Anse Township. Ambulance, Fire departments, Schools, Recreation, and businesses all require and need workers and volunteers to provide services and take care of our Health, Safety and Welfare. If we do not provide jobs and economic development for our youth and residents how can they stay here? It is imperative that we grow and gain infra structure to this county.

REASONS WHY AMERICANS SUPPORT WIND FARMS

1. **Wind** is free and wind energy already saves consumers billions.
2. **Wind** power supports well paid manufacturing jobs helping revitalize communities.
3. **Wind** supports thousands of other well paying jobs, including blue-collar construction and maintenance jobs, helping to grow our economy.
4. **Wind** power keeps our air clean.
5. **Wind** power helps meet our climate challenge, benefiting the environment, wildlife and humans.
6. **Wind** will have zero negative effect on the water we drink, the air we breath and will allow wilderness to remain wilderness benefiting wildlife.
7. **Wind** energy fosters economic development in communities in unexpected ways.
8. **Wind** is Beautiful!!!

For more information check out www.wind101.info by Peter Sinclair

VOTE “**YES**” ON MAY 7Th

Brought To You By: SAVE- Services And Vibrant Economy