

**MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATION
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MAC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**In this week's update:**

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FOCUS ON WIND POWER OFFERS EXEMPTION FROM ZONING

Senate Bill 213, introduced by Senator Patricia Birkholz (R-Allegan County), serves as the Senate's vehicle for spurring an influx of renewable energy development in Michigan, has undergone several revisions since its introduction in February of 2007. In late July, the latest House version of the bill was voted down by the full Senate and sent to a conference committee in the hopes that a compromise can be reached this legislative session. When the bill passed the Senate, it contained an entire section dedicated to the creation of "wind energy resource zones", which would be areas that have been identified by a Public Service Commission created board as the best areas for the production of energy through wind power when considering total wind harvest potential. In addition, it contained language that preempted all local zoning ordinances within the wind zones for expedited siting of both the wind farms and the high voltage transmission lines used to deliver the energy to the power grid, apparently for the purpose of enticing industry. While understanding that the goal of the conferees, is to bring industry to Michigan and to put this state at the forefront as a leader in renewable energy, MAC has serious and obvious concerns with any push to usurp local zoning ordinances. Working together with the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association and the County Road Association of Michigan, MAC is hoping to limit the impact this legislation would have on local control and have offered alternative language and provisions that we hope will be considered as talks continue. This is an issue MAC will continue to keep a close eye on and continue to advocate for an amicable solution that protects both local zoning and personal property rights as the process moves forward. MAC continues to urge the legislature to adopt the Senate-passed version of language that would include municipal incinerators owned by Jackson and Kent Counties as renewable energy so they could continue to produce electricity as a byproduct of incinerating solid waste.

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