



STEUBEN COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Kelly H. Fitzpatrick, Chair

District 3

COPY

September 14, 2026

Jeffrey P. Horton
Vice Chair
District 8

Paul E. Van Caesele
Majority Leader
District 1

Hilda T. Lando
Minority Leader
District 2

Justin Eberlin
District 13

K. Michael Hanna
District 5

Shannon Logsdon
District 4

Robert V. Nichols
District 11

Nicholas D. Pelham
District 3

Frederick G. Potter
District 10

Brian C. Schu, Esq.
District 6

Deborah A. Shannon
District 12

William A. Thew
District 7

Joseph Tobia
District 2

Scott J. Van Etten
District 13

Michael J. Volino
District 9

Daniel Warriner
District 1

Jack K. Wheeler, MPA
County Manager

Rochelle L. Casselbury, CLBC
Clerk of the Legislature

Honorable Kathy Hochul
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

I am writing on behalf of the Steuben County Legislature to bring to your attention some serious medical concerns raised by our constituents regarding the installation of windmills within our community.

We have received substantial documentation from residents in the Town of Fremont, living near the Baron Winds Phase 2 turbines, detailing various health issues that many community members have experienced following the establishment of windmills in their vicinity. The information provided includes personal accounts and medical records, which we believe warrant your attention and further investigation.

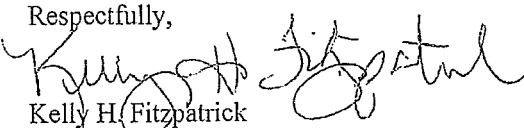
It has been noted that during times of normal turbine operation residents have been forced to relocate to off-site housing. Some of the health concerns experienced include ear pain and pressure, dizziness, sleep disturbance, fatigue, chest discomfort, respiratory distress and muscle tightness. Due to the severity and persistence of ongoing conditions and health concerns, many residents remain displaced from their home.

It is important to note that the town approved 500-foot turbines, and 650-foot turbines were installed. This size turbine is generally used for offshore installation and not this close to residential neighborhoods. This is in direct violation of a town local law setting maximum height for wind turbines at 500 feet. At the direction of the State, this law was overridden and disregarded, which allowed the turbines to be installed at 650 feet. This is just one example of home rule being violated. Corporate interests cannot outweigh local planning and home rule rights. The state continues to trample on local authority and, in this instance, jeopardize the health and safety of our citizens.

As an elected representative, your support in addressing these concerns is essential for the well-being of our community. We believe it is crucial for the Commission to assess the potential health risks associated with windmill installations, require testing, enforce compliance and establish guidelines that prioritize public health and safety.

We kindly ask for your assistance in addressing this matter and exploring possible solutions to mitigate the health impacts reported by our constituents. We appreciate your time and attention to this urgent issue and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,


Kelly H. Fitzpatrick
Chair of Legislature

Cc: NYS Department of Health, NYS Legislature

*Steuben County Office Building, 3 East Pulteney Square, Bath, New York 14810-1557
Telephone (607) 664-2243; Fax (607) 664-2282*