



# TOWN OF BRISTOL

230 Lake Street, Bristol, NH 03222

March 15, 2013

*Thomas S. Burack, SEC Chairman*



The purpose of this letter is to express the Bristol Planning Board's position regarding the proposed construction of two additional wind farms in the vicinity of Newfound Lake and Mt. Cardigan. At a meeting on March 13, 2013, the Board voted unanimously in favor of a moratorium on the certification of any additional large scale wind farms in New Hampshire until a comprehensive set of guidelines can be developed to guide the Site Evaluation Committee. We feel certain that under any reasonable set of guidelines, the hilltops and ridges in the Newfound/Cardigan area will be deemed to be unsuitable for further development of this type. The principal reasons we take this position include:

- Visual Impacts and Tourism: Construction of the 24-turbine Groton Wind Farm has demonstrated the high visibility of 454-foot tall turbines even at night because of the FAA-mandated warning lights. Beauty is said to be in the eye of the beholder, but it would be hard to argue that the landscape is enhanced by these towers and blades. Any additional wind turbines could potentially impact tourism, which is based to a large extent on enjoyment of the unspoiled natural beauty of the area.
- Appropriate Land Use: While the total area occupied by the towers and access roads may be relatively small, the buffer zones needed to allay potential noise problems are huge. Some uses such as logging would not be highly affected, but the sound and sight of these huge turbines would have a severe impact on uses such as hiking and cross-country skiing which we feel are more appropriate than wind farms in these pristine areas.
- Fairness: We recognize that the development of renewable energy sources is a laudable goal, but fairness demands that the negative effects of such development be shared among the beneficiaries. The concentration of scores of additional wind turbines on the hills and ridges surrounding Newfound Lake could diminish land values and surely would have a disproportional impact on the residents of the Newfound/Cardigan area, who would not even be the primary users of the power generated.
- Lack of Public Consideration: Since the development of wind farms is a relatively new phenomenon, it has received very little of the public's attention until recently. State law gives the Site Evaluation Committee some oversight power, but the adequacy of this process is questionable and needs to be revisited. Once these towers are erected, they are likely to remain for 20 or 30 years at a minimum. Since there is no urgent need for the

*"Gateway to Newfound Lake"*

power they would generate, it only makes sense to take a “go-slow” approach until all of the issues surrounding wind farms can be thoroughly explored.

In summary, the Bristol Planning Board joins the Bristol Board of Selectmen, the Newfound Lake Region Association and numerous other groups in opposing further wind farm development in the Newfound/Cardigan area. We support creation of a moratorium on the certification of any wind farms until all of the issues surrounding their development can be thoroughly explored and a comprehensive set of siting guidelines can be established. Thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely,  
Bristol Planning Board