

NEWS RELEASE

SYLVIA JONES, MPP *Dufferin-Caledon*

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Jones Introduces Bill to Ensure Local Say in Wind Energy Projects

(Queen's Park) –“Today I introduced a bill at the Legislature to give Ontario municipalities and local residents a voice in the planning of wind energy projects,” said Sylvia Jones, MPP (Dufferin-Caledon).

Under the Liberal's *Green Energy Act, 2009*, new wind projects will be built with no municipal planning control and limited public input. Jones wants to restore the traditional municipal planning oversight role with her *Planning Amendment Act (Renewable Energy Undertakings), 2010*.

“The Progressive Conservative Party and I raised concerns about the *Green Energy Act* from the very beginning,” said Jones. “My private members bill will return the power for planning renewable energy projects to municipalities who can be responsive to the needs of the community.”

“Municipalities know what works best for them,” said Jones. “The planning process is not new. Municipal planning has worked well in the past, and if given the opportunity can work well in the future. The voices of our communities and concerned Ontarians should not be shut down.”

Jones' bill amends the *Planning Act* to reverse the effect of the amendments made to the *Planning Act* by Schedule K to the *Green Energy Act, 2009*. Those amendments exempted renewable energy undertakings from the normal application of the *Planning Act*, including policy statements, provincial plans, official plans, demolition control by-laws, zoning by-laws and development permit regulations and by-laws.

“The *Green Energy Act* shows little respect to municipalities and Ontario families,” said Jones. “I want to give residents across Ontario the power to refine renewable energy projects for their community.”

-30-

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Sylvia Jones MPP, Working for You