296 Poor Farm Road New Ipswich, NH 03071 (603) 878-0814 main (603) 562-7140 cell



February 16, 2013

Jane Murray, Secretary

NH Site Evaluation Committee New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services 29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095

DES/DWGWB

**Dear Committee Members:** 

I am writing to offer my opinion regarding the jurisdiction for the permitting of a proposed large scale wind energy project in the towns of Temple and New Ipswich, known as Timbertop Wind.

As an engineering consultant and also a resident of the Town of New Ipswich, I have had the opportunity over the course of the last 3 years to work with Timbertop Wind, and have presented site plans and a design review to the New Ipswich Planning Board on their behalf. I have also attended hearings regarding proposed zoning revisions for wind projects in both the town of New Ipswich and Temple.

Based on my experience during these hearings, it is my professional opinion that the State of New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee would be the most appropriate body to evaluate the application for this project, for the following reasons:

- The obligation to satisfy multiple boards in multiple towns creates a confusing and sometimes conflicting set of demands that are likely to place an otherwise viable project in permanent limbo.
- Wetland crossings will inevitably be required for access to the proposed turbine sites, and the zoning regulations and processes for permitting these crossings differ markedly between the Towns of New Ipswich and Temple.
- I have witnessed the zoning revision process in both the town of New Ipswich and the town of Temple. I am not confident that the latest revisions have been established objectively, and according to properly peer reviewed studies. I am also concerned that

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there are many provisions in these ordinances that are arbitrary and may be open to subjective interpretations. To the extent that any provisions of these ordinances happen to be consistent with current best practices in large scale wind project siting, I am confident that the State Site Evaluation Committee will be capable of dispassionately assessing that fact and will no doubt give those aspects great deference.

I thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jahrand L. Rogen

Edward L. Rogers, PE, LLS