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My name is Dennis Cashman. I live in Bridgewater, New Hampshire. I want to express my gratitude for incorporating the public's input into the siting criteria. I presented testimony to the SEC earlier in March in regards to siting criteria for areas of Scenic Resources of State or National Significance (SRSNS). The impetus behind this is to protect our precious scenic resources, the main driver of our robust tourism industry and private home sales in these areas.

I am a PhD - degreed management consultant and college professor, teaching doctoral and Masters level leadership and management programs. My interest in Scenic Resources in the State of NH began 35 years ago when my wife and I first discovered Newfound Lake.

Today, I would like to make a simple recommendation that would improve the validity of visual aesthetics data supplied by the wind developer. I urge the committee to require that all photo simulations of wind turbines are depicted with face-on turbine blades with blue sky background, especially when ridgeline installations are being proposed. In photo simulations within areas of scenic resources, unobstructed views should be submitted whenever possible. After all, tourists seek the best weather days and unobstructed viewpoints that reinforce their willingness to return year after year to enjoy these scenic vistas. Owners of private land within scenic areas design and develop homes that maximize these unobstructed natural scenic vistas. Both tourists and owners of scenic homes make significant contributions to the New Hampshire economy with vacation dollars and local and state taxes.

I have included a comparison of two pictures where the relative heights of the turbines are approximately the same. In the top picture, the Antrim visual assessment shows the turbine blades face-on, depicting the full height of the towers relative to the height of the ridgeline. It would be useful data for the SEC to know that the wind turbines take up half the height of the visible ridgeline. Depicting simulated turbine blade motion in the visual assessment would be an even more helpful requirement in the SEC criteria. Now, in favor of the Applicant, the SEC must imagine the blades spinning, robbing the attention of the viewer over the beauty of the natural scenic vista. Below that picture, the Wild Meadows visual assessment removes the blades from view with a stated rationale that the prevailing wind always blows from the north. This data is misleading and inaccurate. The third picture is a magnification of the turbines, showing that the blades have been removed from view. In some other submitted pictures by the applicants, well known scenic and tourist vistas around Newfound Lake inexplicably used large trees and buildings to block the view when a few steps to the left or right would have shown the scenic views that tourists and homeowners pay a premium to enjoy. The paid testimony of Big Wind has historically depicted these inaccurate and understated visual assessments in favor of an SEC-approved application. I simply ask that the requirement of face-on turbine blades against a blue sky background that is unobstructed within scenic areas be a stated requirement with the SEC criteria.

Dennis Cashman



