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To: Site Evaluation Committee, New Hampshire

Re: Groton wind farm project

Dear Sirs,

Save the Eagles International has been made aware of the presence of peregrine falcons in the area targeted by the Groton wind farm project.

We are concerned for the lives of these birds, which are protected under federal legislation. Peregrine falcons, like other raptors and most other bird species (bats too), happen to get struck by the fast moving blades of wind turbines. These appear to be moving slowly, but at their tips the blades can travel as fast as 180 mph on windy days. The appearance of slowness fools the birds: the result can be seen in this picture from a wind farm near Bilbao, Spain:



*Two peregrine falcons killed by wind turbine, Spain*

In the State of Brandenburg, Germany, a record is being kept of bird victims that are brought to the authorities, and whose death can be attributed to wind turbines. The problem is that only a tiny percentage of all bird strikes are being reported. It is estimated that wind turbines in Germany kill well over one million birds each year:

[www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=1875](http://www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=1875)

and about twice as many die from the new powerlines that connect them to the national grid: <http://www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=3717>

But on the records kept by the State of Brandenburg, one can find only 1251 birds reported over 7 years. **It is significant, however, that in this minuscule percentage of reported bird strikes we find 4 peregrine falcons:**

[www.iberica2000.org/documents/eolica/bird\\_mortality/Mortality\\_statistics\\_Germany.xls](http://www.iberica2000.org/documents/eolica/bird_mortality/Mortality_statistics_Germany.xls) (line 38)

Bird mortality at windfarms is a hot topic, so hot that everything is being done to keep the real statistics out of view from the public, from the planning authorities, and from governments in general. Reports are being tampered with, e.g. [www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=1223](http://www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=1223) Bird societies sign multi-million-dollar contracts with the windfarm industry (e.g. Massachusetts Audubon for monitoring the windfarm offshore Cape Cod), or receive outright donations from them (e.g. SEO/Birdlife in Spain), or make money by renting their names to endorse a product ("RSPB Energy", RSPB being the UK's Royal Society for the Protection of birds, and the product being "green electricity"). They would therefore be killing the golden goose if they were to speak up against bird strikes at windfarms. There is an exception: the American Bird Conservancy → <http://www.salem-news.com/articles/december292010/american-birds.php>

Ornithologists are caught in a similar conflict of interest, as their biggest employer is the windfarm business. They thus become complicit to the cover-up. Here is an example:

<http://www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=4382>

Only a handful of them rebel against the massacre of birds perpetrated by wind turbines and their power lines, but their voices are not being reported by the media, political correctness oblige.

Save the Eagles International was created to defend the birds because their heretofore advocates have largely been silenced by a conflicting interest: money. The first thing we denounced is the systemic corruption which

consists in trusting windfarm developers with the preparation and edition of environmental impact assessments: **This is tantamount to putting the fox in charge of the chicken coop.**

To make sure ornithologists are not tempted to speak up, the developers who hire them have found a legal way to muzzle any potential rebel:

1) - the reports prepared by ornithology consultants become the property of the developers the minute they are handed over to them. **This gives them the power to edit the parts they don't like.** All they have to do is fire the consultant and hire another ornithologist to sign the edited report.

2) - there is a **gag clause** in the contract: the consultant can be sued if he makes public any of his findings.

These two legal tricks ensure that 100% of bird impact assessments are favorable to developers. But sometimes there is no need to resort to legal shenanigans: the wind industry has been buying environmental consulting firms outright. Here is an example:

<http://www.amec.com/page.aspx?pointerid=c858b9e3c1d548b4b12f14534a9d124b>

In other cases, some consultants have produced such a number of reports favorable to the wind industry that there is no need to be worried: the outcome of their next assessment is known in advance.

## CONCLUSION

In the circumstances, Save the Eagles International wishes to warn the Site Evaluation Committee about the misleading nature of environmental impact reports dealing with windfarms.

The Groton windfarm, if built, will not only kill the peregrine falcons that breed in the area: it will also act as a black hole, a population sink for transient falcons and birds and bats of other species.

For one thing wind turbines attract raptors:

<http://www.epaw.org/multimedia.php?&article=b2>

<http://www.epaw.org/multimedia.php?&article=b3>

[www.iberica2000.org/documents/eolica/PHOTOS/blade\\_perching.jpg](http://www.iberica2000.org/documents/eolica/PHOTOS/blade_perching.jpg)

[http://www.iberica2000.org/documents/eolica/PHOTOS/red\\_tailed\\_hawk\\_perched\\_on\\_nacelle.jpg](http://www.iberica2000.org/documents/eolica/PHOTOS/red_tailed_hawk_perched_on_nacelle.jpg)

They do that for a number of reasons:

<http://www.iberica2000.org/Es/Articulo.asp?Id=4242> → see ANNEX (A)

They also attract bats, which are killed in even greater numbers (where they occur) than birds: [http://savetheeaglesinternational.org/?page\\_id=466](http://savetheeaglesinternational.org/?page_id=466)

Back to the falcons: once the resident pair has been killed, their territory will become vacant. Transient birds (e.g. young peregrine falcons yet unattached) will attempt to claim it as their own. They will get killed in turn, which will cause other falcons to claim the territory, and so on. As elsewhere in the world, the Groton windfarm will have become an ecological trap for falcons and other birds.

Sincerely

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President, STEI

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