

From: David Gunther  
49 Braley Hill Road, Alexandria, NH 03222

To: New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Members

Date: November 7, 2013

Re.: **my opposition to the Iberdrola wind turbine plans - a personal, social and economic perspective**

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing to express my strong dismay about the proposed placement of the Iberdrola wind turbines in Grafton County, New Hampshire, and to appeal for your support in preventing their construction. A summary of my relationship to the matter follows, then a short discussion.

*Forty five years ago* my father and grandfather started taking me to visit New Hampshire. From the age of six, I hiked its trails, camped in its mountains, and dreamed about someday building a secluded cabin by one of its idyllic rambling brooks.

*Twenty five years ago* I met the woman who would become my wife, who – lo and behold - had this same dream.

*Six years ago* my wife and I began searching for a parcel of land on which to build our cabin.

*Three years* into our search, after trekking to and considering innumerable not-quite-perfect parcels throughout the region, my wife and kids and I eventually found our home, near the foot of Braley Hill, overlooking Patten Brook, in Alexandria, New Hampshire.

*Two years* of work were required to clear land, to drill a well, and to design and build our home, overlooking a wooded natural panorama unmarred by even a single artificial light or made-made structure.

*One year ago*, overjoyed about the fulfillment of our childhood dreams, our family moved in.

*Until recently*, a number of my family members in Massachusetts have been considering building second homes near ours in Alexandria.

All in all, creating our dream-home involved *several years of effort and a cost to us of well over a quarter million dollars*. And all was perfect - until just a few months after we moved in we learned that all the very while we were purchasing our property, and putting our heart and sweat and savings into building our dream there, Iberdrola was secretly in the process of destroying it.

Iberdrola took advantage of the Alexandria community's small-town tradition of relying on communication and cooperation, rather than government regulation, to promote civil harmony, fairness, and a life of beauty for its residents. Iberdrola, aware of the likelihood of opposition to its plans, stealthily gained control of mountaintops overlooking the community members living in the town's lowlands, including the valley in which we were building our home.

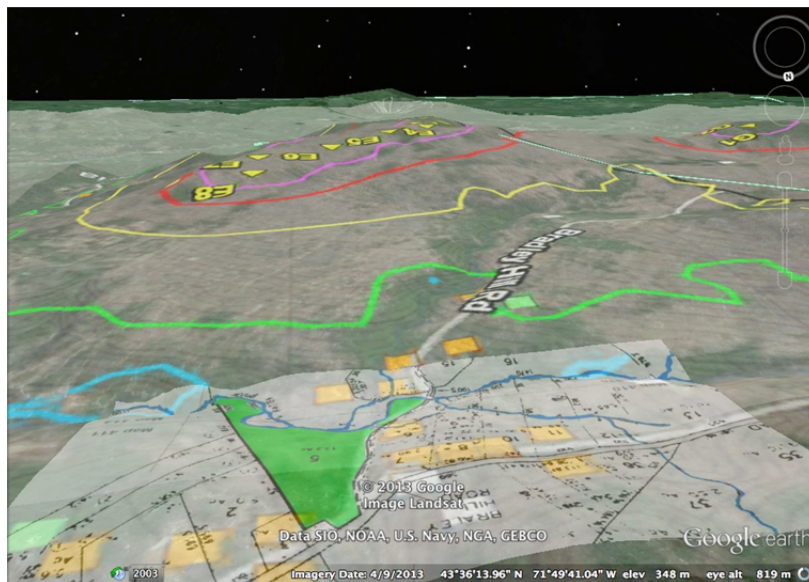
There is no way to minimize the impact that these moving whirring flashing towers will have on us, given their positioning in relation to our home. If we had any idea of there being even a chance that a company were planning to build gargantuan wind turbines directly above the site of our home we would never have purchased land and built there. As it is, we will never be able to recover our investment. And my wife, and kids and I will probably never have the dream home in the woods that

was 45 years in the making. *Legal or not, Iberdrola's approach to acquiring control of those mountain tops resulted in a direct loss to us of years of work and hundreds of thousands of dollars.*

I am not a lawyer, so I cannot comment on the strength of any case we might have for compensation for our losses. I am also not a regulator or an environmental expert, so I cannot speak to how Iberdrola's plans may breach any rules or impact the ecology. But as a resident and tax payer, I can assert that there must be opposition to Iberdrola's plans if only on the basis of there needing to be a message sent that companies cannot so easily profit by taking advantage of our great local traditions of communication and cooperation.

*Until New Hampshire and its small towns have a chance to build the zoning and other regulatory frameworks to protect it from corporate predations, unchecked maneuvers of the sort that Iberdrola has demonstrated will surely destroy the social fabric of our communities and in some degree their economic vitality.* At the very least, my family and friends will not be investing in the area if Iberdrola's plans are allowed to go forward. Iberdrola might tell us that when buying our property we were foolish not to heed the maxim "caveat emptor" – *let the buyer beware.* This would be an admonishment for me to take to heart in the next life. But for Alexandria and New Hampshire I believe Iberdrola's maneuvers call for a response that demonstrates that the region is in fact a safe place in which to invest - safe for investing money, sweat and heart, where in doing so people are not be exposed to excessive, and socially and economically useless risk.

The image below was created using Google earth by overlaying Iberdrola's own depiction of where their enormous turbines would be located, as well as a land parcel map. Turbine sites are marked by yellow triangles. Our property on Patten Brook is in green. The road running across the lower right corner of the image is Washburn Rd. The view is toward the south. The turbines would stand imposingly on the peak about as tall as Brailey Hill is high about its surroundings.



Thank you for considering my perspective and my appeal.

Regards,

David Gunther