From:	Mark Norton
To:	Todd, Fred
Subject:	ChamplainWind/Bowers Mountain Project
Date:	Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:19:37 PM

Dear Sir,

I have been opposed to LURC's granting approval for this project since inception, and remain so for the following reasons:

-Mountaintop wind power in Maine is the biggest economic and environmental scam since ethanol. When factoring in the total environmental degradation from constructing industrial wind farms, there is little or no net gain.

-This will be of little or no benefit to Maine people. After initial construction, there will be few long term jobs for locals. Benefits will only accrue to out of state developers and utility users in southern New England. With Maine already having a power generating surplus, Champlain Wind needs to objectively and empirically demonstrate a real need for this power in Maine (other than their own enrichment).

-Aesthetics and visual impact MUST be given a HIGH priority in this permitting decision. Look at Kibby Mt., Mars Hill, and Stetson Mt. Any honest and sane person would admit that these are monstrosities and are examples of environmental desecration of the highest magnitude.

-When the subsidies stop, (as they surely will at some point) these projects will all stand as bankrupt monuments to greed and stupidity. As such, the permitting MUST require surety bonds, or the establishment of multi-million dollar trusts to allow for the inevitable need for deconstruction of theses sites, and mountaintop and forest restoration. Before any permits are granted, funding MUST be required in full. No superfund, no permit- that simple.

-This project does not represent the highest use of this land, and is actually an economic detriment. A 2006 Brookings Institute study identified Maine's truly unique and priceless international brand, and warned Maine to avoid sprawl in order to protect its "quality of place" and unique "brand". This, and similar projects run counter to that economic wisdom.

Here is a chance for LURC to do something that will benefit Maine for generations to come. Be bold, be courageous, and DENY a permit for this project.

Thank you,

Mark F. Norton
New Gloucester, Me. 04260