

## James V. Major

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5 Bourbeau Terrace  
Newburyport, MA 01950

Testimony submitted in opposition to  
ODNC083\_06\_28\_2021): Allow Wind Energy Conversion Facilities (wind turbines) by  
Special Permit within the Old Route I-95 Right of Way / Access Road on the Eastside of  
present day I-95 (Assessors Map 94 Lot 3).

September 15, 2021

My name is Jim Major and I am a Newburyport resident living at 5 Bourbeau Terrace. I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed zoning amendment to place wind turbines along I95 near the Little River Nature Trail. My wife, Tamara and I moved to Newburyport in May of 2019.

I am opposed to the proposed ordinance because it would have a substantial negative impact on the lives of residents in close proximity and impair the public enjoyment of the Little River Nature Trail. I am also in opposition because of the apparent disregard for all of the planning previously done by the City regarding renewable energy and for the lack of an inclusive and transparent process to involve the citizens of Newburyport. I was stunned to read in the proposed ordinance that the construction of wind turbines would have, "little or no impact on abutters, in particular due to the lack of residential homes in the area". I live about 0.6 of a mile from the proposed site and wonder how I and my many neighbors could be discounted so easily.

I have reviewed the City's Clean Energy Roadmap, Master Plan, Climate Sustainability Plan and the Energy Reduction Plan. I found only one reference to a possible siting of wind turbines, notably on the northern end of Plum Island. However, I did find numerous statements regarding the importance of preserving conservation land, which this proposed ordinance seems to ignore. I also found many proposals and suggestions to develop other forms of renewable enrage which would not have negative impacts on residents such as photovoltaic solar panel installations on municipal buildings, parking lot canopies and on the old town landfill. Other suggestions included using biomass from the Colby Farm Yard Waste site to power a biomass plant at the Bresnahan School. Additional recommendations included the installation of hydro kinetic turbines in the Merrimack River and the creation of an electricity aggregation program for renewable energy. These are all viable proposals for renewable energy and none would have a negative impact on the residents of Newburyport.

I know I'm new to town and I am not informed about the way in which our city government works. However, I do not understand why the City Council and the Planning Committee are entertaining the proposed ordinance to allow wind turbines at this site when no transparent process was followed to determine the type, viability, cost or size of the turbines and their potential impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. Why is this ordinance being considered when we have all of the other existing proposals for renewable energy which were the result of a transparent planning process?

I am sure that it was unintended, but the message being sent to the citizens of Newburyport by this proposed ordinance is that public involvement in the governance of the City can be ignored, conservation land doesn't matter and that the immediate neighborhoods can be discounted because they are devoid of residents, as suggested by the language of the ordinance. I urge the Planning Committee and City to Council to vote no on this proposal. There are many other viable options for renewable energy that should be pursued instead.