Who Will Suffer?

For the past year **we've heard a lot of controversy** about the proposed Cohocton and Dutch Hill wind projects. How large and intrusive will the units be? **How much noise will they make?** Will they have an impact on wildlife? What will they do to property values? For each concern, UPC Wind has **reassuring answers**. They'll look good. They're very quiet. They won't effect the wildlife. If anything, your property values will go up. And so forth. Of course, the **developer has nothing to lose**.

But who will suffer if the developer is wrong?
- According to recent testimony from neighbors surrounding UPC's Mars Hill wind farm, everyone near the turbines will suffer, especially leaseholders and their immediate neighbors.
- Noise is apparently a big problem on Mars Hill where residents were reassured over and over by UPC that it wouldn't be.
- Evidence is pouring in from Tug Hill that bird and bat kills are dramatically higher than predicted by the developer.
- And studies are clearly indicating that the value of neighboring recreational and retirement properties will go down.

In other words, **everyone but the developer will suffer.** Meanwhile, we appear to be locked into an "us" *vs*. "them" struggle in Cohocton, **"the good guys"** *vs.* **"the bad guys,"** in which our team is 100% right and our opponents are 100% wrong. Even if the YES! group manages to prevail against its opponents, every truth that wind critics have spoken will still be true — **visual blight will still be blight**, noise will be noise, dead wildlife won't be resurrected, and lost property values won't go back up. **Winning won't make falsehoods and lies go away.**

Couldn't we at least wait until UPC's noise controversy at Mars Hill is settled before forging ahead? **Misplaced trust and group loyalty** could end up paying poor rewards. Visit us at **www.cohoctonfree.com**, check out the latest in our "**Updates**" section, and be sure to read our recent **Proposal** for breaking the deadlock. Thanks!

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