Birkholz, David (COMM)

From: Bobbi Duberowski [bobbi.duberowski@midwestbank.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:24 AM
To: Birkholz, David (COMM)
Subject: Proposed Wind Farm/Prairie Wind Energy

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

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