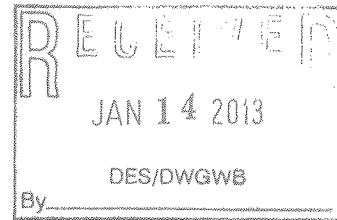


Dear Timothy Drew:

Re: Two proposed wind turbine projects



First let me introduce myself, I am a 37 year resident of Alexandria. We bought our Cardigan Mountain Orchard farm in 1975, with 72 acres 3 acres of which was a run down orchard and a 1700's cape that needed major restoration. While having a 33 year teaching career my wife and I restored the house , built 8,000 feet of farm buildings cleared 25 acres of field which now has 1000 apple trees and increased our acreage to almost 400 acres. We have three adult sons that are taking over this farm which is why we just bought and restored an old country store in Bristol. Our desire was to enlarge our business by planting more trees and expanding our Bristol store. In 2009 we were awarded New Hampshire Farm of Distinction by Governor John Lynch.

It is our estimation that 75% of our business is from seasonal Newfound area tourists which include visitors to Newfound Lake, and Cardigan State Park and the AMC lodge which is located just 1 1/2 mile from us. Although the proposal for these 454' wind towers running south of Cardigan known as the Wild Meadow project has been in the works for several years, we only found out about it in September. Now in December, there is another project on the mountain ridge north of Mt. Cardigan which abuts Cardigan State Park and the AMC club and will I believe sever many of the 50 miles of trails. We have spoke of these proposed projects with our customers and they have said that they come to our hilltop orchard and the Newfound area to enjoy the pristine views and not dozens of five story towers. We have had a wedding at our vista point and had hoped this would be a way to expand our business by using our property to host weddings. Our views are one of our biggest assets. I couldn't believe that my lifelong work and my hope of handing the farm to my sons was in jeopardy. This would not put us out of business but I believe would irrevocably reverse our growth potential and make it extremely difficult to pass the farm on as a business that could support us.


When my wife and I graduated from college we could have settled down anywhere. We chose this rural farm in the Newfound area as one of the most beautiful places we had ever seen. Lempster, Groton, Danbury, and Grafton although beautiful little towns are not the tourist destination spots as is our Newfound area . We have a true gem and the tourists know it as it is becoming more popular every year. Newfound Lake is probably the best example of a glacial lake in the east being the deepest running north to south and the tall mountain ranges all around it. As reported in the New Hampshire Sunday News, Newfound Lake was the only lake in New Hampshire selected in a poll of the best small lakes in North America, according to a U.S.A. Today poll released in late summer. In her book "Around Newfound Lake", Janice Hugron Harvey writes "this pristine lake is spring fed and is rated as one of the cleanest bodies of fresh water in the world. It cover an area of 4,106 acres, has 22.24 miles of shoreline, and is 183 feet deep".

These two wind turbine projects are an assault on the region as it will effect the economy, land values, potential growth, tourism, recreation and the ecology of one of

the cleanest most pristine lakes in the country and the very popular Cardigan Mountain State Park. Already just to the north and seen from Newfound Lake is the currently operating Groton Wind turbines, so more would be devastating.

It should be brought to your attention that never have we seen such a politically diverse group of people unify in opposition to these two projects..... from the most conservative (many who were in favor of the northern pass from the beginning) to the most extreme liberals. I've never been an activist, however this issue strikes against everything I've worked for and the great joy I have in this region. I understand the need for alternative energy sources and I am in favor of generating power ourselves to rid our dependence on foreign oil but there are better places for these in areas that are less sensitive both ecologically and economically.

Please, please help us preserve our way of life and the business we have worked so hard to build as well as the beauty and natural resources of the Newfound area.

Sincerely, 

Stephen and Nancy Bleiler
1540 Mt. Cardigan Rd.
Alexandria, NH 03222