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**ADVOCATES FOR SPRINGFIELD VOICE OPPOSITION TO TURBINE
PROJECTS IN LEATHERSTOCKING REGION**

SPRINGFIELD -- Advocates for Springfield has decided to oppose wind turbine projects in the Leatherstocking region. This is a change from the group's prior endorsement of reaching compromises that would mitigate the most serious problems with these projects.

The change comes as the result of a broad discussion among the group's 185 members. More than 87 percent of those expressing opinions opposed these projects.

According to Harry Levine, president of Advocates for Springfield, "We were forced to back off our prior position when it became obvious that there seemed to be no compromise acceptable to both the developers of wind turbine projects and neighbors seeking mitigations. Since proposed projects in Cherry Valley and Stark and Warren will surround Springfield, we decided that we must take a position one way or the other."

One group member warned, "If the precedent of installations of industrial wind turbines in agricultural/residential areas such as Cherry Valley, Warren and Stark is set, Springfield will be next."

"Although there was concern expressed by some members that we must make sacrifices to solve our energy crisis and address global warming," Levine said, "most were skeptical that wind turbines are going to be an effective part of the solution. This skepticism was based upon the fact that, without very large tax subsidies, these projects would not be built."

The economic impact of these projects to our regional economy is also a large concern, said Levine. Tourism, broadly defined to include vacation homes, may be threatened by these industrial projects. The proposed PILOT agreements and lease income payable to host landowners is inadequate compensation for the potential reduction in a major segment of our local economy.

Advocates is also concerned about health risks and visual impact.

Levine said, "Immediate neighbors will be asked to take risks that we believe are potentially hazardous to their health. Although these risks seem to be debatable -- with each side citing studies to support their observations about noise and shadow flicker -- we are not comfortable asking immediate neighbors to accept these possible health risks."

