

Email received 3/24/15 for the 3/24/15 Public Hearing on Renewable Energy Siting

Comment submission to Natural Resources and Energy Committees on siting energy projects.

I am Robbin Clark and live near Kingdom Community Wind project in Lowell. I am a concerned citizen of Vermont. I submit this comment on behalf of the Lowell Mountains Group. I would hope others submitting will be transparent and forth coming to whom they work for or represent. I know at many other hearings the developers bring in their posse to stack the deck against the neighbors.

Many members of the Lowell Mountains Group (LMG) have traveled to Montpelier numerous times to engage in various issues regarding siting. This is meant with no disrespect but honestly these hearings feel more like a dog and pony show and it appears to be a waste of time. We have attended and testified at legislative committees, attended the energy siting commission meetings, participated in the sound standard investigation workshops, participated in PSB proceedings regarding the noise violations of GMP's Kingdom Community Wind (KCW) project. The issues still go unaddressed. NOTHING EVER HAPPENS.

The LMG has spent thousands of dollars on experts to testify at the technical hearings for KCW; to have the PSB dismiss their testimony. We were told that there would be no noise or health issues living next to these industrial parks and now we know this is not true. GMP has already bought out two home owners and the Therrien family from Sheffield has had to abandon their home; with no compensation. In May last year at a hearing in Morrisville some people told the PSB they hate their homes now. The process is not user friendly and favors the developer; millions have been spent to defend our rights and the end result is the same the project is approved by the PSB. And after the project is built there is no recourse for the neighbors when a problem arises.

We the neighbors are asking for legislation to protect us and our property rights. As far as industrial wind projects go; we need at least a two mile set back depending on the turbine size. Neighbors that are within the sacrifice zone of these projects should be compensated for the devaluation of property values. The developers should also be required to buy out those neighbors in the sacrifice zone who wish to relocate. This would be as simple as having legislation requiring the developer to carry an insurance policy for this purpose. The deal would be simple. Anybody who wants to be bought out gets bought out. No gag order, no questions asked. If you're in that zone and you

want out, the developer has to have set in place a mechanism to enable that to happen. They write it off as a cost of doing business, and depreciations are a benefit of these types of financial deals.

Placing wind turbines at high elevation is not the answer to climate change. We need to preserve our intact eco-systems to protect against climate change. How many ridgelines or farm fields can we destroy before we see an undue adverse effect? How many streams or wetlands can we fill in; how many birds and bats have to be killed or displaced before we see cumulative damages?

I most recently spent time in Florida and much to my surprise I did not see one solar panel in what is know as the sunshine state; I did travel at least one thousand miles by car while there. What I did see was a state that is not addressing climate issues. I saw new construction, new highways, new condos, development after development. It was even difficult to find recycling being done; bottles and cans just went into the trash. I point this out because Vermont has done her part and until other states step up our efforts will go unnoticed. As we flew into Burlington you could already notice that Vermont's landscape has changed; we could actually see the huge solar installation near the lake; more farmland eaten up by development in the name of green energy.

Thank you for your consideration and taking comments,
Robbin Clark