Fiore-Rosenfeld's Wind Power Energy Permitting Law Creates a Balanced Process to Promote Clean Renewable Energy While Preserving Our Quality of Life

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New green energy Town Code amendment adopted by vote of the Town Board

Farmingville, NY - At a Town Board public hearing during the February 5 Town Board meeting, Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld's new law was adopted to amend Chapter 85 of the Town Code to provide regulations allowing the development and operation of wind energy conversion systems within all zoning districts of the Town. The Councilman, as Chair of the Brookhaven Clean Energy Task Force, worked with Chief Building Inspector Arthur Gerhauser and Deputy Town Attorney Beth Reilly to draft a wind power energy permitting law over the course of two years, which they shared with the Suffolk County Planning Commission Chairman David L. Calone and the East End Wind Code Team. As a result, Brookhaven's new law dovetails nicely with the East End Wind Code which was developed by the Towns of Riverhead, Southampton, East Hampton, and Southold, as well as LIPA and Suffolk County officials.

"This new wind power permitting law is a significant step forward in our pursuit of a greener and cleaner environment in the Town," said Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld, "As a strong advocate for renewable energy technology, I’m proud to have helped create a clear, permanent balanced process for wind power that protects the integrity of our communities. I’m sure we will see more renewable energy systems throughout the Town and I thank my colleagues for their support."

"This newly adopted code will provide residents and business owners within the Town of Brookhaven the capability to follow in the footsteps of our fellow East End towns by allowing for the construction of small scale wind turbines at appropriate locations. Wind turbines reduce pollution and our dependence on foreign oil and are a clean way to efficiently and economically create sustainable energy," stated Councilwoman Connie Kepert, "I have been a long time advocate of cleaner, greener sources of energy within our Town and I was happy to vote for this progressive step toward securing a clean and safe future for our community."

Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment said, "The Suffolk County Planning Commission convened a working group composed of municipalities, utility companies, industry experts and stakeholders. We researched national codes and produced a template for municipalities to use as a code to encourage small scale wind as an accessory structure or use. It is adaptable and flexible for more local conditions of each community. In short, the Suffolk County Planning Commission strongly supports the adoption of this wind code for Brookhaven Town."

Beth Fiteni, Program Manager of Renewable Energy Long Island (RELI) said, "A study released by RELI last year titled 'Clean Electricity Vision of LI,' found that Long Island can supply 100% of its electricity needs with renewable energy by 2030 with technology that exists right now. Resolutions like this, which establish reasonable guidelines for proper sites of wind turbines, help bring us closer to a clean energy future."

David L. Calone, Chairman of the Suffolk County Planning Commission said, "With Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld's leadership, Brookhaven continues to be at the forefront of the effort to create Long Island's clean energy future. I am particularly pleased that Brookhaven has adopted the 'East End Wind Code' that was recently created by a Suffolk County Planning Commission expert taskforce with the support of the East End Towns. By working together, Suffolk's municipalities are creating regulations that are sensible and consistent and that support the development of our Long Island clean energy companies and the jobs they create."

"A unified permitting process for small wind turbines makes sense and, in conjunction with attractive LIPA rebates, means that this clean energy technology will be more affordable and accessible to more people," said Gordian Raacke, executive director of Renewable Energy Long Island, a not-for-profit organization and a member of the Town's Clean Energy Task Force, "We commend Councilman Fiore-Rosenfeld and the entire Town Board for taking this important step toward a clean energy future."

Al Harsch, Energy Consultant at GreenLogic said, "GreenLogic applauds Town Councilman Steve Fiore Rosenfeld for being the first to consider the adoption of the standardized wind code on Long Island for the Town of Brookhaven."
Jane Fasullo, representing the Sierra Club Long Island and a member of the Town’s Clean Energy Task Force said, "Wind turbines can efficiently generate inexpensive electric power day or night, and when properly sited they can provide a resource that complements and ultimately exceeds the production of solar-generated electricity. Wind and sunlight are free and unlike fossil fuels, they cause no pollution and their costs do not increase."

"The needs and concerns of the community, the wind technology and the end user were carefully thought out in the creation of this code through a passionate collaboration of elected officials, LIPA, town planning experts and local wind installation companies. This code will allow local farmers, business and residents to create their own clean, cost effective power for themselves and create jobs and educational opportunities for the local community. A true Win-Wind situation."

For more information, please contact Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld’s office at (631)451-6963.

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