

**Town of Swanton**  
**OFFICE of the SELECTBOARD**  
P.O. Box 711, 1 Academy Street  
Swanton, VT 05488

August 4, 2015

The Honorable Peter Shumlin, Governor  
State of Vermont  
109 State Street, Pavilion  
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Shumlin:

Recent events regarding the proposed construction of an industrial wind farm project in the Town of Swanton has brought to our attention the procedures followed by the Vermont Public Service Board when reviewing and permitting such "green energy" projects.

We understand that Act 248 grants exclusive review and permitting power to the Public Service Board and that no local regulation or permitting of wind turbines and solar panels is allowed. Although the public hearing that is held by the Public Service Board for a particular wind or solar project application allows a municipality to offer testimony, municipalities have no authority to affect the final decision on a wind or solar project application. The same is true for those citizens whose properties are most adversely affected by these projects.

As a Selectboard that places a high value on local control and public participation, we find it unacceptable that local legislative bodies have no statutory authority to enact regulations to control industrial wind turbine and solar panel projects and that local land use boards have no statutory authority to review them. The current review process limits municipal and public participation and grants exclusive decision making to a three member Public Service Board.

Therefore, we are in favor of having the Vermont legislature adopt enabling legislation that would grant municipalities the option to regulate industrial wind turbine and solar panel projects within their borders with review by local land use boards. It is our hope that you will support and perhaps recommend such legislation in a timely manner.

Local control is a hallmark of Vermont life. We thank you for your attention to this matter and expect to hear from you soon.

Respectfully,

The Swanton Selectboard  


Cc: Town Administrator, Village Trustees & Manager