

## What Appeasement?

According to the author of an article in last month's Hornell Evening Tribune, the Cohocton Town Board is poised to decide in favor of UPC Wind's new Windmill Law #2, but the process is taking its toll on our Supervisor, Jack Zigenfus. "It really just turned into a nightmare," he's quoted as saying. "I only get paid \$10,000 a year... and I can't spend all my time trying to appease these anti-wind people." Since then others in the YES! Wind Power group have picked up the drumbeat. It's just horrible, they say, how badly our town leaders have been treated. Something really should be done!

**But what kind of "appeasement" is Jack talking about?**

- "Windmill Law #1" was drafted by UPC Wind and quietly passed by the Town Board before there was any opposition at all.
- When the new Law was challenged in court, the Town Board moved to "appease" critics by writing a second "Windmill Law" that is even worse in its catering to the developer.
- Wind power supporters have been singularly unresponsive to our concerns: where are the increased setbacks, the lowered noise thresholds, and the equitable financial benefits we've asked for?

I can empathize with Jack, but I don't think his problem is really caused by the "anti-wind people." It began when UPC Wind brought a very controversial proposal to town and leaders thought they could slide it through by hiding it. Everywhere you look, wind proposals bring heated controversy, not just in Cohocton.

At [www.cohoctonfree.com](http://www.cohoctonfree.com), we're interested in moving beyond power politics and so-called "appeasement" into mutual understanding and community decision-making. Are our leaders really being honest with themselves and the rest of us? Let's lay down our accusations and arms and try to develop a forum where we can brainstorm and work together as a united community before we go any further.

