

To: Meredith Hatfield, Director, NH OEP

The Appalachian Mountain Club, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Conservation Law Foundation, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and The Nature Conservancy sent a letter with their suggestions for siting criteria. On page 18 of that document, under the section "Municipal views" they request that the SEC be required to consider affected towns and cities. I'd like to take that concept further and ask that the siting guidelines require a vote of all registered voters of any potential host town. The results of those binding votes should then be the first and foremost thing for the SEC to consider. No town should be forced to be an unwilling host and this would help keep the SEC from being overwhelmed by months of acrimonious testimony and letters to post and file.

Article 1 of the New Hampshire state constitution states that "all government of right originates from the people, is founded in consent, and instituted for the general good." Therefore I'd like to remind you that each of the member's of the SEC are required to protect our constitutional rights as Article 8 points out that "all power resid(es) originally in, and derive(s) from, the people" you are "at all times accountable to (us)." It is imperative that these unneeded energy projects that are clearly, to the public, only proposed for rapacious corporate entities to increase profits at the expense of our natural resources as well as the taxpayers and citizens, be considered in light of Article 28-a: "The state shall not mandate or assign any new, expanded or modified programs or responsibilities to any political subdivision in such a way as to necessitate additional local expenditures by the political subdivision unless such programs or responsibilities are fully funded by the state or unless such programs or responsibilities are approved for funding by a vote of the local legislative body of the political subdivision." Article 28-a clearly gives the SEC the authority to require town votes be attained prior to accepting applications for all energy projects, but most especially for those not needed to keep our own lights on here in New Hampshire.

Several times since the Wild Meadows industrial wind turbine project was first revealed to our unsuspecting towns I've written to Governor Hassan. Each time I get a version of a form letter in response signed by Robert Dittman from her office. The same lines appear in them all; we must "strengthen our system for evaluating energy projects, while recognizing and respecting the time, energy, and investment that many businesses have already made in submitting proposals for new energy projects in our state." Why is the most consideration given to businesses wishing to destroy our natural resources because of an "investment" rather than the residents, taxpayers and voters of New Hampshire? If the folks in Concord believe the lobbyists deserve to have stable business practices in our state, but don't care for the small business owners that are already here or the existing homeowners, residents, taxpayers and voters, rest assured we can and will replace them. Who will continue to fund all the programs, your very jobs, if you drive all the taxpayers away because it was more important to have a stable business environment than a stable living environment?

A \$5,000,000 investment by a multi-national, multi-billion dollar company is a pittance compared to what we, the people, have invested here. We've invested everything we have in the past, present and future of this state. We've invested every dollar we have in our homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, roads, industries, farms, everything! Our hearts and souls are here and will remain here for generations to come. Do not make the mistake of believing the dollar value of a corporate investment is worth more than the dollars, blood, sweat and tears of the people. We deserve recognition and respect for our time, energy and investments that have been made to live, work, play and enjoy our homes, yards, parks, streams and lakes. A town vote would determine whether a project has community consent well before any company vests their interests in places where they are not wanted.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kudlik