

## **Offshore Wind Arguments and Answers**

### **Wind turbines in the lakes will DESTROY our tourism industry!**

- Do you think people will stop coming to Michigan simply because they can see turbines in the Lake? I think that the view is only a very small part of why people flock to our beaches.
- Other states will be siting wind turbines off their shores. Do you think Michigan's tourism industry will significantly improve if other states DO invest in offshore wind, and Michigan does NOT?
- Right now, we can't safely eat most Michigan fish because of mercury contamination from coal plants. Isn't that bad for our tourism industry?
- There are numerous coal plants and other industrial complexes located on or near the shoreline, which people can see from the beaches. People still go to the beach despite these much larger and closer eyesores.

### **Offshore wind is far too expensive. We don't want to be forced to pay for an expensive form of power.**

- In 2008, Michigan enacted an Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process that requires all energy sources be evaluated on a level playing field to ensure that Michigan gets the best deal for its energy dollar. The IRP is the proper mechanism for the state to use to determine if offshore wind is an appropriate energy investment for Michigan.
- The cost of coal and nuclear power continues to climb, and the cost for wind power continues to fall. On-shore wind is already less expensive than coal. In addition, once a turbine is built, it doesn't need fuel. Coal and nuclear plants are much more expensive to operate.

### **Offshore wind won't create baseload power, so we shouldn't do it.**

- The winds on the lakes are very strong and predictable and some of the best wind resources in the world.
- By using natural gas backup, and even the [Ludington Pumped Storage System](#), wind power becomes baseload.

### **Wind power is dangerous to bird, bats and fish.**

- The National Audubon Society is supportive of wind power. Both the bird advocates and the SC believe that wind turbines should be sited in areas where they will not harm birds or bats.
- Excellent data exists about where migration routes exist. The wind siting process should include significant reviews in order to avoid those areas.
- New wind turbines generate more power, and at the same time the blades move much slower – minimizing harm to birds and bats.
- There is suddenly considerable concern over wind power's impacts on wildlife. Why hasn't there been an equal amount of concern over their welfare resulting from the impacts of coal and nuclear power? (Mercury levels in fish; lake and river water used for cooling power plants results in much warmer water, harming fish populations; etc.)

### **There isn't enough wind in the Great Lakes to worry about. OR Nobody knows how much wind is available in the Great Lakes. More research is needed.**

- The recent report from the Land Policy Institute documents the vast potential of offshore wind energy in Michigan. It's located at: <http://www.michiganglowcouncil.org/EXEC%20SUMM%20GLOW%20report.pdf>
- According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Michigan's Great Lakes have "Outstanding or "supurb" wind power generation capacity.
- Just one of the numerous potential developers of Great Lakes wind (Trillium) says that the winds over the Great Lakes are more powerful and reliable than most offshore locations worldwide.

- Trillium Wind Power Corporation has proposed 4 projects that could result in as much as 3,700 MW of power (that's the equivalent of about a dozen coal plants).

**Wind turbines in the lake will reduce lakeshore property values.**

- It's very unlikely that visible turbines will have a significant effect on property values. They will be a minimum of 6 miles out in the lake.
- The impact on a few individual's property values pale in comparison to the health impacts on people from coal plants and the risks associated with nuclear power.

**Ships will run into the turbines.**

- An appropriate siting process, which would be developed as a result of offshore legislation, will ensure that turbines are sited away from shipping lanes.

**The turbines will block the view of the Great Lakes.**

- The turbines will be at least 6 miles into the lakes. This will not block the view.

**We shouldn't develop offshore wind because it's way too expensive and there isn't any way for people to say NO.**

- Offshore wind legislation will ensure that a robust public process is included. Without the legislation there is NO public process. Yet, turbines could be sited now – without public involvement.

**Wind power won't create any jobs.**

- More than 120 Michigan companies are part of the wind turbine supply chain. What should we tell them?
- These companies are all poised to expand – if we have a demand for their products. Without demand, they are likely to leave.
- Michigan has more than 4,000 Michigan people employed in the wind power sector.
- Banning offshore wind could significantly harm the one growth industry in Michigan today.