From: Tracy Allen
To: Todd, Fred; Gary Cambell ...; Kay Campbell; Kevin & Marie Gurall
Subject: Bower"s #4889
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:42:03 PM

3/21/12

- To: Frederick W. Todd, Project Planner
- LURC
- 22 State House Station
- Augusta, ME 04333
- Fred.Todd@maine.gov
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- From: Tracy Allen
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Dear Mr Todd,

I am writing in reference to LURC's upcoming votes on Bower's Wind Project #4889. I hope that the commissioners will: 1) vote to deny Champlain Wind/First Wind's recent request to withdraw the permit on April 6th and 2) Vote to deny the permit at the meeting on May 4th.

Having been involved in this from the start (our home abutted Bower's mountain), it feels like FW has controlled and manipulated this process from Day 1. The whole review/ permitting of Industrial wind projects is an overwhelming responsibility/ amount of work and LURC has gone out of their way to assist the company. Most recently, the commissioners granted FW an additional 90 days to develop and present a project which would have a less negative impact on the scenery. This 90 day extension resulted in a document submitted by their attorney; Juliet Browne - that did nothing more than list a number of excuses why they could not/ would not offer LURC an alternative plan; ending in yet another request – to allow them to withdraw their permit and resubmit at a later time.

The document focused the blame on LURC for not giving them clear guidance regarding scenic impact, not making it clear how important user surveys were in their decision making process and how changes in the panel of commissioners affected the vote.

In this letter, FW mentions having a possible alternative that would have a less negative scenic impact; but with the excuse that they were financially not able to commit to it right now (apparently that is the PUC's fault for delaying the vote on the merger) and the possibility that the change in make-up of the panel of commissioners did not make it reasonable for them to resubmit at this time (If I was a betting woman – I would put my money on them hoping to withdraw the permit until LURC has been relieved of the responsibility of evaluating/ permitting Industrial Wind Projects in 'unorganized' townships and that responsibility has been turned over to the DEP).

This is just another ruse by FW to get what they want; and in this case it was

something that the commissioners had already voted to not approve. Please put the natural beauty of the Downeast Lakes region first; and not this companies desire to ‘put an industrial wind project on every hill’.

Thank you

Tracy Allen