

MARCH 2010

WHO WE ARE:

Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition committed to stopping the Scandia Wind Aegir Project in its present form. We represent a cross section of year-round and summer residents, local business owners, and long-time visitors. P.O.W.E.R. stands for Protect Our Water, Economy and Resources.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

We fully support efforts to develop renewable energy, but not at the cost of our lakeshore, our community, our environment, and our quality of life.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| From the President's Desk | 1 |
| Legislative Update | 1 |
| Recent News | 2 |
| In The News | 2 |
| Upcoming Events | 2 |
| Stay Involved | 2 |

News From the Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition

From the President's Desk

It's hard to believe how much we've accomplished since our coalition formed less than three months ago. With the help of supporters like you, we have made a significant impact at Scandia's public meetings in Shelby and Ludington, GLOW's January meeting in Lansing, local board meetings and much more. Our issue has gained momentum and is currently being debated in the state legislature, as well as several county boards.

None of this would have been possible without donations from supporters like you. We appreciate every donation that has been made. Every dollar makes a difference in our fight against Scandia's proposal and helps our coalition have an impact on the future of offshore wind development in our state. In order to continue this fight, we ask for your continued support in any manner you can afford it. Without continued donations, we will not be able to keep the momentum of this campaign going. Your donations assist in paying for our Web site and advocacy efforts which are helping to increase awareness of our organization, garner media attention, coordinate meetings with legislators and gain additional support in our shoreline communities.

Donations can be made on our Web site at protectwithpower.org or sent to PO Box 772, Pentwater, MI 49449.

Thank you for your support,

Jeff Hoenle
President
Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition

Legislative Update

The Great Lakes Wind Council (GLOW) released their draft legislative recommendations on Tuesday March 2. The recommendations fail to address several concerns that shoreline communities have expressed including distance from shore, site nomination criteria, company experience and studies on the effectiveness of offshore wind development.

Previous recommendations from GLOW included a provision that wind turbines be a certain distance from shore, but that provision has been removed from the current draft. The current version also fails to require interested companies to demonstrate experience with projects of similar size, scale and type.

The coalition released the following statement regarding the recommendations:

"We are disappointed with this first draft of GLOW's recommendations," said Jeff Hoenle, President of the Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition. "The recommendations fail to address the economic concerns of shoreline communities, and they entirely leave out any setback requirement -- even from state or national parks. Moreover, the recommendations give MDRNE too much authority to make the most important decisions, with no oversight by any other body and no meaningful way for Michigan residents to hold it accountable. This draft does not honor the trust that the people of Michigan have placed in their state to safeguard these waters."

Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition plans to work with lawmakers in coming months as legislation is introduced and establishing a regulatory process begins. The coalition does support bills introduced by state Rep. Geoff Hansen (R-Hart) and Sen. Mark Jansen (R-Grand Rapids) putting a moratorium on wind energy development in the Great Lakes until a state regulatory process has been established. Should either bill receive a hearing in committee, the coalition plans to testify in support of the bill.

Since forming our coalition in January, significant progress has been made in fighting the Scandia proposal and pushing for a regulatory process to be developed before offshore wind development is put into action. Our coalition has quickly grown and has already made an impact on plans for offshore wind development in Michigan.

Legislation has been introduced in both chambers (by Rep. Hansen and Sen. Jansen) that would put a moratorium on offshore wind development until a regulatory process is put into place. Supporters attended Rep. Scripps coffee hours in Ludington this month to express their opposition to the Scandia proposal.

The Pentwater Village Council unanimously voted against the Scandia Wind proposal in February and the Oceana Board of Commissioners discussed the revised proposal at their meeting on March 11. Although the Scandia project directly impacts Oceana and Mason counties, offshore wind development is a state issue, not just a local one. The Michigan Public Service Commission also announced more than \$1 million in grants to study the feasibility of putting wind turbines in the Great Lakes. This research is important and needs to be done before any projects move forward.

Scandia is meeting with officials in Muskegon County now as well and we are asking concerned residents there to join our cause.

Continuing to contact state representatives and local officials is key to making sure Scandia's proposal doesn't come to fruition in its current form and that the state has a chance to put a process in place before any development begins. Our efforts will make a difference to the future of offshore wind development.

In The News

In the short time since forming, the Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition has been featured in significant news coverage throughout the state including stories in the Ludington Daily News, Muskegon Chronicle, Grand Rapids Press, and the Oceana Herald-Journal.

The coalition was also featured on WZZM-TV in Grand Rapids, WWTV-9&10 News, WXYZ-TV in Detroit, WTCM-AM, WOOD-AM, WKLA-AM and the Michigan Talk Network. Here are a few significant media stories featuring the coalition:

Michigan Talk Network- Feb, 9, 2010- [Interview with Peter O'Neil](#)

WZZM-TV- Feb. 18, 2010: [Lakeshore residents continue battle against wind farm proposal](#)

WXYZ-TV- Feb. 18, 2010: [Lake Michigan Wind Turbine War](#)

Upcoming Events

The Great Lakes Wind Council is hosting meetings throughout the state to get input from the public on its recommendations for offshore wind energy development. Lake Michigan P.O.W.E.R. Coalition is encouraging supporters to attend these meetings and give your input on the regulatory process for offshore wind development.

Wednesday, April 14
Danforth Place
4989 Danforth Road, Escanaba, MI

Tuesday, May 4
Muskegon Community College
Collegiate Hall- 221 S. Quarterline Road
Muskegon, MI

Open House begins at 6:00 p.m. Presentations begin at 7:00 p.m. and last until 9:00 p.m.

Stay Involved

For more information on the coalition, our position, and current messaging:

Our website: Protectwithpower.org

Our Twitter: [Twitter.com/LakeMIPOWER](https://twitter.com/LakeMIPOWER)

Phone: 231-709-9231 (someone will return your call within 24 hours)

Contact State Legislators and express your opposition:

Rep. Dan Scripps (D-Northport)- danscripps@house.mi.gov

Rep. Goeff Hansen (R-Hart)- goeffhansen@house.mi.gov

Sen. Gerry VanWoerkom (R-Muskegon)-

sengvanwoerkom@senate.michigan.gov

Sen. Mark Jansen (R- Grand Rapids)-

senMJansen@senate.michigan.gov

Sen. Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland)-

senwkuipers@senate.michigan.gov

Rep. Mary Valentine- (D-Muskegon)-

maryvalentine@house.mi.gov

Rep. Arlan Meekhof (R- West Olive)-

arlanbmeekhof@house.mi.gov

Rep. Doug Bennett (D-Muskegon)-

dougbennett@house.mi.gov

Rep. Robert Dean (D- Grand Rapids)-

robertdean@house.mi.gov

Contact local officials:

[Ludington City Council](#)

[Mason Board of Commissioners](#)

[Oceana Board of Commissioners](#)

[Pentwater Township Officials](#)

[Ottawa County Board of Commissioners](#)

[Muskegon County Board of Commissioners](#)

Write letters to the editor to your local paper:

Ludington Daily News: sbegnoche@ludingtondailynews.com

Oceana Herald-Journal: editor@oceanaheraldjournal.com

Muskegon Chronicle: pholmes@muskegonchronicle.com

Grand Rapids Press: egolder@grpress.com

Manistee News Advocate: kgrabowski@pioneergroup.com

Traverse City Record Eagle: dmiller@record-eagle.com

Grand Haven Tribune: lpainter@grandhaventribune.com

Holland Sentinel: <http://extra.hollandsentinel.com/submitletter.shtml>