

Is This Hypocrisy?

Recently a Cohocton Tax Assessor and the author of the “YES! Wind Power” website, Mark Densmore, wrote an article in *The Valley News* charging Cohocton Wind Watch members with hypocrisy. They professed to be against wind power and accused supporters of being greedy, he said, then turned around and want us to look at a different developer’s plan. **This is hypocrisy!** he proclaimed. But is it? We’ve gone to the same public meetings Mark has and here’s what we heard:

UPC Wind is offering the Town of Cohocton a bad deal:

- All the property in our Town was assessed at \$78 million in 2004.
- UPC’s plan would add \$125 million, or 62%, in property value but contribute less than 8% to our local tax base.
- Both of our “Windmill Laws”, which were essentially written by and for this particular developer, have grossly inadequate setbacks and legal protection for landowners and the Town.
- If the citizens of Cohocton feel they absolutely must have a wind project, isn’t there a better deal out there somewhere?

This is essentially what **members of CWW** stood up and said in May and have been saying ever since. So they found Empire State Wind Energy, a developer supported by New York business people like Tom Golisano, which has **proposed developing a smaller wind farm** that would position turbines further away from residences and return more tax revenue to the local community. What would you call a Town official who is so committed to a particular developer that he isn’t interested in alternate proposals that could **further enhance our tax base**?

We at **Cohocton Free** are convinced that wind development in the Finger Lakes is inappropriate, but the hypocrisy we’ve seen so far isn’t at CWW. Visit us online at www.cohoctonfree.com and check out our new “Updates” section. We’re some of your thoughtful neighbors and we’d like to see our town have the best future possible, too.

