Who is Lying?

Ever since UPC Wind first told the whole Town of Cohocton this past April about its plans to build a massive industrial wind power plant on our hills, there's been a lot of controversy with some pretty strong feelings being expressed. Recently opponents of UPC's proposed project have been publicly accused of "insulting" town officials, "costing all the taxpayers of Cohocton thousands of dollars" and expecting us "to forget all of their lies and misinformation."

But where are the "lies and misinformation" coming from?

- The developer has consistently overestimated the amount of power that its turbines will effectively generate and therefore the amount of greenhouse gases that might be displaced.
- "Generous" PILOT payments have been promised with no clear articulation of the formula that will be used. At the same time, projected profits have been carefully hidden.
- UPC Wind's noise estimates and recommendations are grossly inaccurate to the point of deliberate falsification.
- I spite of their hostile talk, supporters characterize themselves as kind and rational people, but you'll never find a wind power critic arriving at a public meeting armed with a weapon.

Wind power critics who are "offended" have been asked to do some soul-searching. That's fair. At www.cohoctonfree.com, however, we think there are some others in the community who have souls that need to be searched also. Are wind power supporters really being honest with themselves and the rest of us? Think about it.

We're your neighbors. We have brains, ideas, and feelings, too. Remember, there's always more than one side to a story. 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 forging ahead into an outside developer's dream.

