

From: Larry Goodman [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2015 10:00 AM
To: Murray, Jane; Wiesner, David K
Subject: SEC Rulemaking Docket 2014-04-Public Interest

Dear Ms. Murray, Attorney Wiesner & Members of The SEC,

Thank you for all the time and effort you are putting into Rulemaking.

Nine towns in the Newfound/Cardigan region have recently voted on any more wind projects. All nine have resoundingly rejected any more turbines in our region with huge voter turnout and an average of 3 to 1 {or better} margins.

So, the public in our region is well aware of the many issues and problems cited in this letter from an Indiana County Commissioner.

Groton Wind has apparently been an educational experience for the Cardigan/Newfound/Mascoma region.

Like many people in NH, across the country and around the world, Commissioner Harper has evidently learned the hard way that her life, her family's life and her entire county has been irrevocably changed for the worse by the unrelenting impact of forty and fifty story noisy red-strobe blinking turbines.

"Public interest" should include the views of the public who will have to live with the irrevocable and irreparable impacts of turbines that Commissioner Harper describes here.

**"Due consideration" is a bit nebulous in my opinion; but town votes, town zoning ordinances and the safety and welfare of the people who live in those towns should, I trust you'll agree, be "considered" above all else in determining the "public interest."
These are all very tangible and indicate "public interest" with no ambiguity.**

Lessons like the one Commissioner Harper has painfully learned have also evidently been learned in NH. Those nine {of nine} town votes speak very clearly.

Please make sure that "public interest" in the new rules specifically includes the public who will have to live with these forty and fifty and sixty story turbines as "neighbors" for thirty years. Our views and our votes should count; and they are very very clear.

Thank you again.

Larry Goodman

<http://www.huntingtonccc.org/content/tipton-county-indiana-commissioner-voted-for-wind-farms-now-lives-with-regrets.html>

Tipton County Indiana Commissioner voted for "wind farms",
now lives with regrets

"If I had this to do over, I would NEVER enter into an agreement with any wind company now that I know what it has done to my home community."

Posted 3/15/2015 | HCCC Webmaster



NOTE: The following letter was written by Jane Harper, Tipton County Indiana Commissioner from 2009-2012. In addition to dedicating part of her life to public service, Jane is also a farmer. She originally wrote this letter to warn the Howard County Indiana officials about the many pitfalls of wind energy development, but it's message is equally applicable to Huntington County as well. It is being sent to you, in it's entirety, with her kind permission.

This letter was also read directly to the members of the Huntington County Plan Commission on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, by HCCC Attorney Steven Snyder. Huntington County Commissioners Larry Buzzard and Rob Miller were also in attendance, and heard this letter read into the official record.

Dear Howard County Commissioners and Council Members;

I am writing to you all as a former commissioner colleague who aided in the negotiations and agreements with E.ON Climate Renewables with Tipton County in 2011. From the onset, I was open to windfarm development in a small section of Tipton County because the commissioners had received no opposition and I felt that the landowners wanted it. My own family was offered an opportunity to lease land to E.ON and we declined because my husband did not care to farm around the towers, and I just didn't want to look at them. I set my own personal views aside and made decisions based on what I felt the majority of the public wanted. I was outspoken enough, however, to say that I would never support a plan to cover a large portion of the county with wind turbines. As it turned out, the problem was that when the decisions were being made to build "Wildcat I", the commissioners were not hearing from the "majority". People really did not know this was happening, or if they did, they did not perceive it to be as "invasive" as it was. As you know, public notices are small and often overlooked in the newspaper, so not much resistance was present.....until the towers went up, and people saw how enormous and intrusive they were. The red blinking lights even disturb my own summer evenings and my home is 6 miles from the closest tower..... !!!! You don't have the time to read what all I could tell you, so in a nutshell I just want to say that I wish I had the knowledge then that I have now. However, what I *can* do, is to try to pass some of what I know onto the elected officials in the neighboring county so that perhaps you can gain some wisdom from what I learned in the school of hard knocks.

In Tipton County.....my 83 year old mother is mad at me (since I signed the agreements) because she no longer has colorful birds coming to her feeders.....my brother's view from his family dining room table used to be a vast expanse of crops and natural habitat.....now that pristine 'vista' is forever marred by giant metal structures.....neighbors hate each other.....back and forth letters to the editor have been selling papers for over a year now.....families are torn apart,,,,, and because the physical presence of the towers will be there for 30 years, these relationships will never be repaired. In short. . . this has become an issue that has divided our community like no other.

It has torn our county apart. The May, 2014 primary election is evidence that the majority of the voters supported candidates openly opposed to wind farm development and an incumbent commissioner was voted out of office due to his unwillingness to listen to the majority on *any* issue, including wind.

If I had this to do over, I would NEVER enter into an agreement with any wind company now that I know what it has done to my home community. I am not proud that my name is on those documents. The wind company has breached *many* parts of the agreement, but insist that their failures are "minor". Their field representative is arrogant and cavalier in his attitude toward the people who are suffering with the effects of the noise and flicker.

You can't lose something you never had.....so you are not "losing" the supposed 'windfall' of money that the project purportedly brings in. What you WILL lose however, cannot be

measured in dollars. You will lose the rural landscape as you know it and you will lose the closeness of "community spirit" because people will hate each other over this and *the presence of the towers will always be a constant reminder of the rift*.....thus the wounds will never heal.

Please consider this: What do you think of a company that KNOWS it has fierce opposition from a segment of the Howard County citizenry, but would STILL want to build in your county? It is akin to forcing themselves onto you when they KNOW they are not wanted by those in the project area who would be affected by their presence and are receiving no compensation for the change in their environment. How much of a "community partner" would they be when they really don't care about the wishes of the people?

I don't know anything about which "facts" are true and which "facts" are false with regard to property values and personal health issues. But what I **DO** know as fact is this: Any issue that has become so contentious that it has caused large groups of people to assemble and vehemently oppose it. . . . and which has caused so much heartache and angst among the citizenry just cannot be good for the whole. I do not feel that Tipton County will ever wholly heal from the deep personal wounds incurred by many from the placement of wind turbines in our county.

I will leave you with this last piece of wisdom from someone who has "been there, done that".

As an elected official/public servant. . . . if you must go forward with approvals that allow wind farm development . . . and thus you *become the reason* a wind farm was built in Howard County. . . it will be a decision you will regret the rest of your life.

You will join *me*.

Jane Harper
Tipton County Commissioner 2009-2012