

A Wayward Wind Is Blowing Across Ontario

For the past four years, our organization, the CAE Alliance (Clean Affordable Energy) has been actively involved in reviewing & commenting on the political ,regulatory & legislative aspects of the proposed 20-Year Energy Plan for Ontario .The government’s pro-gas - anti-coal focus , coupled with a fixation on “green only components” amidst this enormous economic downturn or recession has most decidedly contributed to the loss of more than 272,300 jobs here in Ontario . Over these four years, Ontario’s industrial, mining, manufacturing, chemical, forestry & agricultural sectors have issued warnings & pleas –backed by statistical facts & credible reports –about this government’s energy policies which are short-sighted, flawed & destructive to the economic foundation of this once vibrant province. No one seems to be listening at Queen’s Park!

Now, with the introduction & fanfare of the proposed “Green Energy Act”, we see the dark shadow of heavy-handed “government intrusion” over-shadowing much of the potentially positive aspects of the legislation.

Under this Act, the rights of the average Ontario citizen, our elected community representatives & our municipalities, to question and disagree with the government’s viewpoint re location of new “green” energy proposals will be stifled & denied! Projects arising from the Green Energy Act will be done under wraps & beyond the scrutiny that any “free society” normally considers as the “democratic approach” to doing things.

Our “civil rights” are being tampered with under the guise of this “Greening Of Ontario” manifesto! We are being TOLD to swallow the concept that solar power at 42 cents per kilowatt hour or wind power at 15 cents +/- kwh is more acceptable than cleaned-up coal at 4 cents/kwh ! We are told that health issues from coal-fired generation are totally unacceptable, but recent government reports demonstrate that removing coal and replacing with natural gas will make NO difference in the area of those gas plants. On the other hand, genuine medical concerns re wind-power have been rebuffed without investigation , in order to expedite matters ! Why the rush ?

Bill 150 – The Green Energy Act – essentially excludes Ontarians from any say in the establishment & location of industrial wind turbine facilities. All information & documentation from negotiations between the government & the wind industry representatives is to be deemed “classified” and cannot be disclosed! Why the secrecy? The transfer of almost unlimited power to the Minister of Energy by this legislation will effectively by-pass the Ontario Energy Board , alter the Electricity Act , weaken the Environmental Protection Act , and will render vital aspects of the Planning Act redundant. The many checks & balances in our so-called democratic system have to be up-rooted, by-passed or shredded? To what end?

There appears to be a wayward political wind blowing across Ontario at the moment & it appears to be driven by a heavy-handed top-down government which smacks of smothering authoritarianism. We should all be troubled.

We urge everyone to take notice of this Green Energy Act. See what we, a free people are being asked to give up in order that the Premier’s “green vision” becomes a reality ! Voice your concerns please while you still have the right to do so!

Respectfully submitted,

*Winston Sardine
Co-Chair CAE Alliance
Haldimand-Norfolk
Caealliance@sympatico.ca*