

Opinions

Londonderry Has Done Its Homework

Rather than trying to dismiss the outspoken opposition by Londonderry as some sort of aberration or NIMBY like behavior, Vermonters throughout the state need to do the same careful research and homework that Londonderry has done.

Editor's Note: *This letter has been submitted to the Brattleboro Reformer.*

April 4, 2006 by David Hoopes in NWW

In a recent letter to your Editors, a Mr. Richard Peskin urged the Public Service Board to ignore the overwhelming 2:1 rejection by Londonderry registered voters of the proposed industrial wind plant on Glebe. He went on to suggest that Londonderry has become some sort of boutique second homeowner refuge seemingly unqualified to speak for itself. The evidence and the facts demonstrate a very different explanation and conclusion.

First, 1808 people have signed a petition opposing the industrial wind plant 60% of whom reside and/or own property in Londonderry while most of the remaining 40% are residents and/or property owners in Windham, Andover, Weston, Landgrove, Peru, Winhall and Jamaica; second, outspoken and informed majority opposition to the wind plant occurred at well attended meeting after meeting during last summer; third, the Londonderry Planning Commission, after three years of study that addressed the costs and benefits of industrial wind energy, voted 7-0 in favor of a new town plan that expressly forbids commercial wind turbines on Glebe; and four the Londonderry Select Board unanimously approved this plan.

This does not reflect the actions of an uninformed citizenry - either among the overwhelming majority of residents at-large or of the town's leadership. Quite the reverse. It in fact shows how thoroughly and how well Londonderry has done its homework. Londonderry recognizes industrial wind energy for what it really is; an unreliable and very very modest energy source masquerading as a solution for global warming with significant costs to the town's environment, economy and quality of life. Rather than trying to dismiss the outspoken opposition by Londonderry as some sort of aberration or NIMBY like behavior, Vermonters throughout the state need to do the same careful research and homework that Londonderry has done.