July 4, 2013

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen’s Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Wynne

RE: Resolution 2013-04 from the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit – Municipal and Community Involvement and Control in Renewable Energy Development

At its meeting on June 20, 2013, the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit unanimously passed the following resolution 2013-04:

WHEREAS pursuant to the Green Energy Act, 2009, SO 2009, c 12, Sch A, as amended (“GEA”), the Environmental Protection Act, RSO 1990, c E.19, as amended (“EPA”) and O. Reg 359/09 (“Renewable Energy Approvals under Part V.0.1 of the Act”) under the EPA, the siting of industrial wind turbines is under the exclusive authority of the Government of Ontario: and

WHEREAS the Minister of Energy recently announced a review of Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan; and

WHEREAS, working with the Ontario Power Authority (“OPA”) and municipalities, the province will develop a competitive procurement process for renewable projects over 500 kilowatts (kW); and

WHEREAS the new process will replace the existing large project stream of the Feed-In Tariff ("FIT") program and better meet the needs of communities by requiring energy planners and developers to work directly with municipalities to identify appropriate locations and site requirements for any future large renewable energy projects; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Energy further announced that the province would be increasing local control in renewable energy development and that Ontario will:

• Revise the Small Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) program rules for projects between 10 and 500 kW to give priority to projects partnered or led by municipalities.

• Work with municipalities to determine a property tax rate increase for wind turbine towers.

• Provide funding to help small and medium-sized municipalities develop Municipal Energy Plans – which will focus on increasing conservation and helping identify the best energy infrastructure options for a community.
AND WHEREAS there have been numerous self-reported health concerns among residents near wind turbine projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit recommends that local municipalities provide input into the review of Ontario’s Long-Term Energy Plan, and the Ontario Power Authority (“OPA”) and municipal initiative to develop a competitive procurement process for renewable projects regarding changes they would like to see in relevant provincial legislation, regulations and supporting documents so that concerns they have regarding the siting of wind turbines are addressed;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit recommends that local municipalities work with the Ministry of Energy’s Renewable Energy Facilitation Office to develop their Municipal Energy Plans;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health, to the extent possible under existing legislation, continue to work with the Ministry of Environment to see that the Ministry requires proponents to comply with all of the rules, regulations, and legislation concerning the siting of wind turbines in the Province of Ontario, including the increased set-backs that apply to the cumulative number of turbines in a proposed area;

AND FURTHER THAT, in order to reduce community anxiety and stress related to reported health concerns, an opportunity for input from community members, especially those living in the vicinity of proposed wind turbine projects, be built into any process before final approval is given to these projects;

AND FURTHER THAT the City of Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland County, Haliburton County, the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Energy and Environment, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Ontario Boards of Health are so advised.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE HALIBURTON, KAWARtha, PINE RIDGE DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

Mark Lovshin, Chair
Board of Health

c.c. The Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy
The Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of Environment
Northumberland County
City of Kawartha Lakes
Haliburton County
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Boards of Health