

Wed 1/23/2013 3:24 PM

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**From:** Jörg Christian Stroop [mailto: [REDACTED] ]

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 23, 2013 2:39 PM

**To:** Drew, Tim

**Subject:** WG: Letter of Opposition to Planned Wild Meadows Wind Farm Project

Dear Mr. Drew,

following our phone conversation just minutes ago, I am attaching a letter of opposition to the planned Wild Meadows Wind Farm project for the attention of the NH Site Evaluation Committee.

The letter was originally sent to the selectmen of the Town of Grafton as well as local NH senate and house representatives, but my wife and I as signatories feel it important that it is also brought to the attention of the NH Site Evaluation Committee as the key decision making body re. the approval of the project.

Thank you for your efforts,

Yours truly,  
Mikaela & J. Christian Stroop

[REDACTED]

Grafton, January 22nd, 2013

Grafton Board of Selectmen  
Ray Burton, Executive Councilor  
Jeanie Forrester, State Senator  
Catherine Mulholland, State Representative  
Harold Reilly, State Representative  
Jeffrey Shackett, State Representative  
(all via e-mail)

Expression of Opposition to the Planned Wild Meadows Wind Farm Project

Ladies and Gentlemen:

With this letter, we would like to express our opposition to the Wild Meadows Wind Farm project, as well as to other large-scale industrial wind installations for the state of New Hampshire.

It is not good and sustainable policy to advance one societal objective (the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity generation) to the detriment of other equally important objectives: such as the avoidance of other pollution types (visual, noise) and the preservation of central New Hampshire's largely undisturbed natural habitats, woodlands, mountains and ridgelines. These are integral to the character and environment of all of New Hampshire and important to its residents and visitors.

A holistic assessment of this project is called for, especially since simple, less intrusive and more effective alternatives are available to achieve lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions goals. These alternatives are known and range from the development of a more conscious energy consumption pattern on the part of the consumer, to improved home insulation, to use of photo-voltaic, to less energy-intensive appliances and house heating/cooling systems etc.

A sustainable, future-oriented energy policy should focus first on easy-to-achieve consumption reduction and should be simultaneously consistent with the character of the region, which for central New Hampshire is represented in its small-town rural nature and the beauty of its natural environment. Small-scale, local energy generation offers plenty of opportunity to meet renewable energy objectives that also fit with and support the region's character and sense of place. It is also more conducive to achieving energy security for New Hampshire residents.

Large-scale wind power, in its industrialized form, is not appropriate for our state. While large-scale wind energy generation clearly has a role to play in the nation's future energy.

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generation mix, there are other, more appropriate locations (first and foremost off-shore installations) better suited to such large, industrial installations without the negative environmental impact and rude change to New Hampshire's rural character and iconic mountain ridgelines. One does not have to destroy - or severely negatively impact - the rural environment and character of a region valued by locals and tens-of-thousands of visitors from near and far to achieve the state's renewable energy objectives.

Finally, the potential economic benefits of the project to the local economy are insignificant and do not support the *long-term strength* of our local and state economies. Virtually all the economic benefits will go directly to the wind installation operator and a few large landholders that will collect steady, long-term lease income. Locally, less than a handful of new long-term jobs would possibly be created and the marginally higher local tax revenues that could result are more than outweighed by the negative impact that such installations will have from subsequent property tax abatements, as well declining tourism revenues and property prices.

In summary, investment in clean energy generation is needed and desirable. But let's do it in a smart way that is compatible with the region's character, supports our local and state economies for the long-term and does not impose such blatant and visible externalities as the proposed industrialized Wild Meadows Wind Farm would do: to the ridgelines of our region and to New Hampshire's communities.

We are hopeful that you will take into account and fully assess the economic, environmental and social impacts as you enter the decision making process for the project and that you will also come to similar conclusions as we have as to the appropriateness of such installations in central New Hampshire.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stroop", with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian Stroop

[REDACTED]