

ONTARIO'S GREEN ENERGY ACT

GBA POSITION

GEORGIAN BAY ASSOCIATION

- Not-for profit, umbrella organization, representing 23 cottager associations (4500 families) along the length of the Bay
- Our Mission: to preserve the Bay in as pristine a state as possible for future generations – particular emphasis on ecology and environment

ONTARIO'S GREEN ENERGY ACT

- Encourage growth in clean, renewable energy sources: wind, hydro, biomass
- Achieve major savings in energy use via conservation
- GBA has chosen to concentrate its efforts on Wind Farm Regulation

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In its 2006 Wind Report, GBA recommended that:

- Govt. provide wind industry with specific direction where wind farms would be permitted
- We asked govt. to designate areas of world recognized natural beauty (specifically UNESCO World Biospheres) as off limits
- Vermont long ago did something similar
- Even Germany will not allow wind farms near the Rhine Gorge (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Instead, the Govt. has been totally indiscriminate –even removing the Niagara Escarpment exemption

GBA RESPONSE TO GEA

- Niagara Escarpment and other internationally accepted areas of great natural beauty/ecological importance (i.e. Biospheres) should be exempted from wind farms
- Setbacks from Significant Wetlands, Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves be 550m v. 120m proposed
- Should be public debate on any attempt to bypass Endangered Species Act
- Thorough scientific studies of potential health issues is essential
- Public consultation to be structured as formal meetings at convenient times
- Decommissioning bonds to be required as well as plans

GBA RESPONSE (CONT)

- Need special attention for placement /decommissioning of offshore turbines and power cables
- Emergency response plans for all turbines must be prepared

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- GEA streamlines process – no municipal control
- Access roads, power line corridors create new entries to wilderness areas – major problem for wildlife, wetlands
- Endangered Species Act should be protection – BUT can be over-ridden



