

From: Bret Longgood [BLonggood@riverbendcmhc.org]
Sent: Saturday, October 01, 2016 4:22 PM
To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: TIME SENSITIVE INPUT INTO SEC consideration of Antrim Wind proposal

Pamela Monroe, Administrator
NH Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit St, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Monroe

Please accept my comments in this email as input into the SEC process which will be entertaining public comments on the Antrim Wind application on Monday, October 3rd. I am writing as a NH Citizen and former resident of Salmon Brook Rd, Antrim NH. I moved to this state from NJ in 1975 and resided on Salmon Brook in Antrim as a property tax paying citizen for approximately 30 years. I chose to move to that specific location because of the protections offered by the zoning ordinances and the quality of life afforded by having no industrial intrusions, visual or auditory. I felt that I had the force of regulations if not law on my side, and I invested significantly in money, effort and time for decades as I upgraded my property and raised a family. I specifically paid public service of NH for 5 years for the cost of putting powerlines in to my home, with no usage costs covered in that amount. I reveled in what I thought of as the NH quality of life, experiencing peace, quiet, wildlife, and ample outdoor activities. All the years that I paid property taxes I believed that I was investing in the future for my family. I put 40 acres of my land in Current Use and hired a forester multiple times to comply with regulations and upgrade the forest. If I, as a tax paying citizen, had to comply with regulations, why should a private corporation be able to circumvent regulations in in order to generate profit? For what reason should they get dispensation for following regulations when hard working, tax paying citizens must comply? Who is the regulatory system here to protect?

What is happening now is nothing short of a travesty. People have made informed choices to purchase and invest in property in an area protected by zoning ordinances. Now a corporate interest with no track record of successfully achieving this magnitude of initiative seeks to generate income at the expense of the public trust, and local officials, some of whom have clear bias if not an outright conflict of interest are willing to roll over and turn a deaf ear and blind eye to the destruction of wildlife habitat, quality of life, and sacred stewardship role that preserves the very essence of what has made NH special. I object to this for multiple rational reasons as well as ethical and aesthetic considerations. From a legal and regulatory perspective, it is not consistent with the oversight role of a public commission to allow special interests to circumvent formal commitments made to local citizens in exchange for the empty promise of prosperity. The irreversible costs and damage must be weighed against the potential benefit, and within the context of the ethics and legality of throwing aside the protections and dependability of the State of NH that have historically made it more desirable to live in that other places in the country.

In closing I would like the commission to be aware that my father, William Longgood, a Pulitzer Prize winning author of many books wrote extensively about the beauty, peace, tranquility and quality of life in New Hampshire, and in particular the property on Salmon Brook Rd. He was the original purchaser of this property and sold it to me, believing in his heart that he was investing in the future. He trusted in the strength and integrity of NH regulations, local and state including zoning ordinances to protect what he so strongly believed in. If he was alive today, he would be devastated to think that these sacred values would be sold down the river for corporate profit and the empty promise of local property.

Sincerely,

Bret Longgood