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NH Site Evaluation Committee  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive, Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Re: Antrim Wind project (SEC Docket No. 2012-01)

Dear Committee Members,

Antrim, New Hampshire, specifically Tuttle Hill, is my home. I do not have the seniority of the majority of the residents of the town, but it is still my home none-the-less. I purchased my "slice of heaven" in 2006 as the perfect spot to build a home and enjoy the raw nature and beauty of that portion of the county, state, and county. One of the primary selling points to me was the amazing view and unspoiled forest of the Northeastern edge of Tuttle Hill. In my opinion, this project will have minimal impact on these aspects and should be approved to proceed. While it is true that there is a financial benefit to me as a landowner involved with the proposed project, money had very little to do with my decision to support it.

As an employee of the energy industry for over 8 years, I have seen first hand the challenges to producing clean energy in this country. I am writing this letter while on a work assignment at a nuclear power plant on the shores of Lake Michigan. I am an avid proponent of nuclear power as a clean energy source, but I am also aware that it is not the solution to this country's power dilemma. Before working in nuclear operations I was involved as a consultant with Air Quality Control Systems for coal plants throughout North America. I was involved with the scrubber project at our own Merrimack Station in Bow, NH, as well as projects in New Jersey, Maryland, and Alberta, Canada. The fact that all of these projects required hundred of millions of dollars in environmental retrofits to help reduce pollutants speaks volumes on it's own. Fossil fuels are not sustainable and we are running out of time. With 42% of our power coming from coal (2011 data), and the failure of the Clean Air Interstate Rule, we have a long way to go to balance our energy portfolio and begin fixing some of the environmental problems we created.

Carbon sequestration, greenhouse gases, and particulates are just the tip of the iceberg. Renewable energy, in most forms, will allow us to slowly reduce our consumption of fossil fuels while at the same time ease the burden on our aging electrical grid with it's distributed generation. I have read the interconnection report for this project and while I am no expert, it sure looks like a project on Tuttle Hill would fit into the system nicely. Personally, I have installed 4kW of photovoltaics on the roof of my home on Tuttle Hill - they will face Tower #1. I think it is

very important to point out that the environmental damage caused by fossil fuel combustion for domestic electricity production will eventually destroy the forests that so many of my neighbors are concerned with saving. While this project is just a drop in the bucket to offset our insatiable thirst for kWhs, it is still a drop in the bucket. And those drops add up. I have visited wind facilities in Texas, Washington, Oregon, Wisconsin, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, California, Germany, and Belgium. All these states and countries can't be wrong. I am convinced that they are not destroying the lives of their residents. In fact, I have heard of some areas attracting a certain type of home or landowner who seeks out progressive communities that support renewable energy. My home will be the single closest residence to any of the turbines and I gladly welcome them.

I sympathize with my neighbors who are concerned with the viewshed of the potential wind project on Tuttle Hill. I remember very well the pit in my stomach when Eolian Renewable Energy approached me a few years back about the concept of a wind project on my land on Tuttle Hill. From the first time I reached the easterly summit of the hill, I had visions of a rustic cabin on the hilltop utilizing the century old fire ring that many of my neighbors and their parents and grandparents have enjoyed for years and I was concerned about losing that. But when I finally weighed all the benefits and drawbacks, the decision was easy. It wasn't about me and my land, it was about the environment and our future. I have always encouraged people to hike the area just as long as they leave it better than they find it. Antrim Wind Energy is one of the neighbors who does just that and who also encourages the peaceful enjoyment of the area.

From my first dealings with Antrim Wind back in 2009, regarding the permitting of the Meteorological Tower, they have kept the environment, Antrim residents, and local landowners a priority in their operations and plan for this project. The conservation easement I have agreed to enter into when the project is operational, will conserve over 100 acres of my property on the Northeast corner of the hill and it was entirely the work of Antrim Wind. When I voiced my concerns over the future use of my own land, they worked with me and the Harris Center to reach an agreement that was mutually beneficial for both myself and the Center. In addition to respecting my wishes regarding road placement, access controls, and many aesthetic aspects, they are assisting with the installation of a small penstock in the area where the access road will cross my stream allowing me to harness a small amount hydroelectric power on the site in addition to wind and solar. This is a company that cares about the people it affects and the places it operates and conducts business.

As a newly permanent resident of Antrim, I think about the property as a place where someday my children and their children and their children can enjoy the same lovely land I enjoy today. I have seen or photographed moose, deer, turkeys, a bobcat and many other animals and birds throughout my neighbors and my land. But this entire project has very little to do with my parents generation or even my generation. I am in my early 30's but I do realize the time to start making changes in our energy system was yesterday. While we as a society have missed the boat in a lot of ways, this project is one opportunity to do the right thing for the generations to come. The protection afforded to Tuttle Hill by the conservation aspects of this project in addition to the

environmental benefits of reduced fossil fuel emissions, economic benefits to the town, and minimal temporary disturbance to the landscape make this a well suited project for the Town of Antrim and State of New Hampshire.

The only other point I would like to make is that regardless of how my neighbors feel about their views of my land, it is still my land. It would be well within my rights to cut down every single tree on the more than 240 acres I own, stump the areas and pave a giant hopscotch course visible from space. I realize that this is a very exaggerated example, but it is still private property. To use my land for this project, with it's negligible permanent impact to the landscape, is definitely a highest and best use of the property. It is my hope that the Site Evaluation Committee realizes all the benefits of this project to the town, it's residents, the environment as well as another step closer toward NH's 24.8% portfolio standard due in only 12 years. It seems to me that the SEC doesn't just have the choice to approve this project, it has the responsibility to.

Very Respectfully,  
Michael J. H. Ott  
Antrim, NH