

Thu 3/28/2013

Ms. Murray and members of the NH SEC;

I am writing in support of the petition presented by the NH House of Representatives Science, Technology and Energy Committee requesting the SEC to adopt rules establishing comprehensive procedures and siting criteria for applications for certificates for wind-powered energy facilities. I can not attend the hearing in Concord at 9am on Friday, but please give this written testimony the same weight it would have if presented orally in person.

I will not repeat the points already presented in the petition, as I do agree with them, but would also like to add some of my own.

As an addition to the current process laid out in RSA 162-H it should be mandatory for the committee members to visit the proposed site in person. This "field trip" should be open to all interveners to attend as well, so their insight and concerns can be expressed to the committee members at the time and place where they will have the most impact.

It would also serve the committee and the residents of New Hampshire well to deny applications immediately when the town(s) that would be effected have any ordinance in place that would make such energy facilities illegal or have already voted against such projects during annual town meetings. With New Hampshire being such a large energy exporter, it can be assumed that all proposed new energy projects in the state are elective and therefore should not usurp citizens rights to "live free." The ability for corporations (or LLCs) from Spain, Portugal, or Germany to make money (whether it's from our tax dollars and subsidies or just from sales in a free market) should NEVER be more important than the ability of our own citizens, home owners, taxpayers and voters to be able to earn a living and enjoy the natural resources in OUR state. I understand the strain put on the committee members as well as the corporate folks looking to build new energy facilities in New Hampshire to export to other New England states and this would save all involved a lot of time and money.

Lastly, in the interest of public service and keeping our taxes as low as possible, I believe it would behoove all involved if the Site Evaluation Committee would charge an application fee large enough to cover the committee's costs for the extensive process needed to properly weigh all necessary information required to make intelligent and fair decisions regarding such project proposals. In this same regard for keeping our taxes from being jacked up due to these foreign corporation's desire to profit from state and federal incentives the committee should always include members of the impacted communities to be on the committee with full voting rights throughout each numbered docket as volunteers.

I do appreciate the work you all do and was encouraged by the committee denying the Antrim Wind proposal as it showed you truly do hear the public concerns expressed and do not just "rubber stamp" each application as some have said is done. Please continue to consider the rights of Granite Staters and the importance of our natural resources to our lives, our livelihood and the tourism dollars that our budgets rely on.

Thank you for your consideration,

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