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To the SEC:

I am absolutely appalled that you chose to deny Antrim Wind Energy's application solely on "aesthetic grounds" (your phrase). I find that an extremely frivolous reason. I am also horrified that you chose to listen to a tiny group of extremely vocal people who were upset that (according to them) "their view" or their property values would be adversely impacted.

Apparently it is perfectly acceptable for us to continue to have fossil fuel byproducts belching into the atmosphere, ultimately destroying the view anyway; dropping acid rain on the "pristine" environment of our ponds, lakes and streams; destroying habitat for the trees and animals, and ultimately killing those ponds, fish, moose, trees and everything else in the area that these people say they want to protect. Never mind what it does to people! New Hampshire is going to have to use a variety of alternative sources, but the one thing we do have in quantity is wind. We must strike a balance between preservation and conservation and this country's insatiable - and growing - need for electricity, and we have to start somewhere. I see this project as a good (albeit small) start. If everyone were of the "not in my back (or front) yard" opinion, nothing would ever change and we will continue to destroy the environment at an even faster pace.

I believe that this decision was certainly not farsighted and did not take into account the wishes of the vast majority of Antrim residents, as evidenced by the 2 resounding NO votes on proposed ordinances. In addition, the opinions of non-residents, individuals and organizations, no matter how well intentioned, should have no place in this decision-making process. Their opinions should not even have been considered - they do not live or pay taxes in Antrim.

In addition, the landowners of the property where the windfarm would be situated have the right to do with their property as they wish. This is New Hampshire after all - does the phrase "Live free or die" have no meaning? It seems to apply only when it suits people. How happy would anyone be to the idea of a 30 or 60 house development on Tuttle Hill? The landowners could do that.

I urge the SEC to reconsider its ruling and allow the establishment of the windfarm in Antrim.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn R. Chisholm