

January 14, 2013

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Representative David Borden  
Chairman, N. H. House of Representatives  
Science, Technology, and Energy Committee  
P.O. Box 167  
New Castle, New Hampshire 03854-0167

Re: CALL FOR MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF WIND FARMS

Dear Representative Borden:

We wish to voice our support for the immediate establishment of a moratorium on all proposed commercial wind power projects within the State of New Hampshire.

Many of our part-time local governments have been caught flatfooted in dealing with the magnitude of the potential impacts of these projects that are suddenly being pushed forward, seemingly as the result of an international effort to immediately capture potentially acceptable sites. This is especially true here in the Lakes (and adjacent mountain) Region where the pristine environment is the primary calling card that impels vacationers from both near and far to visit us and support the local economies with their recreational dollars. Should we be trading off our only economically viable natural resource (tourism based on our natural beauty that lies within a day's drive of the major metropolitan areas here in the northeast – both in the United States and Canada) which happens to support many in the Lakes Region for the development of a wind resource that only benefits a few (mainly foreign entities)? Even if it were that all the financial benefits were captured by only a few locally, we suggest the tradeoff would still be deemed unacceptable.

It is evident that the magnitude of the towers and turbines (500' or so) has surpassed anything that local governments had ever considered probable or even possible. As a result, we feel strongly that the impacts on tourism in this area are not being effectively addressed and should be.

In her inaugural address, Governor Hassan voiced her love of the "...unmatched natural beauty" of this state. She continued by stating that, "We see it in the mountains that

tower over the North Country, in the lakes that freckle our state, and in the rocky shores and sandy beaches of the Seacoast. We see it in every town and city. The awe-inspiring beauty of our natural resources is critical to our hunting, fishing, and tourism industries. It attracts business and entrepreneurs to New Hampshire. And it is critical to the quality of our daily lives". In closing, she said, "Let's choose to remember what a gift it is to be citizens of the Granite State."

We (and many others) are very concerned that, among other issues, these aesthetic items are not being adequately considered as we try to deal with these proposed projects. When one hears directly from project manager proponents that the only potential sites that are being, or will be, considered are those that lie along the ridge lines that surround our lakes (thus making them highly visible), local residents can and should be very concerned. In fact, we have an acquaintance from New Jersey who, when he first saw the view of Iberdrola's turbine towers on the south end of Tenny Mountain last summer, said, "That sure looks like what I would envision Golgotha (place of the skull) would have looked like when Christ was crucified"!

In addition, all the more commonly voiced issues such as health (both human and wildlife), environmental, and economic, are of sufficient concern that the Kincardine chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women has recently reviewed those issues as relate to development in the Lake Huron area and as a result called for a moratorium on the approval of wind turbine projects until the development of necessary scientific research and implementation of national standards and regulations are met. (Please refer to their resolution entitled "Moratorium, Research and National Regulations Needed for the Site Placement of Industrial Wind Turbine Developments".)

The piece-meal nature of these proposals in any given area (in this case, the Newfound Lake Region) causes us strong concern. The process does not allow for the evaluation of the magnitude of problems that may result from potential approval of multiple projects, which in the isolation provided by the current approval process will not allow. It would certainly go without saying that a single small project's approval would not have the impact that a number of such projects within a limited area would have. This oversight needs to be addressed. Meanwhile, we feel that it would certainly be prudent to foster the idea that multiple local governments which are dealing with a common proposal should be given the opportunity to coalesce their concerns into an area-wide plan (perhaps on a watershed basis).

Many of these issues could be addressed with the utilization of current SEC guidelines if they were referenced without the caveat that precedes the listing. This caveat softens the listing by stating that appropriately sited wind power projects will have certain characteristics. It does not state that if such characteristics are not met in their totality, the project will not be approved. We feel strongly that it should be reworded to provide that level of protection.

We wish to thank you for your consideration of our concerns through the implementation of a moratorium on the approval of wind turbine power projects in New Hampshire, until

such time that the various issues are adequately addressed and standards or regulations are implemented. Let's agree that the trade-off of our only broadly beneficial natural resource for the development of wind technology that benefits only a few is not a good deal for NH, especially when New Hampshire is not in a situation that additional energy development here is currently necessary.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

*David Goldthwaite*  
David Goldthwaite

*Andrea L. Goldthwaite*  
Andrea Goldthwaite

Cc: Governor Hassan  
Senator Shaheen  
Senator Ayotte  
Congresswoman Shea-Porter  
Congresswoman Kuster  
Senator Forrester  
Representative Suzanne Smith  
Members of the Governor's Council  
DES Administrator Drew  
Selectboards of Hebron, Groton, Alexandria, Bridgewater, and Bristol