Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: Scott Hoffman [scott.hoffman@polarisind.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 4:46 PM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM)
Subject: Parkers Prairie Wind Energy Opposition

Dear Mr. Birkholtz,

I am writing this email to express my concern and opposition to the proposed wind energy farm in Parkers Prairie. I was born and raised in Parkers Prairie and spent 20 years of my life there. I've always taken pride in my home town, especially when out-of-town family and friends comment on how nice of a town Parkers Prairie is and how quiet and beautiful of an area to raise a family. This past December my wife and I purchased property about 1 mile west of town on Lake Clarno to build a home within the next 3-4 years. As you can imagine I'm not real excited about looking out over our lake and staring at a large wind turbine which is proposed to be erected only feet from where we intend to build our future home. How am I going to get compensated for having to deal with that noisy eye-sore? Now I am considering selling the property if these ridiculous things are allowed to be built, and potentially stay in Elk River, MN where we currently live. As you know, these turbines are large, loud, ugly and non-beneficial to the local economy. Even more, they don't benefit local residents or create any jobs. The only people to truly gain from these going up are those individuals who are trying to get this approved. Please don't allow my beautiful hometown skyline to get cluttered with these noisy wind turbines. Thanks for your consideration.

Opposition to Proposed Wind Farm/ Prairie Wind Energy Issues and concerns include but not limited to:

- Access roads that interrupt parcels/fields
- Inability to use aerial spraying for crops
- Loss of farm revenue that in turn creates job loss for local farm employees
- Possibility of eminent domain for transmission if a utility contracts with PWE
- Significant land value deflation
- Significant property tax loss
- Decreased population and in turn decreased tax revenue
- Potential for levy or referendum to maintain public schools
- Increased utility rates
- Loss of hunting access/privileges
- Destruction of wildlife habitat
- Reduction in ability to build habitat and reforest
- A power purchase agreement has not been established at this time. What do the utilities know that is keeping them from signing on? It's not a good area for wind!
- Proposed federal budget cuts may reduce or eliminate subsidies currently in place to support wind energy leaving the proposed project incomplete
- Recession weary citizens cannot bear the burden of more subsidies on unproven initiatives
- At least 3 Bald Eagle nests are clearly visible within the footprint, while the biologist will likely report more these 3 are clearly visible by the public simply from the road right of way
- Health concerns as covered under recent scientific studies including but not limited to sleep deprivation and insomnia as well as negative effects tied to noise and shadow flicker
- The special segment that aired on Fox 9 on Sunday May 8 is a perfect example as to why this proposal cannot move forward as proposed
- We are asking that the PUC to consider at least a 2500 foot setback from any property line with this and all future wind farms in the state of Minnesota
- We will pursue any and all legal action available to us starting at the county level if this program moves forward as proposed

- Stearns County and Goodhue are currently pursuing increased setbacks as you know and this litigation will cost already burdened Minnesota tax payers even more
- Spread out over too large of an area
- Socialized risk and privatized reward
- Aesthetically imposing, the turbines will detour tourism

Thanks,

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