

August 15, 2011

Honorable Benjamin B. Downing  
Senate Chair of Joint Committee  
on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy  
Room 413F  
State House  
Boston MA 02133  
[Benjamin.Downing@masenate.gov](mailto:Benjamin.Downing@masenate.gov)

Honorable John D. Keenan  
House Chair of Joint Committee  
on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy  
Room 473B  
State House  
Boston MA 02133  
[John.Keenan@mahouse.gov](mailto:John.Keenan@mahouse.gov)

**RE: Hearing of Bills H01775 and S01666**

Dear Co-Chairs Downing and Keenan,

Wind Wise ~ Massachusetts requests a change of time and venue for the upcoming Hearing for the bill “An Act Relative to Comprehensive Siting Reform for Land Based Wind Projects.”

Those wishing to testify—including members of Wind Wise who live in the western part of the state—include working people, parents, and students. The time of day at which the hearing is scheduled will preclude people from attending unless they are retired, self-employed, or out of work. As schools will have just opened for the year, the scheduled time will also preclude teachers, faculty, staff, and students from attending the hearing.

We ask that you please change the time so that it does not exclude so many. Other legislative committees—including the “listening” session Senator Downing convened at Berkshire Community College two years ago—have held evening hearings in regional locations to accommodate the majority of interested citizens and constituents.

Further, we challenge the venue of the hearing, a private facility in a remote location not served by public transportation, that will unnecessarily add travel obstacles for those wishing to testify in person.

And, it must also be said, the fact that there is an operating wind turbine at this location raises the unavoidable question as to whether this choice reflects a bias on the part of the Committee.

To resolve these problems of both access and perception, we recommend a location in Pittsfield, the largest and most centrally located city in the Berkshires. It should not be difficult to find a public venue in this city in which to schedule an evening hearing.

Thank you for your understanding. We await your response.

Respectfully,  
Virginia Irvine (Brimfield)  
Dale LaBonte (Brimfield)  
Ellen Landauer (Charlemont)  
Chuck Maier (Charlemont)  
Preston McClanahan (Savoy)  
Jane Pinsley (Blandford)  
John Sears (Hawley)  
Kathryn Sternstein (Hawley)  
Andrew Wells (Ashfield)

On behalf of Wind Wise ~ Massachusetts  
windwisema.org

cc:

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