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Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 1:01 PM

To: Thomas Meiklejohn; The.Secretary@hq.doe.gov; NIHinfo@od.nih.gov; llinowes@windaction.org; Drew, Tim

Cc: rumneysel@roadrunner.com

Subject: Groton Wind Farm

Gentlemen,

I wanted to voice my support of the proposed Groton Wind Farm. I live in the area and my home on Newfound Lake and will have a view the southern turbines of the proposed project. I was geography major in collage and have extensive background in meteorology and climate issues. Because of my training I have a strong belief that mankind has to find new clean renewable energy sources. I believe anyone with any training and knowledge in energy usage would agree with me.

I am not associated with Iberdrola and have nothing to personally gain in their proposed wind farm. I of course would rather look at Tenney Mountain and not see turbines but realize what the responsible thing to do is to support this project. I recently attended a meeting in Rumney, New Hampshire to discuss the project. While there were people in attendance that were very vocal and firm on their opposition of this project the biggest applause of the evening was after a gentleman spoke in favor of the wind farm. His reasoning was that it is the responsible thing to do and has far less affects on the environment and people than continuing to burn fossil fuels. I agree with his reasoning.

I would like to address a few of the concerns that I heard.

- 1) The turbines will be noisy. I have visited wind farms and I disagree. The turbines are surprising quiet. The nearest house to the proposed facility is about ½ mile away. I was closer than that and I could hear no noise. One must remember that on a quiet, still summer day the turbines will not even be moving. Highest winds are during the winter when the ambient noise is greater with wind blowing through trees. Additionally, during the colder, stormier months people tend to be more indoors with their windows closed. I do not believe noise to be a factor at all.
- 2) Illness due to wind turbine syndrome. I actually had never heard of this. There currently over 60,000 turbines in operation. I spent some time and searched the internet and there seems to be very little to substantiate this claim. The Groton site is very remote and the population living close to the site is extremely low. The project is on a very steep slope so even if turbines emit low-frequency vibrations those vibrations would seem to radiate horizontally outward and not downward into more low lying areas.
- 3) Visual impact. Any wind farm is going to have a visual impact. In the case of Groton wind the biggest impact will be in the west side of Plymouth along Tenney Mountain highway. Groton wind has proposed 3 lines of wind turbines. There will be five turbines south of Route 25 in Rumney. They will be most visible from certain locations in Rumney. Five more will be located south of those on Fletcher ridge. These are more remote. The longest and most visible line of turbines will be on Tenney Mountain. Those will be very visible along Tenney Mountain Highway which is mostly a commercial area. Unlike cell towers many people find wind turbines much less visually distasteful. I vacation in Hawaii frequently. This past fall I returned to one of my favorite resorts in Wailea, Maui Hawaii. Since my last visit Maui constructed a 20 wind turbine farm visible from many places on the island. They are very

visible from many of the resort sites. I asked locals what they felt about the project and many said that before the project was started they were worried about tourism and the visible impact. Since completion locals told me their fears were unfounded. Currently there are plans to double the size of the wind farm and there seemed to be little opposition. At the Rumney meeting a few people worried that the turbines will drive away tourism. I find that totally unfounded.

There is little debate from a global perspective that we have to find alternative clean renewal energy. Compared to oil, coal and nuclear power generation, wind has a much smaller impact on the environment. Construction of a wind farm is far safer than extracting coal and oil or generating electricity by nuclear reaction. Just in the past two months we have lost many lives in the coal and oil industry and a current environmental catastrophe is now happening in the gulf.

As with any energy project there will always be people who will say "what is in it for me?". I believe the silent majority feels that we have to stop being selfish and start doing the "right" thing. Wind farms providing clean, safe, renewable energy is one of those "right things". In New Hampshire, we can not build wind farms in the high mountains as it is too windy. We can not build them efficiently in the low lands in the southern part of the state. Here in Central New Hampshire we have the right balance of height and winds with very little human impact. Tenney and Fletcher ridge is a perfect place for a wind farm as it has a north south ridge that captures the prevailing west and northwest winds.

I am sure you are going to hear over and over from the vocal few who will raise every possible object to this project. I believe that the vast majority of people living in this area are in favor for Groton Wind. No wind project will ever be perfect but the benefits of providing green renewable energy to 20,000 -50,000 New Hampshire homes will far out weigh any negatives from this project. Please keep the big picture in mind.

Thank you for your time.

Gene Bank