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Mr. Thomas S Burack, Chairman
Site Evaluation Committee
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, Box 95
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Chairman Burack:

I am writing to request you to oppose the Granite Reliable Power LLC (GRP) wind generation park in the Coos County.

As you are probably aware, the Phillips Brook Tract was attempting to get federal funding under the Forest Legacy Program in 2006. Several environmental organizations thought this unique wilderness area should be preserved for the future. Unfortunately, New Hampshire's senators were unable to obtain the funding. Shortly after the rejection of funding, the property was suggested for wind tower development by Noble Environmental Power (NEP). I routinely hike and spend time outdoors in this pristine area, and have been open-minded about the development of wind towers. I recently decided to oppose construction of wind towers in this area for the following reasons.

For some time now, there have been numerous articles in the local papers focusing on a "Grand Brand" for the Great North Woods. The purpose of this endeavor was to focus Coos County as a world-class tourist destination. This plan has been initiated by the Northern Community Investment Corporation with funding from the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (NHDRED). I fail to see how NHDRED can support the wind towers when it is supporting "Grand Brand." I believe leaving the Phillips Brook Tract intact and undisturbed fits better with attracting tourists and outdoor activists into the area than wind towers.

I am not convinced that the proposed high-level mitigation plan agreement affecting threatened and endangered species is in the best interest of the affected species. Because this property abuts Nash Stream State Forest, and is a corridor for wildlife travel between White Mountain National Forest and points north, I believe it should be left undisturbed. I also believe biologists missed finding evidence of some other rare species. I believe the testimony and opinions of outside independent biologists to be more accurate than the opinions of those hired by GRP.

I am also concerned about the integrity of GRP and NEP. I have talked with Pip Decker on several occasions and have attended several meetings regarding the project at various town halls. On these occasions the firms and their representatives seemed open and honest. I have even worn NEP T-shirts and ball-caps on occasion. Recent developments, however, have made me question the honesty of these firms. I question their integrity when they try to throw out or disqualify the testimony of opposing wildlife experts. Like the ones they hired have no bias? I also question their financial ability.

According to a financial expert (James Sundstrom) hired by the state Attorney General's Office, Granite Reliable Energy has neither a financing plan nor the capability to fund the project on its balance sheet. As of September 30, 2008 the expert stated Noble had a high debt-to-equity ratio, "Currently NEP has limited ability to raise additional debt or equity funds for this project in the market." GRP has not presented any specific financing plan and identified sources of equity funding. It is unclear how GRP will begin financing the project in May 2009 as stated by its attorney. Noble has put one project on hold in New York State.

I was concerned about what prompted the New York State's Attorney General to investigate NEP's activities. Jack Sullivan's letter of January 19, 2009 answered that question.

The letter of Kathlyn J. Keene, January 5, 2009 and the letter of Jeffrey W. Elliot, February 9, 2009, go into far greater detail as to why the license for this project should be rejected.

I moved to Coos County from Michigan in 2003. Had I been aware of how local and state politicians are willing to turn the county into a state cesspool I would have relocated elsewhere. These woodlands represent one of the last, largest areas of natural forests in the northeast. It is what brought me here. I believe it holds greater value in its present natural state than would be generated by the construction of wind towers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and honest assessment of the permit application.

Sincerely,


Ray Hopkins

P.S. It would have been far more courteous to hold the hearings on this application in the county affected. I guess the representatives of the people are unaware of nationwide economic problems.