

In letter to Gov. Cuomo, SOS mothers call on Apex to scuttle industrial wind turbine project

For the past five years, Save Ontario Shores (SOS) has been strident in its opposition to plans by Apex to install massive industrial wind turbines in Niagara and Orleans counties, in the towns of Somerset and Yates. SOS maintains the towering turbines, which would be the largest structures in the state outside of New York City, will upend the idyllic nature of the rural communities.

In a letter to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo timed to coincide with Mother's Day, a group of SOS mothers is asking that he intervene and convince Apex to abandon its Lighthouse Wind project. In April, Apex announced it would not file an application this year and closed its office in Barker, but SOS mothers note Apex has employed similar tactics in the past.

"We are mothers who care for the earth as we care for our children and their futures. We are the mothers – the backbone of the grassroots environmental group – who have joined together to protect our homes, our birds, sweeping sunsets, big dark skies, quiet nights and early foggy mornings full of bird song," SOS mothers wrote. "We have given up a lot to live in rural New York. We do not run to the store for something forgotten – we make do. There are no movie theaters, no department stores, no quick access to the things that urban and suburban residents take for granted. We love the land and we care for it well. And we have a symbiotic relationship with those who seek haven from the hustle of urban life in summer months by our shores."

They explain to the governor as mothers, confronted with corporate and state-dominated forces, they are trying to protect their communities from industrial sprawl.

"We are hopeful, believing that there are alternative ways to reduce carbon emissions in our state, ways will be employed that encourage communities to engage in formulating creative solutions that match each unique environment instead of dividing them and pitting them against each other."

The SOS mothers say open spaces for their children are rapidly disappearing, replaced by electrical generating plants. "As much as some may think them beautiful, they do not fill the soul as the open skies filled with our migrating birds."

Fairness demands an official end to the Light House project they said, "And that closure is long overdue."