

Chowan County Update

Right now there is a classic confrontation going on in Chowan County. On one side are those who advocate for the rights of local citizens. On the other are those who believe that the rights of out-of-state speculators take priority.

Here is a brief summary of some recent events...

- 1 - The Chowan County Planning Board [formally indicated](#) that they want to review the existing County Wind Ordinance — specifically to see whether it adequately protects the health, safety and welfare of local citizens, local businesses and the local environment.
[Note 1: This is the statutory obligation of local legislators.]
[Note 2: One possible outcome is that no changes are necessary.]
- 2 - Out-of-state wind developers and their allies, are opposed to the County taking a genuine health, safety and welfare perspective in their wind law.
- 3 - Without knowing any results (e.g. see Note 2 above), the out-of-state wind developer and its allies launched preemptive attacks against **any** local wind law changes focused on citizens' health, safety and welfare. For example, wind supporters were brought in from other areas to speak at local meetings — and they advocated a developer-friendly ordinance.
- 4 - Another example is that the [Albemarle RC&D Council](#) sent three wind energy reports to Chowan Commissioners and Planners — but failed to indicate that these were actually very one-sided wind industry supported sales efforts. No reports by independent experts advocating the health, safety and welfare of local citizens have been sent by RC&D (e.g. like these [peer-reviewed studies](#) about turbine related adverse health consequences).
- 5 - Yet another example is that the “[NC Clean Energy](#)” marketing organization sent a [letter](#) to local legislators (and the Edenton-Chowan Partnership) defending their self-described NC “model” wind ordinance. A [brief correspondence](#) with the sender resulted in their acknowledgement that this so-called “model” was actually part of a wind industry supported sales campaign, designed to maximize NC industrial wind development — and little consideration was given to the health, safety and welfare of local citizens, businesses or the environment.

So the fundamental question in Chowan County is:

Will representatives get distracted by speculative financial claims, and pave the road for a business that will likely be a net economic loser — and sacrifice local citizens, local businesses and the local environment in the process?

For more information on wind energy see **WiseEnergy.org**. For more specifics regarding the Chowan County wind energy proposal, go to this [webpage](#).

Let me know any questions.

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PS — another part of this anti-citizen campaign has been the false claim that I am “totally opposed to wind energy.”

The facts is that I fully endorse efforts to explore **all** alternative energy options. However, just because they are “alternative” or “renewable” does **not** give them a free pass. My one criteria for ALL alternative energy is that they should be a net benefit to us. *If they are not, what’s the point?*

I am completely open to that being the case for multiple energy options, *including wind*. If scientific proof can be provided that industrial wind energy is a net societal benefit, *I will be a major supporter of it!*

So the correct description of my position is that “I am totally opposed to alternative energy options that are a net liability to us.” Unfortunately, the evidence to date says that wind energy falls into that category.