



“We have kept the Golden Crescent green for generations; please help us keep it that way”

To: Town of Alexandria Board
46372 County Route 1
Alexandria, NY 13607

November 17, 2009

Ms. Martha M. Millett – Supervisor

Ms. Ellen Peck – Town Clerk

Fr: Coalition for the Preservation of the Golden Crescent
Henderson Harbor Area Chamber of Commerce (HHACC) - Economic Development Committee
PO Box 468
Henderson Harbor, NY 13651

SUBJECT: Upstate NY Power – Town of Hounsfield Galloo Island Wind Project

We want to update you on a serious issue that we are faced with throughout the eastern basin of Lake Ontario. We have attempted to deal through our County Legislator with limited success, and little hope of a positive resolution. We have appealed to our State and Federal representatives in hopes of effectively stopping the devastation we are faced with by this project on Galloo Island and its associated transmission line. The public commenting period closes December 4, 2009 for the wind project with the DEC and we strongly urge you to speak on behalf of your community. Today at the NYS Public Service Commission hearing, and also recently announced by NYPA, the entire eastern basin of Lake Ontario is planned form onshore and offshore wind generation – we must act together to stop this domino effect, starting with the Galloo Island project.

The Galloo Island Wind Project consists of 84 turbines equally spread over the Island. Associated with this project is a 230kV transmission line that will intersect Henderson while heading southerly through several townships to Mexico. This project is receiving resistance, not only from the Coalition for the Preservation of the Golden Crescent but also from The Heart of Henderson (www.heartofhendersonny.org). The latter group was instrumental in blocking the Stony Point wind farm in Henderson that was recently proposed by United Wind Energy.

If this project proceeds, our Board, our business members and many of our taxpayers agree that we will be faced with an irreversible and devastating effect to our local business economy, a degraded tax base and sharply declining real estate value. We strongly believe additional wind projects will follow into adjoining towns affecting even more open arable land and the town's economy. Please be pre-emptive to prevent further development along the Golden Crescent by opposing the Galloo Island wind project with us. Let's send a message to the developers to leave this area, once and for all. Their promise of job creation, lower taxes and green energy are generally ploys for the prize of highly subsidized, federally funded projects – very little, if any that flows back to the host area. Recently the PILOT Agreement (ten years of level payments) was presented to the Town of Hounsfield by the JCIDA. Alarmingly only US\$321,000 of the US\$2,140,000 is returned to the Town of Hounsfield. Jefferson County will receive 200% (US\$749,000) of that value and the JCIDA will receive a one-time fee of approximately US\$1,500,000 for brokering the PILOT Agreement. Please do not be fooled by promises of PILOT payments, at the expense of the destruction of our environmental resources and tax base. Also, the

Henderson Harbor Area Chamber of Commerce – Economic Development Committee
PO Box 468 – Henderson Harbor, NY 13651-0468 (315) 938-5568 toll free: (888) 938-5568
www.hendersonharborny.com contact: thechambertreasurer@gmail.com



“We have kept the Golden Crescent green for generations; please help us keep it that way”

developer who will pay out US\$25,000,000 in PILOT and land lease options over a 10 year period, will in turn receive from the Federal Government US\$325,000,000 in tax credits and actual money from the Stimulus Fund. These projects do not provide any viable long-term economic stability to the area, nor do they create projects as intended by the American Resource Recovery Act (Stimulus Fund).

Our area depends upon recreation, tourism and agricultural business, all of which will be very badly affected if new projects start to develop around the first successful project, such as Galloo Island. We also see this project significantly lowering property values in the community's most valuable water front areas which will erode your tax base.

We are contacting all town boards from Cape Vincent through Ellisburg, along the Golden Crescent shoreline to also appeal for their help. The Galloo Island project is instrumental to block, since the transmission line it will build is oversized to accept further developments and new wind projects planned throughout the Golden Crescent.

We ask for your voice in representing the concern registered by several towns presently working with us to oppose this project. We can assist you with form letters, addresses and a guideline for the various steps we have taken thus far. We are looking to unify the support of the various towns, through affiliation and participation in the Coalition for the Preservation of the Golden Crescent. Your town may be uninformed, and we offer to speak with your Town Board to allow you to update your taxpayers and residents of the serious issue that we all face.

The project first submitted its Draft Scoping Study in May 2008. Unfortunately the Henderson Town Board and many Henderson citizens have only very recently recognized the significant implications of the Galloo Island project to the community and our quality of life. We do not want your town to be faced with similar problems and ask for your support in our opposition.

Your concern and attention to this matter can be directed to my co-chairs to lead our efforts on this matter, Robert Aliasso who can be reached by phone at 315-771-9753 or RAliasso@twcny.rr.com and Bert Bowers who can be reached by phone at 315-408-8507 or Bertna@twcny.rr.com. We have also attached a donation form that can be distributed amongst your concerned citizens and Board Members to unify our support and focus our efforts.

You will note the urgency of this matter as two deadlines face us – December 4, 2009 for public comments to the NYSDEC and December 31, 2009 for the JCIDA PILOT Revenue Sharing contract.

Sincerely,

Karl R. Williams, President, Henderson Harbor Area Chamber of Commerce
e-mail: thechamberpresident@gmail.com or by phone (cell) 315-408-6043

*Henderson Harbor Area Chamber of Commerce – Economic Development Committee
PO Box 468 – Henderson Harbor, NY 13651-0468 (315) 938-5568 toll free: (888) 938-5568
www.hendersonharborny.com contact: thechambertreasurer@gmail.com*