From: Merrylyn Sawyer
To: Todd, Fred
Subject: Bowers Wind Project - DP#4889
Date: Sunday, March 11, 2012 10:48:34 PM

Hello Fred,

I am once again writing to urge the Land Use Regulation Commissioners to once and for all deny a permit to First Wind for the Bowers Mountain Project.

LURC has been pushed this way and that way and every which way by First Wind. Now I"d like to see the citizens of Maine be offered a little 'push' power to LURC and see that LURC bends for the Maine people, not for First Wind yet again.

First Wind had a date in December to present its application. LURC turned this application down and it should have been final then. First Wind was given to March 9 to revise their plan for the wind project to make it more scenically acceptable or however LURC bent and gave in to a modification.

Now, here it is March, and First Wind is crying yet again. Boo hoo....First Wind, according to themselves, was not given enough direction and detail by LURC to allow them to have a revision ready at this time.

I, as I know many Maine people feel, cannot see that LURC could be any more accomodating. I do not understand why First Wind was even given an opportunity after the December deadline to make revisions. LURC needs to learn to make a decision and stand by it. LURC denied First Wind's application in December. This I assume was in response to the many communiques you received from Mainers saying it would ruin the landscape in Washington county.

Well, any towers will ruin the landscape in Washington county. I just realized two nights ago, driving home after dark here in central Maine, that coming down the hill of which I live at the bottom, I can see a row of red lights from wind turbines on a far away mountain top. I have not looked at a map yet to see which wind farm this is that is scarring the night sky here in Wayne, but I am not happy about that.

People from all directions and for many miles would be affected if a wind farm were to be allowed on Bowers Mountain. During the day one group of people would see the ugliness from one direction. Another group will be affected by the flicker on sunny days and possibly from the incessant hummmmmmm. And, at night, people for perhaps one hundred miles would see a string of red lights. This is unacceptable. Please, let us leave at least one portion of the state unspoiled.

Where is the sense of place in Maine? Where, I ask? There is light pollution most everywhere. There is noise pollution from these turbines if you live close enough or downwind. There is flicker on sunny days. Can we not, please, have one huge expanse of beauty that is not tarnished by bulldozers, roads up mountains, erosion, the hauling of several thousand yards of gravel into a previously unspoiled habitat?

The destruction a wind project brings with it is almost worse than the 20 years the damn towers and turbines will run. The destruction is forever. If a good decommissioning is outlined on a wind project and then followed twenty years later,

the grading and the destruction of the native plants and animals is all changed forever. A greater power than us made these mountains in Maine. What gives us the authority to bulldoze them flat for lay down areas and to pour Olympic -sized swimming pool bases?

I ask, what right do we have to dump hundreds of yards of gravel upon a mountain? Have any of you ever built a new home and had a contractor bring in gravel for an access road? Well, I have. And in with the gravel came a plant called tear-thumb. So called because the silicone barbs do tear your skin when you try to uproot the rapidly spreading species. Who knows what species will be introduced into the mountain habitats and ecosystems when the roads are built and the lay down areas are graded and filled with gravel?

And the miles and miles of H-towers are a disgrace. These towers have no place in Washington county. Please, leave as much of Washington county unspoiled as we can. We don't have much natural beauty left in Maine. Most of the mountain ranges have been damaged in our over -eagerness to go green. We're not really going green, but we're made to think we are.

Well, don't 'go-green' with a wind project on Bowers Mountain. When my grandchildren come along I want to be able to take them to one place in Maine where there are still quiet lakes and ponds with little to no sign of man looming over or around them. I want to be able to climb a mountain and in a 360 degree view take in only nature. This opportunity is getting more rare by the day here in Maine.

Baldacci's Wind Task Force was supposedly given the guideline to keep the sense of place of Maine in mind in any decisions about wind. Unfortunately, that's an oxymoron. There is no sense of place once a wind project is constructed. The sense of place is gone and all that remains are lots of roads that are wider in many places than I-95 and much smoother than most secondary roads in Maine. I'm curious where all the fragile topsoil gets dumped that is removed to give these access roads such a good base of gravel. What a travesty.

Please deny First Wind's application to construct a wind project on Bowers Mountain. Deny it once and for all. Deny it permanently. No revisions, no future dates - nothing. Rule now that the permit period is over and there is no more opportunity to apply to construct a wind project on Bowers Mountain.

Thank you. Please support the wishes of the people of Maine. Please.

Merrylyn Sawyer
Wayne