

Submitted by email.
Includes 2 Attachments
June 18, 2015

Dear Planning and County Commissioners,

I would like to relay the experience of Mr. Cary Shineldecker of Mason County, Michigan. His experience is just one example of the many residents living in the shadow of Industrial Wind Machines. He is a professional in Industrial and Engineering Design and now a member of the Mason County Planning Commission. Mr. Shineldecker and his family are one of 19 families that filed suit against the Lake Winds Project in Mason County. The attached photo gives you an example of what it is like to live 1139 feet from a 476 foot tall wind turbine.

When the Lake Winds turbines were permitted, their zoning was as follows:
45 dBA at property lines of non-participants
55 dBA at participating homes
Setbacks – 2X turbine height from the property line
Flicker – 10 Hour Cumulative Maximum per year on non-participating homes

When the turbines were turned on, Mr. Shineldecker's family and other families began to experience ear pressure, headaches, sleep disturbance and increases in heart rate. They were prescribed sleep medication which did not help. He moved their bedroom from the upper level of their house to an air mattress in the basement. This is where they slept for two years. His doctor placed him on an in-home heart monitor. The monitor showed he would awake in the middle of the night with a heart rate of 140. *My husband suffers from a serious heart condition. If he were subjected to consistent sleep disturbances and extremely elevated heart rates like Mr. Shineldecker experienced, IT WOULD KILL HIM.* Many of those families abandoned their homes.

The developer was found to be repeatedly in violation of the county's sound limits. Flicker has been documented at homes over 9000 feet away from turbines. After complaints to the county yielded no resolution, Mr. Shineldecker and 18 other families in the footprint of this 56 turbine wind farm filed suit against the county and the developer. Seventeen of the 19 suits were settled in late 2014. Terms of the settlements are not public. After three years on the market, Mr. Shineldecker's home finally sold for 78% of its worth.

Mason County has now placed a halt on wind development and in June of 2015 unanimously passed an amended wind ordinance (see Mason County MI attachment). The Brown County, WI Health Department declared wind turbines a "human health hazard" in October, 2014. Please consider the experience of Mason County, MI, Brown County, WI, Cape Bridgewater, AU among others when creating the zoning for Lancaster County. While the proposed sound limits in the draft text are very good, the setbacks are still insufficient to protect us. Developers often manipulate sound modeling to make it look like they will be in compliance with the sound limits. Once the turbines are built and in operation, there is little that can be done (other than costly lawsuits) to mitigate the suffering of the residents in close proximity.

Assuming that low sound limits will effectively increase the setbacks is faulty thinking. Setbacks should be determined separately from sound limits. Please refer to Mason County's 4X the turbine height setback from property lines, and allow zero flicker on non-participating homes. It is irresponsible to consider any setback be from the dwelling of a non-participant. All setbacks should be from their property lines. The 1000 foot setback was arbitrarily created by wind developers many years ago, when turbines were much smaller. Yet they continue to push for this unsafe setback today when turbines are now 500 to 600 feet tall. Refer to the picture attached or consider our 400 foot tall State Capitol as an example. Stand on "O" Street and look south to the Capitol. The distance is approximately 1000 feet. Imagine having noisy turbines, much taller than this historic beacon, 1000 feet from your front door. By allowing such small setbacks, you are limiting the use, enjoyment and property value of non-participant's homes.

I ask you to please consider all residents, and not just the leaseholders who stand to gain monetarily, when considering the placement of Industrial Wind Turbines near our peaceful, country homes.

Cindy Chapman, CAP
Executive Assistant

- Mason County placed a halt on wind development in an effort to learn the shortcomings of its original wind ordinance
- Mason County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed an amended Wind Turbine Zoning Ordinance recommendation from the Mason County Planning Commission on June 9, 2015.
- The ordinance amendment was in direct response to residents complaints , sound testing, legal issues, and other contributing factors.

- Increasing to 4X turbine height Setback Distances from non-participating property lines . (There are 590' turbines proposed in Michigan)
- Increasing Setbacks from participating homes to 3X turbine height
- Requiring sound emissions to be modeled to 40 dB, LA(eq)10 at the property line.
- Allowing Zero Flicker on Non-participating residential dwellings
- Requiring Flicker to be modeled to 20X turbine rotor diameters
- Requiring Flicker Detection and Mitigation on All Turbines
- Requiring Developers to Comply with USFWS recommendations
- Requiring a 2X Turbine Height Setback to High Pressure Gas Lines

Final Thought...

No matter how worthy you believe a cause, other people's lives should not be disregarded or their health, safety and welfare diminished in an effort to achieve your goal.

Zoning is established on the premise that health, safety and welfare of others matters and that neighboring land uses must be compatible.

