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**Sent:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016 1:38 PM

**To:** Monroe, Pamela

**Subject:** Antrim Wind

November 16 2016

To: SEC Chairman Scott and Sub-Committee members.

I would like to offer my input into your consideration of approving the Antrim Wind Project. My name is Gene Bank. I live in Bridgewater NH at a location about 7 miles south of the Groton Wind Project. I am 60 years old and was a Geography Major in college. Although I am well versed in Geography, Meteorology and Climate Change I ended up as a photographer for my livelihood.

Several years ago when Industrial Wind was just coming to New Hampshire I was actually in favor of such projects. Who could be against a renewable energy resource when the United States was so dependent on foreign oil? Although I strongly believe Climate Change is a real problem I was not knowledgeable on the details of wind power here in New England. As Groton Wind went through the approval process I became very involved with learning the pros and cons of industrial wind in NH. I quickly learned that while large wind projects maybe viable in open, flat rural areas of the Great Plains the cons well outway the pros in our area. Over the last 10 years the energy needs and resources in the United States have greatly changed.

Specifically speaking in New Hampshire we now have data that show that wind resources are far less than we originally thought. Although there are many reasons why I now feel that large industrial wind is not a good idea for the state, one area in particular has become very relevant. We knew that large turbines would have a huge visual impact in the immediate area that they would be built. I am sure you have heard more than numerous times for local landowners how turbines have visually changed their lives. What I didn't realize is how vast of an area 400 foot turbines can destroy. One of the most important aspects New Hampshire has to offer is its scenic, unspoiled landscape. People visit and spend money in this state to enjoy this wonderful natural resource. As a photographer that takes many pictures up here in the lakes region I now realize that the Groton Wind farm has destroyed the views of the mountains and ridgelines for an area of about 25 miles radius of that site. It is an amazing amount of real estate that use to have unbroken views of the White Mountains and now has rows of turbines on high mountain ridgelines. For the next generation or two this pristine view is now lost. From south of Newfound Lake to the Cardigan Ridgeline to the Southern Whites and over to Rt 93 the rural country

unbroken vistas are gone. The rows of turbines can even be seen all the way east to Lake Winnepesaukee. I am guessing an area of at least 20 by 20 by 20 by 20 miles around that project has lost this precious natural resource, the pristine landscape, hundreds of square miles. The same will happen with Antrim Wind. It is a huge loss to the people of New Hampshire. Is the positive gain equal? Most all current research shows it is not. Please, please reject this application before a large swath of Southwest New Hampshire suffers this same ill fate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gene Bank

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