



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 8, 2015

Mr. John Conger
Deputy Under Secretary
Department of Defense
Installations and Environment
3400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20303

Ms. Elizabeth Ray
Vice President
Mission Support Services
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Mr. Conger & Ms. Ray,

I am writing you to share my concerns with a proposed project in my district. I recently received a letter from the Niagara Military Affairs Council (NIMAC) regarding a proposal by APEX Clean Energy to construct wind turbines along the shoreline of Lake Ontario. I have included the letter for your reference. This letter raises serious concerns with the potential project and its proximity to the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS) military operating area.

NFARS was established in 1955 and is home to the Air Force Reserve Command's 914th Airlift wing, the 328th Airlift Squadron, and the New York Air National Guard's 107th Airlift Wing. Currently, the Air Force Reserves flies the C-130 mission and the Air National Guard has taken on the Remotely Piloted Aircraft mission. NFARS employs nearly 3,000 service members and civilians and provides economic growth and stability to the Niagara County and its surrounding communities.

If approved, the APEX Clean Energy proposal would put 70 wind turbines that stand 600 feet tall along the shores of Lake Ontario, in close proximity to the base. Encroachment is one of many key factors the military uses when determining the future of a base. Currently, NFARS is ranked favorably in that area and we cannot afford to allow any project to move forward that would jeopardize its future.

We have serious concerns that these wind turbines will impede the current airspace, making the base less viable for future missions. In 1995, the base was reviewed for closure during a Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). It was again reviewed for closure in a 2005 BRAC, and again in 2012 during the US Air Force Structure Adjustment. With an ever-present BRAC threat to the base and talks of another round in the next few years, we can not risk these wind turbines jeopardizing the future of the Base and all those who are supported by it.

We must ensure that the future of the base remains viable and that any proposed projects do not interfere with its radar and flight operations. I am asking that before any decision is made, both the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Defense complete a thorough study of any potential impacts these structures would have on current and future operations at NFARS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York