

Harley Sandwith Smyth



17 December 2014

Ontario Energy Board  
Post Office Box 2319  
2300 Yonge Street, 27<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E4

Attn: Ms. K. Walli, Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Walli,

**Re: Windlectric Inc. Proposed Amherst Island Wind Energy Project -  
Rationale for an Oral Hearing, Association to Protect Amherst Island (APAI)**

We are writing with respect to the impending decision regarding a hearing to be held in respect of Windlectric's application (File EB200140300).

My wife and I are amongst some 350 active paid-up members of the Association to Protect Amherst Island. We have a life-long family interest in the welfare and community life of Amherst Island and we are active contributors to the stewardship of its preservation. As such we wish to request a right to be heard and a right to have a personal voice in this important decision-making process. We cannot envision any meaningful understanding of the concept of a hearing based on written evidence alone. A hearing, in common parlance, involves voices spoken and voices heard. There can be no acceptable meaning to the notion of a "hearing" that is in writing alone. An oral hearing is also an aural hearing, and both voices and open ears are needed to provide for fairness and justice.

We further request a hearing be held in the County of Lennox & Addington, on Amherst Island itself. An onsite and at-home hearing is the only way to provide for a fair opportunity for those most involved with the outcome of any decision to participate in a fair and open manner. History is filled with evidence of the benefits of a true parliamentary process with spoken discourse, questions and answers, true interpersonal communication, and the opportunity for bilateral understanding. Those

most influenced by impending decisions should be those most involved in the decision-making. There is a long-standing widely accepted principle that “the truth shall make you free.” We would hope that the Board would remain true to its commitment to making participation universal and unlimited, and this should include complete accessibility to anyone with communication handicaps.

We shall be very grateful, along with our other 350 members, for your urgent consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

Harley Sandwith Smyth, M.D.

25-year resident of Amherst Island