

I am Representative Marianna Gamache and am a current member of the Vermont Natural Resources and Energy committee.

During this current legislative session commencing January, 2014 through this coming December, 2016 session, my committee took many hours, weeks and months of testimony from Vermont homeowners who are living with operating Industrial Wind turbines in close proximity to their homes. I also visited the home of a resident of the Georgia Mountain project and heard the audible sound level of their complaint which I experienced as an annoyance.

Among the distressing issues homeowners are subjected to, the most egregious one is the harmful effects of physical suffering caused by the high inaudible interior infra sound combined with the high 45dba exterior sound created by the wind turbines while operating. These have resulted in a variety of health issues experienced by homeowners caused by stress placed on the cardio vascular system, as well as continual sleep interruption resulting in sleep deprivation.

Complaints made to the operators of these turbines has, in effect fallen on deaf ears. Many of these effected residents have simply stopped complaining because no action has been taken to relieve their suffering. The operators claim they are in compliance of the project's CPG. The fact remains that these homeowners receive no relief or remedy and have resorted to trying to sell their home or being reduced to having to abandon their homestead in order to save their health.

Homeowners throughout Vermont have demonstrated that there is a health issue which must be addressed by new temporary standards and the creation of permanent standards. These standards must include a lowering of the current 45dba exterior sound level and the 30dba interior sound level. Additionally, there must be a constant hourly monitoring of exterior sound level, not to ever exceed that set sound level and to not allow an ineffective hourly average.

As a government agency, it is your responsibility to follow the directives and intent of the Natural Resources and Energy committee's legislation. If the energy law allows for your discretion, it is incumbent upon you to make decisions in the best interests of Vermonter's and not the developers.

If you do not address and resolve these harmful standards by substantially lowering the current sound levels, then the energy committee will do so through specific legislation when it reconvenes in January.

Sincerely,

Rep. Marianna Gamache
Swanton / Sheldon
Franklin 4 District