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Ms. Jane Murray, Secretary
Site Evaluation Committee
Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Ms. Murray:

It is my understanding that Timbertop Wind I has petitioned the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) to take jurisdiction over a proposed 15 megawatt wind energy facility to be located in the towns of New Ipswich and Temple, thus eliminating local jurisdiction.

The committee should know that the New Ipswich ordinance governing wind energy facilities was written after seven months of research by a thoughtful, competent Planning Board which considered the best available scientific evidence. Furthermore, the people in our conservative town, after careful deliberation, voted to accept the ordinance.

It seems to me that if the legislature intended the State of New Hampshire to establish wind farm standards, it would have done so. Surely, there is no reason to take away local jurisdiction, to override local zoning ordinances. Besides, I understand the SEC is not required to take jurisdiction for a 15 MW facility.

If the applicant objects to local standards, there is a well-established judicial process under New Hampshire law to seek relief. The petitioners may appealing to our ZBA and if necessary to a Superior Court. There is no reason to take away local jurisdiction: local boards are perfectly capable of hearing the Timbertop Wind I application. What will be gained by taking jurisdiction away from towns? In our instance doing so will burden two small towns with tremendous costs that we can ill afford.

It is my hope that the SEC will direct the Timbertop Wind I applicants to the place it belongs: the towns of New Ipswich and Temple.

Sincerely,

Marcia Ober
Former Selectman