

Dear (Candidate Name)

I am writing to inform you that I firmly believe that Lake Michigan, part of the nation's largest freshwater resource, must be protected from irresponsible wind factory development and therefore I stand in steadfast opposition to such projects.

As a registered Michigan voter, I ask that you announce your opposition to this project on your website or in another public format. If you do so, I will support your effort to gain office.

Let me share with you the reasons I am opposed to the Aegir projects. First, local input on project siting is essential. The municipalities know what best serves long range civic planning, and the MDNRE should not be the sole agency of decision. Locally elected officials—who know what is best for their communities—must have the ability to decline projects off those communities' shores.

Second, there must be ironclad decommissioning rules so that any structure placed in the Lake Michigan is entirely removed when its generating days have passed. Anyone who wonders why need only drive over the Altamont Pass in California, where successive generations of wind turbines dating back 30 years stand abandoned and rusting.

Third, realistic and verifiable utility costs to both consumers and businesses must be at the center of discussion. Costs for offshore wind energy production are extremely high, especially compared to onshore. Projects that will not soon produce affordable power not only don't make sense; they also encourage the modern day equivalent of a wild-west land grab by speculators hoping to stake a claim to valuable real estate and collect federal tax incentives.

Fourth, any discussion of jobs -- a key driver in the push for offshore wind -- should accurately reflect the net job situation. Tourism is the State's second largest industry. Proposing an industrial power project in an area that the Federal government has spent billions to restore and the State has spent millions to promote as a tourist destination will cost jobs, not create them.

Scandia Wind's proposal provides a case study in how not to go about a project like this. The Norwegian developers had never set foot in the region before last fall and plan to "flip" the project once they acquire a lease; thus, their claims of wanting to help the West Michigan economy are suspect. The developers said they wanted local input, but despite overwhelming local opposition and multiple formal rejections on both the municipal and county level, they continue to press forward. The specter of the project has had a chilling effect on businesses that depend on tourism, as well as halting construction and home sales along the lakeshore.

Therefore, I ask that you publicly state your opposition to any such development. Michigan simply cannot afford to have its greatest asset endangered mainly for the profit of developers who don't even live here—and who have little regard for the well-being of those that do.

Sincerely,