

Residents of Union Township

You still have a chance for safe setbacks for wind turbines.

Support the referendum petition to put the Union Township Wind Turbine Zoning Amendment on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

What's wrong with the zoning amendment approved by the Union Township Trustees on January 17?

It contains no enforceable noise standards.

Union Township's zoning amendment states that noise levels from wind turbines "shall be in compliance with applicable State of Ohio regulations." This is meaningless, because there are no State of Ohio regulations that govern noise from wind turbines.

Worldwide, noise is one of the complaints most often voiced [or "one of the most serious complaints"] about turbines placed too close to homes.

Without meaningful noise restrictions, wind turbines can be placed too close to neighboring properties, subjecting neighbors to unreasonable noise levels [that can cause severe annoyance, property devaluation, and even health impacts.]

It includes inappropriate and unsafe setbacks from homes and neighboring properties

Union Township's zoning amendment includes setback requirements of only 1,000 feet from neighboring homes and 1.2 times the turbine height (up to 600 feet) from neighboring properties.

These setbacks are insufficient to protect neighbors from unreasonable and potentially harmful noise levels, shadow flicker, or fragments from a shattered blade.

It allows for excessively tall wind turbines

Union Township's zoning amendment allows wind turbines up to 500 feet tall — more than ten times taller than the highest structure previously allowed under Union Township's zoning. By comparison, the Statue of Liberty is 306 feet tall.

This would allow the largest wind turbines commercially available today to be sited in Union Township. Union Township's zoning amendment would allow dozens, or even hundreds, of these mammoth turbines to be sited in our countryside without any consideration for the impact on our landscape or on property values.

It allows wind turbines to be sited virtually anywhere in the township

Union Township's zoning amendment gives wind developers the right to locate wind turbines virtually anywhere in the township without a site-specific review of the appropriateness of the development.

This reckless approach permits the siting and operation of an unlimited number of wind turbines throughout our Township without any consideration of their impact on the community and on neighbors.

The National Research Council recommends that planners consider each development's specific impacts on the environment, cultural assets, human health and well-being, and the aesthetics of the community.

Union Township's zoning requires gift shops, veterinary clinics, and cellular towers to go through a site-specific approval process known as "conditional use." Why shouldn't 500-foot wind turbines go through the same process?

Please sign the petition supporting the referendum on the Union Township Wind Turbine Zoning Amendment. Give our community a chance for a better and safer wind turbine ordinance!

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