

June 11, 2013

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Attn: Ms. Jane Murray, Secretary
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302

Re: SEC Docket 2012-1 – Application of Antrim Wind Energy LLC for a Certificate of Site and Facility

Dear Chairman Ignatius and Members of the Committee:

Three months ago, a letter was submitted on behalf of my organization to the SEC in support of a rehearing for the Antrim Wind Energy project (the letter is enclosed below). Upon public posting of our letter, I received much feedback from citizens of Antrim and surrounding communities – some negative and some positive. Aside from a few tasteless personal attacks, I received plenty of even-tempered, well-researched letters in opposition of the project. Many of these letters cited habitat fragmentation and aesthetic damage of building industrial wind across the ridgelines of New Hampshire.

As I am not an environmental scientist, I can not personally speak to the habitat fragmentation aspects of the Antrim Wind Energy project. Having worked very closely with a number of climate scientists, however, I can speak with a great deal of confidence that, in the absence of a full-scale transition to clean energy, our global society is in grave danger of further destabilizing our climate system at an increasing rate.

In an ideal world, we could achieve our transition to renewable energy without compromising our pristine landscapes, and without upsetting the ecosystems on which members of the wildlife population are dependent. The fact remains, however, that in the face of a looming man-made crisis, we will be required to make difficult decisions that benefit the greater good at the risk of compromising the noble few.

Please consider this letter as support for a rehearing of the Antrim Wind Project.

Kind regards,

Mike Bellamente, Director, Climate Counts
Chad Butson, Director of IT, Sheds USA
Becky Holt, Assistant Director, Green Alliance
Alex Freid, Executive Director, Post-Landfill Action Network
Ben Trolio, Development Associate, Brighter Future Planet
Brian A. Giles, P.E., Resident, Lee, NH
Thom Davis, Resident, Thornton, NH

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perCent

Fiona Wilson
UNH Whittemore School of Business and Economics

Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

Re: SEC Docket 2012-1 – Application of Antrim Wind Energy LLC for a Certificate of Site and Facility

Dear Chairman Ignatius and Members of the Committee:

We, the undersigned companies, organizations and citizens of New Hampshire, are concerned about the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee's ("SEC") recent denial of a Certificate of Site and Facility for the Antrim Wind Energy (AWE) project in Antrim, NH.

As residents committed to having New Hampshire assume a leadership role in developing clean, renewable sources of energy production, it is imperative that projects such as this are given due consideration that is consistent with prior precedents and current industry practice.

We care deeply about our natural environment and the anticipated effects of climate change on our economy, our communities and the natural capital that is unique to our state. We support clean, renewable energy due to the many benefits it can bring our state and our region by improving air and water quality, reducing CO2 emissions and reducing the amount of damage done by the extraction, processing and transport and combustion of the fossil fuels that currently power our economy. We also support the economic development benefits that these projects can bring to our state as well as the long-term, stably priced power that will benefit us all.

We view the recent decision by the Site Evaluation Committee to deny the Antrim Wind Energy project a certificate based on relatively short-term (and subjective) visual impacts to be flawed and myopic. It departs from earlier precedents set by this committee related to the aesthetic impacts from wind energy projects, discourages much needed investment in this area and seriously frustrates clear state policies designed to encourage renewable energy.

All energy projects carry a degree of undesired impacts, and we understand the charge of this committee to evaluate whether those impacts exceed acceptable limits. What is deemed palatable or reasonable, however, needs to be viewed in the context of our current energy and climate challenges, which pose the greatest risk to our long-term security and the integrity of our ecosystems.

After 11 days of evidentiary hearings and three days of deliberations, we understand this Committee found that the project would not have unreasonable adverse impacts on the natural environment, air and water quality or public health and safety. We also understand that the Applicant has committed to embrace the measures listed below as a means of minimizing impacts to the surrounding landscape. .

- AWE has entered binding agreements to permanently conserve large tracts of forested land
- AWE has committed to use innovative technology to eliminate night time lighting on turbines
- AWE has reached agreements with the Town of Antrim, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Harris Center for Conservation Education.

In light of these factors, we strongly encourage the Committee to reconsider its decision and carefully evaluate all of the relevant facts and evidence to ensure that the Antrim Project is held to the same standards as previous wind projects before the Committee. Otherwise, the Committee risks setting a new, disturbing precedent that we believe will seriously jeopardize future investment in renewable energy development in New Hampshire.

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*UNH Whittmore School of
Business and Economics*

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Thank you for your attention to our request; we appreciate your consideration of our views.

Respectfully Signed,

Mike Bellamente, Director, Climate Counts