

# Dear Mr. McGuinty (Part 3)

## *How soon you forget (your own words).*

**In June/04, you declared** your government was committed to "The most ambitious democratic renewal process in Ontario's history" and named a Minister Responsible for Democratic Renewal to strengthen our democracy. You said "This is how government should work in the 21st century and it's how government will work in Ontario from now on."

Now you introduce the Green Energy Act which guts the planning powers of local government, places critical decisions affecting the welfare and pocketbooks of Ontarians in the hands of bureaucrats to enact secretly via Ministerial regulations, and tramples legislation aimed at protecting biological and geological treasures like the Niagara Escarpment.

### ***Is this your idea of democratic renewal?***

**In December/07, you said** everyone should have "a fair voice in debates that affect them." So why do you parrot the unproven advice of industry lobbyists but so readily dismiss research conducted by 29 community groups who have spent years studying these problems. Then you openly demean those who have legitimate concerns about their health or declining property values as NIMBYs.

**In February/09, you said** "You can't compromise public safety, you can't compromise environmental standards, and we're not about compromising quality of life." Yet 28 Ontario townships (of the 40 or so slated for wind development), representing over a half million citizens, have asked for a moratorium on wind turbines until a proper health study is completed. Despite this, your government has never conducted a full environmental assessment on any wind turbine project in the Province, nor do you have safety standards to protect Ontarians from known turbine effects.

Now the committee conducting public hearings has grossly skewed the presenters to the pro-wind lobby. Ordinary citizens with real concerns and stories to be told are prevented from doing so. Some pro-wind groups are allowed duplicate presentations. Even Minister Smithetherman is given three times the normal time allotment to state his case, something he has already done many times. Since when does corporate and political self-interest supersede the concerns of Ontario's taxpayers?

### ***Is this what democratic renewal looks like?***

**A public service message paid for by citizens who seek to preserve the quality of life in Grey County.**