

## Molly Wingrove

---

**From:** Mike Trudeau <mike.cpih@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 9:29 PM  
**To:** senjbellino@senate.michigan.gov  
**Cc:** Molly Wingrove  
**Subject:** Re: Solar and wind regulations removed from local government

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Mr Bellino. I did not hear back from you or Molly Wingrove. I do hope you have considered, and entered into the public record, our collective opposition to the State of MI which removes and disregards any local unit of government control from land use and zoning decisions. These critical land changing decisions need to stay at the local level with citizens input.

Thank you  
Mike Trudeau-President  
Citizens Protect Irish Hills  
Member Irish Hills Preservation Council

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Mike Trudeau <mike.cpih@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 4:03 PM  
**To:** senjbellino@senate.michigan.gov <senjbellino@senate.michigan.gov>  
**Cc:** mwingrove@house.mi.gov <MWingrove@House.MI.Gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Solar and wind regulations removed from local government

Senator Bellino

On behalf of the Citizens Protect Irish Hills and Irish Hills Preservation Council, we stand with the MTA and our citizens to oppose any law that removes local government from the decisions on where and how to accept land use and zoning.

So much misleading stuff. No, you can't farm around these arrays, that's ridiculous unless you consider small gardens using manual labor "farming". Sheep grazing? If the market for sheep & wool products in the Midwest - esp. Michigan - wasn't already oversaturated. Lots of risks and restrictions for farmland enrolled in P.A. 116 and the ag exemption. Vastly overestimated promises of revenue.

Our citizens group and our lakes council alone are over 10,000 local voters and we stand in strong opposition.

Mike Trudeau-President  
Citizens Protect Irish Hills  
Member Irish Hills Preservation Council

The legislation moves the permitting of utility-scale renewable energy facilities from the local level to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), a rate-setting, regulatory state agency with no experience in land use or planning and zoning.

In addition to the total elimination of local siting and permitting, the more egregious provisions included in a previous draft of the bill include:

- No analysis of compatibility with any existing local government land use plan
- No cap on the amount of property that could be utilized in the local governmental unit for such purposes
- Extremely limited provisions on what must be included in a site plan application—leaving requirements up to the rulemaking authority of a state regulatory agency
- No provisions ensuring inspection, compliance or enforcement with site plan or permit—allowing *minor* changes to the site plan *without approval*
- A decommissioning plan that deducts salvage value and requires a phase in over ten years with only 25% of the financial assurance in the initial years; decommissioning plans should require 100% at all times
- No local approval for fire protection or an emergency response plan
- No requirement for a local host agreement to cover costs that may be incurred by the host community such as infrastructure (roads) or public safety (fire/emergency response)
- No local government optionality—only for developer or utility
- Nullifies locally adopted zoning ordinances, including the ability for voter referendums on the issue, if the application is filed with the MPSC
- Creates one-size-fits-all regulations, treating all communities as if they are identical

MTA strongly opposes efforts to silence the voices of local officials and residents over these important local decisions, and believes the siting and permitting of renewable facilities should remain with the local community where that facility will be located for the next 20 to 50 years.

Ask your lawmakers to oppose the legislation, and stand with local communities—and residents, who believe these decisions should stay local. **The vast majority of Michiganders—more than 87%—agree that permitting for utility-scale renewable energy should remain at the local level, based on a recent poll conducted Oct. 2- 8 with more than 600 likely voters.**