

Federation of Sportsmen opposes Lighthouse Wind project

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Editor:

The Orleans County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, representing approximately 500 Orleans County sportspersons and nature enthusiasts, voted unanimous disapproval of the proposed Lighthouse wind energy project in the Town of Yates at its March meeting.

The Federation is dedicated to promoting both the environmental assets of Orleans County, as well as the opportunity for people to enjoy them. Several members spoke in clear opposition to the potentially harmful impacts to birdlife.

During spring migration studies show a west to east migration along the shoreline of Lake Ontario so, with the projected turbines running parallel to the shoreline, migrating species would be in danger longer.

There are also thousands of waterfowl and birds that migrate through the area using the Atlantic Flyway that also use the area as a rest stop. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recommends wind turbines be at least 3 miles from shoreline of the Great Lakes to protect migrations.

Perhaps even more persuasive were the prospects of significant woodland habitat loss during the site preparation. Also, there is an active bald eagle nest in the area and two others are within a few miles.

Though well aware of it, members of the group were undaunted by the specter of the Article X process and its implications for reasonable local control.

Christopher S. Rice

President of Orleans County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.