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Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

Public Hearing Concerning

Development PERMIT DP 4889

Champlain Wind, LLC

Bowers Mountain Wind Project

Carroll Plantation, Penobscot County

Kossuth Township, Washington County

Tuesday, June 28, 2011

Volume III of III

Held at Ella P. Burr Elementary School

Lincoln, Maine

Don Thompson & Associates

Court Reporting

1 (This hearing was taken before Angella D. Clukey,
2 Notary Public, at the Ella P. Burr Elementary School,
3 Lincoln, Maine, Tuesday, June 28, 2011, beginning at
4 6:05 p.m.)

5 * * * * *

6 MS. HILTON: Good evening, everyone. I'd like to get
7 started with this hearing. My name is Gwen Hilton. I'm
8 the commission chair and presiding officer for this
9 hearing. Members of the Commission and staff who are
10 here -- I'm going to have them introduce themselves,
11 starting with Toby on my left.

12 MR. HAMMOND: I'm Toby Hammond from Naples, Maine.

13 MS. HORN OLSEN: Samantha Horn Olsen, Planning Division
14 Manager for LURC.

15 MS. HILTON: I'm Gwen Hilton from Starks.

16 MR. NADEAU: I'm Jim Nadeau, Winterville Plantation.

17 MR. PALMER: Jim Palmer; I'm the scenic expert.

18 MR. TODD: Fred Todd with the LURC staff.

19 MS. HILTON: And then we also have Angella Clukey who
20 is our court reporter and Mark Russell who is a LURC
21 regional representative and he is back there at sign-up.
22 Yes. Thank you.

23 This evening's hearing is being held pursuant to the
24 provisions of 12 M.R.S.A. Section 685-B. The hearing will
25 be conducted in accordance with the Administrative

1 Procedures Act and Chapter 5 of the commission's rules for
2 conduct of public hearings.

3 Today's hearing is being held to receive testimony on
4 the matter of Development Permit DP 4889 submitted by
5 Champlain Wind, LLC to construct a 69.1 megawatt wind
6 energy development in Carroll Plantation, Penobscot County
7 and Kossuth Township, Washington County. The proposed wind
8 energy development would consist of up to 27 wind turbines,
9 access to the turbines would be utilizing new and existing
10 roads; 34.5 kilovolt collector lines connecting the
11 turbines; an express collector line for 5.2 miles to
12 connect to a new substation adjacent to Line 56, an
13 existing 115 kV transmission line; an operations and
14 maintenance building; and up to four permanent
15 meteorological towers.

16 The purpose of this public hearing is to allow the
17 public to present direct testimony and evidence as to
18 whether the development proposal meets the criteria for
19 approval as specified in 12 MRSA Section 685-B(4) and (4-B)
20 of the Commission's statutes and also the Commission's Land
21 Use Districts and Standards.

22 Those wishing to testify should sign up on the sheets
23 which have been placed on the table just inside the door to
24 the hall. All witnesses must be sworn and will be
25 required, before they give testimony, to state for the

1 record their name, residence, business or professional
2 affiliation, the nature of their interest in the hearing,
3 and whether or not they represent another individual, firm
4 or other legal entity for the purpose of the hearing.

5 In addition to being transcribed, we also will be
6 recording the proceedings, so I request that you speak
7 clearly and not too quickly.

8 All questions and testimony must be relevant to the
9 commission's criteria for approval for this process.
10 Irrelevant or unduly repetitious material or questions will
11 be excluded. The record of this hearing will remain open
12 until Monday, July 18th, to receive written statements from
13 the interested public, and for an additional seven days,
14 until Monday, July 25th, for the purpose of receiving
15 rebuttal comments.

16 No additional evidence or testimony will be allowed
17 into the record after the closing of the record. Persons
18 attending the hearing who wish to be notified of the final
19 action taken by the Commission as a result of this hearing
20 may leave their names and addresses with our staff over
21 here.

22 At this time I would like to swear in any witnesses who
23 plan to testify this evening. And if you would please
24 stand up and raise your right hand.

25 And I'm just reminding you that if you testified last

1 night, you cannot testify tonight. Okay?

2 Do you solemnly swear to tell the whole truth and
3 nothing but the whole truth?

4 PARTICIPANTS: I do.

5 MS. HILTON: Okay. Thank you very much. Before we get
6 started, the applicant has a brief presentation on the
7 project. This is Joy Prescott. Right?

8 MS. PRESCOTT: Yes. I'm Joy Prescott. I'm with
9 Stantec. And on behalf of the applicant, I'd like to
10 welcome you tonight and thank you for, commissioners, for
11 sitting through today, and we look forward to hearing your
12 comments tonight.

13 I am with Stantec. I'm a project manager there. And I
14 have worked with the applicant on coordinating many of the
15 field surveys that have occurred for the project as well as
16 the permitting process.

17 Bowers is being proposed by Champlain Wind, which is a
18 subsidiary of First Wind, which has constructed and
19 operates several grid scale projects -- wind projects
20 throughout Maine.

21 The Bowers project will be located in Carroll
22 Plantation and Kossuth Township located on three relatively
23 low elevation ridges in the project area. Those elevations
24 range from 750 feet to 1100 feet. Champlain -- the Bowers
25 project is located approximately 7 miles south of the

1 existing Stetson project, and the power from Bowers will
2 connect into Line 56 which was constructed for the Stetson
3 project.

4 Champlain has conducted wind resource surveys at the
5 site which indicate that there's a wind resource of
6 approximately 7.5 meters per second. And Champlain has
7 also conducted an extensive survey -- extensive suite of
8 environmental surveys at the site.

9 The overall project area includes -- includes the
10 turbines, and in addition there are access roads that
11 connect each of the turbines. There's approximately 9.8
12 miles of new roads and 1.8 miles of improvements to
13 existing roads. There are -- is also an electrical
14 collections system that will collect power from each of the
15 turbines and then run north in an express -- what we call
16 an express collector crossing Route 6 up to a proposed
17 substation that's located adjacent to Line 56. There will
18 also be an operations and maintenance building that's
19 located north of Route 6 and, in addition, up to four
20 permanent met towers located in the project area.

21 The full suite of environmental surveys that I
22 mentioned include two seasons of bird surveys, three
23 seasons of bat surveys, two seasons of raptor surveys, all
24 of which found results that are similar to other proposed
25 and existing wind projects in Maine and New England.

1 In addition, wetland delineations were conducted
2 throughout the project area; and as a result of those
3 surveys, the project design avoids nearly all impacts to
4 wetlands in the area. The only impacts are 0.10 acres of
5 wetland fill and 3.79 acres of clearing in wetland areas
6 primarily underneath the electrical collections system.

7 Vernal pool surveys were also conducted throughout the
8 project area and identified one significant vernal pool in
9 the project area. And the project design avoids all
10 impacts to that resource.

11 Other surveys included those of historic architecture
12 as well as archeological surveys. And those also found
13 that there would be no impacts to those resources from the
14 project.

15 Bowers complies with all of the sound requirements and
16 requires no sound easements. The nearest residence or camp
17 is approximately 2,500 feet from the nearest turbine.

18 LURC also regulates the scenic impact to specific
19 resources within 8 miles, and those are resources that have
20 been -- in this case, there's one type of resource that
21 would have visibility. Those are great ponds that are
22 identified by LURC as having either significant or
23 outstanding scenic quality. And for Bowers, there are four
24 lakes within a 3-mile distance that have either significant
25 or outstanding scenic quality, and there's an additional

1 four lakes within 8 miles that have -- that have scenic
2 qualities. In addition, there are five additional lakes
3 within 8 miles that would not have visibility of the
4 project.

5 LandWorks conducted a visual impact assessment of these
6 resources and in that assessment it evaluated those
7 resources, it looked at the existing uses of those
8 resources, and identified the potential effect of the
9 project on those uses.

10 In that assessment they identified that there will be
11 visibility of those -- from those resources of the project.
12 And it found that the potential effect on the existing uses
13 would range from low to medium depending on the specific
14 use. It found that in no case would any of the lakes --
15 would result in an undue adverse effect on those existing
16 uses on those lakes.

17 And in addition to the environmental surveys that have
18 been conducted, Champlain also has to demonstrate a
19 significant, tangible benefit with particular attention to
20 the host communities. And in this case, in addition to the
21 payment of taxes, construction activity, and permanent
22 employment positions, there are several specific tangible
23 benefits that are included in the project application.
24 These include a community benefit agreement with Carroll
25 Plantation for \$92,000 for the life of the project; a

1 community benefit agreement for Washington County for
2 \$10,000 for the life of the project; an energy fund that's
3 set up for the residents of Kossuth Township that will be
4 funded at \$20,000 initially and \$15,000 for the life of the
5 project; and in addition, a conservation fund that will be
6 established in cooperation with the Forest Society of Maine
7 that will be funded at \$120,000 initially and \$20,000 for
8 the life of the project. This fund will be established to
9 support conservation and recreational opportunity access
10 within the towns of Kossuth, Carroll and Lakeville. And
11 specific grants will be made based on the recommendation of
12 people -- local people in the area who understand the
13 recreation and conservation needs.

14 So in summary, Bowers has been designed to avoid
15 impacts to both environmental and residential resources,
16 and it will result in direct and immediate results benefits
17 for both the local and the regional economy.

18 And with that, on behalf of the applicant, we look
19 forward to hearing your comments tonight. And we thank you
20 again, the Commission, for discussion today.

21 MS. HILTON: Thank you, Joy.

22 Now we're ready to hear from you folks. It's -- your
23 testimony is important to us. We do -- do want to let you
24 know that yesterday, the commissioners went -- with staff
25 and others -- went on a field trip to the location -- the

1 potential location of the wind power project. We also took
2 a tour on the -- by water on the lakes where there would be
3 views of the project. And then we had party hearings
4 today; we had a public hearing last night. So we've had a
5 couple -- will have had a couple of long days.

6 So tonight what I'd like to do is limit all of you to
7 five minutes of testimony and we're going to give you a
8 one-minute notice on that. But again, we do want to hear
9 your thoughts and ideas. And if that isn't enough time,
10 you can submit written comments either tonight if you have
11 them or within the next -- I forget what the time period
12 is, but within the next week or so.

13 And also what would be very helpful is if you would --
14 if somebody else has said something that you agree with,
15 rather than repeating -- you know, somebody before you --
16 rather than repeating it, if you could echo what they said
17 and say, well, I agree with such-and-such-a-person, that
18 would be very helpful as well to us.

19 Again when you come up to the microphone, don't forget
20 to say your name and say where you're from and what your
21 affiliation is. And the way we're going to do this --
22 Samantha here has a list of all your names as you signed in
23 and indicated whether you were going to testify or not.

24 She's going to call five names. And why don't you come
25 up and sit up front here and then come up to the microphone

1 when your -- when your turn comes up. So why don't we get
2 started.

3 MS. HORN OLSEN: The first five names are Vincent
4 Crosby, Diane Smith Halkett, Chris Gleason, Bob Jacobs and
5 Patricia Verbeeck. I apologize if I've mispronounced
6 anyone's name. So Vincent, Diane, Chris, Bob and Patricia.

7 MS. HILTON: So I guess, Vincent, if you want to --.

8 MR. CROSBY: Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
9 My name is Vincent Crosby. I live in Lakeville on Junior
10 Lake. I -- that's my retirement home, and -- are there any
11 other questions that I should answer there?

12 MS. HILTON: I think you're all set.

13 MR. CROSBY: What I would like to say is my family
14 moved here about ten years ago to enjoy the wilderness way
15 of life. We've been using this area since 1968 when we
16 first found it because of the wild nature of it. We
17 started enjoying it in the Pocumcus area at Elsemore
18 Landing by camping, fishing, and canoeing. We've been
19 around the country and have found no other area that we
20 like as much as this area.

21 We began vacationing in Upper Chain Lake and shortly
22 thereafter met some of the local residents. One person
23 told us of the cabin that he owned and the history of it.
24 It was the hunting camp owned by Mr. Dennison from Dennison
25 Paper Company in Framingham, Massachusetts. Many books

1 were written about this area by his son-in-law. After
2 traveling around this area we found many scenic viewpoints
3 that adds to our enjoyment. Three of them in mind are
4 Almanac Mountain, Vinegar Hill, and Oak Mountain. These
5 are vistas that, in addition to the view from the lakes,
6 would be impacted by the windmills. This experience has
7 promised us to move here when we retired. We have tried to
8 be good citizens and have taken parts in many of the local
9 programs to benefit the towns. We support all of the
10 activities that we can, except the building of the
11 windmills, in the expedited area on Bowers Mountain.

12 We think the points that have been brought forward by
13 the people opposing the project are justified. This is the
14 way Maine should be and we fully believe it. We have been
15 working very hard to create an atmosphere of wilderness and
16 would like to see the area stay in the condition that it is
17 now. Signed, Vincent Crosby and my wife Donna.

18 And I, once again, I would like to thank you for
19 opportunity to speak.

20 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

21 MS. SMITH-HALKETT: Good evening. My name is Diane
22 Smith-Halkett, and I am the administrator of the Washington
23 County Unorganized Territories Grant and Loan program in
24 the TIF district created for the Stetson I and II wind
25 farms. I work for the private, nonprofit Sunrise County

1 Economic Counsel, or SCEC, which has a contract to
2 administer this TIF program for the county.

3 SCEC works towards prosperity for all residents of
4 Washington County. We take a grassroots approach to
5 economic and community development and seek common ground,
6 working across traditional political, municipal, and
7 economic boundaries. The decisions that we all make about
8 how to treat Bowers Mountain, the West Grand watershed, and
9 other very special places in Maine are important to matters
10 of economic development today, but also to the legacy we
11 leave for our children.

12 Washington County may currently be in economic poverty,
13 but it has no poverty of spirit and no poverty of beauty.
14 We are rich in both. So everything we do must balance
15 short-term and long-term gain to keep banking our
16 incredible assets and investing in our hardworking,
17 resourceful people.

18 The tax increment financing district created by the
19 county commissioners and First Wind for Stetson 1 and 2
20 returned \$458,613 to Washington County coffers for 2009 and
21 \$550,834 for 2010. This TIF district and Credit
22 Enhancement Agreement are written to last 30 years with the
23 option of continuing after that period. With these funds,
24 the commissioners have created an effective grant and loan
25 program to spur economic development in our 34 Washington

1 County UTs, including Kossuth. To date, the program has
2 funded 13 projects totaling \$351,810, which have leveraged
3 3.4 million in economic activity. Sole proprietorships,
4 LLCs and nonprofits have all benefitted from this program.

5 The projects encompass a wide variety including
6 farming, food research, food product marketing, recycling,
7 communications, tidal power research, nature-based tourism,
8 and improved access to hunting and fishing areas.

9 Projects in the pipeline include increased broadband
10 access for the northern UTs, more food production and more
11 recreational and tourism development.

12 You may notice that many of these projects focus on
13 green technology and increase self-sufficiency. Now this
14 was not the programs intention to focus on these topics,
15 but these are currently the kind of projects that are
16 crying out to be funded.

17 Allow me to tell you just a little bit more about a few
18 of the other projects funded so far as a result of wind
19 power development in Washington County. The TIF fund
20 granted \$50,000 to Cobscook Bay Seafood, Maine Fresh, of
21 Trescott to deploy regional marketing strategies for their
22 seafood pies. A share of the profits from these pies will
23 help fund educational programs at the nearby Cobscook
24 Community Learning Center, which the program is also
25 assisting.

1 The TIF fund granted \$49,500 to the Downeast Lakes Land
2 Trust to improve road access in the Wabassus Lake track in
3 Township 43, helping to preserve a vital route from the
4 airline to Grand Lake Stream.

5 The TIF fund granted a total of \$33,400 to a commercial
6 organic fund in Edmonds to help them greatly increase their
7 organic chicken production and ensure that their farm
8 operates into the ninth generation.

9 And the TIF program has granted \$25,000 to a sole
10 proprietorship in Trescott to help fund a trucking company
11 that plans to haul recyclables out of Washington County as
12 part of their business. These recyclables will be
13 separated from the waste stream due to another grant from
14 the TIF to Marion Transfer Station.

15 As I hope you can see, the development of the Stetson I
16 and II projects has had a direct, positive economic impact
17 on Washington County past the construction phase and will
18 continue to do so for many years.

19 It is our hope and belief that alternative energy
20 development in the county will continue to be a net
21 positive economic driver and an important part of our
22 future. Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any
23 questions.

24 MS. HILTON: Thank you very much.

25 MR. GLEASON: My name is Chris Gleason. I'm a resident

1 of Brunswick, Maine, and I am employed by Maine Drilling &
2 Blasting.

3 Maine Drilling & Blasting has been very proud and
4 fortunate to work as a subcontractor on many of the
5 industrial wind turbines here in Maine. These projects
6 have included Mars Hill, Stetson I and II, Record Hill,
7 Rollins, and both phases of the Kibby Mountain projects.

8 As employee/owners, everyone in our company has
9 benefitted from the years of work that has supported our
10 families during this difficult economic period. Many of us
11 have retained our jobs purely because of these projects.
12 Beyond that fact, much of Maine Drilling & Blasting's
13 current business is based upon wind farm constructions.
14 Wind energy gives us opportunity for our families to
15 contribute to the energy future of the state of Maine. We
16 take pride in these projects, and they are important to us.

17 Since 2006 Maine Drilling & Blasting has built roads
18 and installed rock anchors for eight wind energy projects,
19 six of which are here in Maine. Wind energy has allowed
20 Maine Drilling & Blasting to maintain a stable work force.

21 As of December 2010, wind projects have represented
22 over 22 percent of the company's total backlog of projects
23 under contract to be built. Wind energy has enabled Maine
24 Drilling & Blasting to keep Maine people employed with our
25 wages contributing to the local economy. The company's

1 gross Maine wages to date on wind energy projects in Maine
2 has exceeded over a million dollars.

3 On wind power projects, Maine Drilling & Blasting
4 engages many groups inside and outside the company;
5 permitting groups, engineering groups, drillers, blasters
6 laborers, rock-bolt installation specialists, mechanics,
7 management, administrative staff, rock-bolt suppliers,
8 grout suppliers, explosive suppliers, equipment vendors,
9 fuel providers, and also housing opportunities. Each group
10 has a stake in this project and benefits financially.

11 And I just wanted to finish -- if we were going to
12 keep -- if we are going to keep Mainers employed, we need
13 sustainable jobs like these wind energy projects. Thank
14 you.

15 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

16 MR. JACOBS: Good evening. My name is Bob Jacobs. I
17 owned and operated Mill Stream Grocery in Springfield for
18 22 years. My family has had the pleasure of owning a camp
19 in Lakeville since 1943. I have lived in Lakeville with my
20 family year-round since 1988. I have seen and experienced
21 many changes over that period. I have also experienced how
22 difficult it is to make a living here. I am here tonight
23 to offer my own perspective. Nothing more and nothing
24 less.

25 I do think that it is important for each of you to know

1 that not everyone in Lakeville shares the same opinion
2 about the project that is before the Commission this
3 evening.

4 My perspective on this project and this region is based
5 on my observations and experiences as a year-round resident,
6 a local business owner, a guide, a taxpayer and community
7 volunteer. I trust that the Commission will review this
8 project carefully in relation to applicable criteria. And
9 I simply want to remind everyone here this evening about
10 the economic conditions that exist in this part of Maine.
11 They are not good.

12 This project represents significant and tangible
13 benefits for our neighbors in Carroll Plantation where
14 economic opportunities are few and far between. Many
15 people recreate in and enjoy this area, but it does not
16 take long for anyone to make the observation that this area
17 is not wilderness. Not anymore.

18 Over the past 25 years we have seen a rapid pace of
19 development on the shores of area lakes and backlands. The
20 surrounding landscape is dominated by large tracks of
21 working forestland. New residential growth has included
22 the addition of electric lines, new roads, high speed
23 Internet and satellite TV. The region's large landowners
24 have a large history of generosity, making their land
25 available for public use, including ATV and snowmobile

1 trails, and traditional hunting and fishing. Some of these
2 landowners have the expectations that they can recoup some
3 of their investment and that their land has value.

4 I generally favor the pursuit of properly-sited
5 renewable energy projects. There is no question that our
6 state and our nation must diversify its energy sources.

7 I would only ask that these areas remain open for
8 traditional use and if a time comes when the sites are no
9 longer utilized, they would be returned to their primitive
10 state. Thank you.

11 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

12 MS. VERBEECK: My name is Patricia McKay Verbeeck. I
13 live in Miami, Florida, but own two camps on Bottle Lake in
14 Lakeville. I'm originally from Bangor, Maine.

15 I want to add my voice to those who oppose the Bowers
16 Mountain project. My family has been on the Downeast lakes
17 as annual summer camp owners for over 50 years. As a
18 matter of fact, our camp was the third camp to be built on
19 Bottle Lake. I spent summers there as a child before
20 electricity, before bathrooms, before any amenities; but
21 for the most part, the experience still replicates what was
22 originally there.

23 This project, which obviously I'm opposed to, comes
24 across to me as excessive in terms of the impact on those
25 folks on those lakes that will have direct views. So I

1 find it rather mystifying to hear that there will not be
2 any excess impact on -- for example, my camp, which will be
3 looking directly at these wind towers. My view is
4 definitely gone. And the point could be made that I guess
5 I should have bought the view, meaning I guess I should
6 have bought the mountain, but we all know that that's a
7 specious argument. And sure, there's changes that have
8 gone on on these lakes, but nothing as dramatic as this.
9 And that's why I'm here.

10 So change is not really what I'm upset about; it's the
11 degree of change. And I just retired. I worked 30 years.
12 And boy, oh, boy, was I looking forward to coming up to
13 Bottle Lake and spending much more time than my normal
14 two-week vacation. And I'm saddened to feel that there
15 experience is definitely not going to be what I had
16 envisioned.

17 My children make the fifth generation to experience the
18 lake experience in the Downeast Grand Lake Stream area.
19 Five generations. I mean, we want this to go on. We're
20 not just folks that want to come in and leave. This is a
21 meaningful experience for us. We could have bought some
22 place much further south in Maine, much easier to get to,
23 but again, it would have had a lot more clutter to it;
24 noise, light, et cetera. This is why we like to stay up
25 here. Again, has there been change? Yes, but not that

1 much that I'm upset about that change.

2 I can't imagine what this project will do to the
3 overall sense and feel of what I felt was something closer
4 to the old Maine experience. I just can't. When I first
5 drove in this summer and saw the wind towers for the first
6 time, I -- I really just wanted to pull over to the side of
7 the road. I was that upset. It's really significant to me
8 and to my experience and my family. We actually own five
9 camps on that lake. You can tell we're committed to the
10 area. I go out of my way to patronize everybody locally
11 that I can. Almost everything that I purchase in my camp I
12 buy locally. I know I could just have it all drop shipped
13 somewhere from someplace else, but I really go out of my
14 way to hire, use, and buy in the local area. But I guess
15 it probably just wasn't enough.

16 I think it's really self-serving to ask that fishermen
17 or canoers or kayakers orient their boats into some certain
18 direction so they don't see these wind towers. That really
19 comes across as a rather unusual argument to me, and I
20 cannot turn, reorient or redirect my camp. I mean LURC
21 won't let me do that, actually, I'm pretty sure.

22 So I call that the let-them-eat-cake attitude, and I
23 don't care how you slice and dice this; this is just
24 significant change to an environment that has been up here
25 for years and years and years, and these metal trees, I

1 call them, to me contribute nothing at all to the Grand
2 Lake experience of all these lakes that chain into each
3 other. That kind of covers my emotional response to this,
4 but it's been well-considered. I've thought about it a
5 lot. I know this brings money into these towns that's
6 desperately needed, but there's something else that's
7 getting lost and it just won't come back. It's not going
8 to come back. So I thank you for your time.

9 MS. HORN OLSEN: The next five people are -- on the
10 list are David Breed, Bob Clark, Jerry Hamza, Kris
11 Pelletier, and Bob Pelletier. So David Breed, Bob Clark,
12 Jerry Hamza, Kris Pelletier and Bob Pelletier.

13 Is David Breed here? Oh, please go ahead, sir.

14 MR. BREED: Good evening. My name is David Breed, and
15 I live in Gardner, Maine. We own some property over on
16 Vinegar Hill -- as you guys refer to it as a subdivision;
17 most people in Carroll don't like the terminology, but --.
18 So we're on the back side of Vinegar Hill, actually,
19 because the mountain is in front of Vinegar Hill. We own
20 two lots over there. We also have an association, as
21 happens when they cut off property and it goes back into an
22 association. So we have the Vinegar Hill lot owners
23 association. There are 59 lots in the association owned by
24 a number of people. Many of them are multi-owners, two or
25 three lots, and then there's a few that are owned by a

1 number of people from a family for each lot.

2 I am the president of the Vinegar Hill Lot Owners
3 Association. I am not here to represent the Vinegar Hill
4 Lot Owners Association. We have remained neutral in this
5 whole scenario. Everybody has got their own opinion over
6 there, and that's fine. That's how we wanted it.

7 I -- we would like to have maybe have had something,
8 but we don't need to get that into the mix. So everybody
9 is cool with everything about that.

10 In this whole process, and just -- not to belabor the
11 issue, but I have gone to many town meetings. Our Vinegar
12 Hill Lot Owners Association has more miles of roads than
13 the Town of Carroll has to maintain on their own, not
14 including Route 6 which is a state road. We have 17.5
15 miles of road. The Town of Carroll has 14.3 or 14.5.

16 I've gone to town meetings and asked the town -- people
17 of the town -- the select people if there's any money
18 available to help us with our roads, and they said
19 absolutely not. We've offered to turn them over to them.
20 Absolutely not.

21 Well, this has gone on for a number of years since the
22 association was turned over to us. First Wind came to us
23 and offered us the possibility of some help and it has come
24 down to that they will give us a grant to help with our
25 road maintenance and it's specified in the grant road

1 maintenance, can't be used for anything else. They are
2 willing to give us \$5,000 a year for the life of the
3 project. Because it is a membership-controlled
4 organization, we sent a letter out to all the members and
5 the question we posed to them was that First Wind was
6 offering it to us; are you in favor of accepting their
7 money? There was no question ever made of are you in favor
8 of the wind project or not. There was not anything to do
9 with that. The question was, are you in favor of accepting
10 the money from First Wind for road maintenance? And it
11 came back resoundingly a positive majority ruled on that.
12 We had 35 positives, three nos, 21 no responses. So the
13 majority was in favor.

14 I've looked in -- we've been over there probably five
15 or six years now, and I've looked around the Town of
16 Carroll. And I think the last numbers I got from the town
17 office was they have like 137 year-round residents. If you
18 go to the town meeting, the residents that come -- and
19 there's not a lot, but they're the ones that come -- are
20 elderly. And I know that they were feeling the pinch of
21 the high taxes. And this project, I believe, is going to
22 help them maybe live a little more comfortable in their
23 elder years.

24 Carroll also has absolutely no retail or commercial
25 business on Route 6, or anyplace in town that I know of, so

1 the tax burden is back onto the few people that live there
2 during the winter and those of us that have property in
3 Carroll.

4 MS. HILTON: One minute.

5 MR. BREED: So yeah, I'm in favor of it.

6 MS. HILTON: Okay. Thank you very much.

7 MR. BREED: Thank you.

8 MS. HORN OLSEN: Mr. Clark?

9 MR. CLARK: My name is Bob Clark. I live in Grand Lake
10 Stream. I'm a resident of Florida, although I also was
11 born here in Houlton, north of here.

12 Before we retired, my wife and I lived all over the
13 United States, and we traveled most of the world due to the
14 international nature of my career.

15 We've always been outdoor sports enthusiasts and we've
16 hiked and hunted and fished just about everywhere that
17 we've traveled. Of all the places we've visited, we found
18 the woods and lakes surrounding Grand Lake Stream to be the
19 most beautiful, pristine and unspoiled.

20 Two years before we retired, we bought property on Big
21 Lake because we had decided this was where we wanted to
22 spend the rest of our lives. The day after we retired, we
23 drove here from Kansas and, over the next few months, we
24 cleared a spot for our home and a small guess cottage.
25 Every summer we have friends who come to visit us from

1 Kansas, Utah, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New York and Florida.
2 They come here for the same natural beauty that attracted
3 us to the area, and they boat and fish the many unspoiled
4 lakes and streams in the Grand Lake water -- West Grand
5 watershed. Several have returned in winter months with us
6 to snowmobile and cross country ski.

7 Nothing I've read or heard regarding the benefits of
8 wind power begin to justify in my mind the damage that's
9 going to be done to this area. The negative effect on the
10 lifestyle of people like me and my family and our visitors
11 who choose to recreate here is pretty -- is a pretty small
12 part of what I think is the overall tragedy.

13 This is a precious and unique area that's attracted
14 sportsmen here for many generations. I believe the real
15 tragedy, if the project goes forward, would be the
16 degradation of the area's natural beauty and the attendant
17 loss of tradition and local economy when sportsmen from out
18 of state elect to choose other locations that still
19 resemble wilderness.

20 So thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to express
21 my views on it. As you can tell, I am opposed.

22 MS. HILTON: Thank you. Mr. Hamza?

23 MR. HAMZA: Hi. I'm Jerry Hamza, and I live full time
24 at Grand Lake Stream. I decided to drive this far to get
25 my five minutes' worth because I thought it was important.

1 I have fished all over the world: Alaska 15 times; Russia;
2 South America; Central America; the Bahamas; Canada; all
3 over the United States. And I can tell you, honestly, that
4 we do not have the best fishing in the world in Grand Lake
5 Stream. We have good fishing.

6 But what we do have is the most beautiful place I've
7 ever fished in the world, you know, to fish. Up until a
8 few years ago, I used to fish Baskahegan Lake north of us.
9 I quit fishing there after I discovered the lake ringed
10 with about 30 of these great big giant wind turbines. It
11 had destroyed the wilderness feeling to the lake. And
12 anyone who doesn't think so needs a reality bath.

13 I have three properties in Grand Lake Stream. A year
14 round home, an office, and a summer compound on Pocumcus
15 Lake. Each year I put between 300,000 and 800,000 into the
16 Washington County economy. The first assessor of Grand
17 Lake Stream who testified today happens to be my caretaker.
18 In addition, there are housekeepers, maintenance
19 assistants, fishing guides and on and on.

20 If I get a heating contractor, he comes out of
21 Woodland. It's all Washington County. I spend over 20,000
22 a year on fishing guides alone. I spend most of my fishing
23 time now on West Grand Lake and the lakes immediately
24 adjacent to it. My canoe can find Junior Lake on its own.

25 Putting windmills on Bowers Mountain would destroy the

1 wilderness feeling to the lake and quite frankly would
2 start me looking for a new fishing area.

3 I feel the windmills devalue the lakes to the point of
4 making them like almost every other lake in the country.

5 The first dealings that I ever had with LURC came in
6 1996 when I bought a camp on Pocumcus Lake. It was
7 grandfathered in on the lake, close to the shore, and I
8 wanted to expand and keep it the same distance right next
9 to the lake that it was. Well, LURC obviously opposed and
10 insisted that I build back 100 feet from the high-water
11 mark, which I did. They wanted to maintain the shoreline.
12 Besides erosion concerns, they didn't want to trash the
13 lake with camps and cottages right at the lake's edge.

14 I respect what LURC has done to protect the lakes and
15 hope that they continue to do so by not allowing our forest
16 lakes to be bastardized by wind turbines.

17 You could ride a bicycle in a church, but you wouldn't
18 do it, would you?

19 MS. HILTON: Jerry, are you -- did you submit testimony
20 through the partnership? Did you submit testimony through
21 the partnership?

22 MR. HAMZA: Yes, I did.

23 MS. HILTON: Okay. So as a part of one of the
24 intervenors?

25 MR. HAMZA: I wrote something down. I was supposed to

1 testify this afternoon.

2 MS. HILTON: Okay. Technically, you're not supposed to
3 be --. I don't know. I'm not --

4 MS. HORN OLSEN: Juliet, do you --

5 MS. BROWNE: I object to him testifying because we were
6 all subject to time limits we had to make and what we put
7 on as direct evidence. So I think it's totally
8 inappropriate for him to testify this evening, and the
9 instructions were very clear from the presiding officer.

10 MS. HORN OLSEN: I'm sorry we didn't catch that sooner.

11 MS. BROWN: It took me a while to figure out it was the
12 same.

13 MS. HILTON: That's all right. It's okay. A mistake.
14 That's okay. We'll strike that from the --

15 MS. HORN OLSEN: We'll talk about how to handle that
16 later. How's that?

17 MS. HILTON: Okay.

18 MS. PELLETIER: Hi. Thank you very much for taking the
19 time to listen to our comments this evening. My name is
20 Chris Pelletier. My husband Bob and I have owned a camp on
21 Keg Lake for 28 years. Bob's family has been summering at
22 camps on Keg and Bottle Lakes for many years before that.
23 My parents also wilderness canoed throughout the Grand
24 Lakes for many summers. Every moment we spend at camp is a
25 priceless treasure in our lives.

1 Because you've chosen to sit on this board, it's
2 obvious that you strongly believe in participating in and
3 being part of the decisions that affect the state of Maine.

4 Your commitment to this process, presumably with
5 justice and fairness in your hearts, is to be greatly
6 commended. There are arguments for and against wind power;
7 some of them economical, many of them environmental, and
8 some personal.

9 I would like to use my five minutes, or less, to appeal
10 to each of you personally.

11 Do you choose to live in the wonderful state of Maine
12 because of its natural beauty? Do you enjoy hunting and
13 fishing? Perhaps you like to kayak as much as I do. Maybe
14 you take long hikes through the woods or snowshoe in the
15 winter. Have you built a fire pit in your back yard to
16 enjoy the quiet Maine evenings? Do you like to stargaze?
17 Perhaps count satelllites as they glide up the Milky Way?
18 Do you look to the northern skies to see if the Aurora
19 Borealis is showing its splendor?

20 Now imagine sitting on your screened porch in the
21 evening and your predominant view is a row of blinking red
22 lights every single night, all night long, from sunset to
23 sunup.

24 Imagine not being able to see the Northern Lights
25 because your northern view is constantly bombarded with

1 flashes of red. Imagine looking out your window to watch
2 the sunrise or sunset across the water, only to have the
3 beauty of the changing colors punctuated by constant red
4 flashes of light and to see those flashes of light
5 reflecting across the lake directly at you.

6 Imagine not be able to sleep some night, to rise and
7 sit quietly on your porch only to be bombarded with strobes
8 of flashing light. Gone is the pitch black night. Gone is
9 the peace and quiet. The entire rhythm of life is
10 punctuated with flashing lights and turning blades.

11 We come to Maine to regain our sense of peace and
12 tranquility. We look across the lake at an ever-changing
13 view as the weather brings rain, sun, fog, choppy waves,
14 and calm, mirrored water. But we are never forced to see
15 constant movement, constant blinking lights, constant
16 reminders that human beings have chosen to permanently
17 alter what nature has so beautifully rendered.

18 How many pictures have we taken of the tranquility and
19 beauty of our surroundings? We pass those photos on to our
20 friends to encourage them to come to the state of Maine to
21 share in its beauty. Imagine those photos filled with tall
22 towers of blinking red lights. Will our friends still want
23 to join us to sit around the campfire to count satellites
24 and ooh and ahh over the stars and the Milky Way?

25 One of the greatest positive aspects about the state of

1 Maine is its natural beauty. To permanently destroy that
2 beauty in one of the most scenic areas of this great state
3 is to commit a heinous crime. Our camp was on your tour
4 list yesterday. We're sorry you did not stop by to visit,
5 but we invite you to come by anytime to enjoy the view.
6 Well, maybe we should invite you to stop by this summer
7 because that view will be dramatically altered in the near
8 future if this project is allowed to proceed.

9 Thanks very much for listening.

10 MR. PELLETIER: Hello. My name is Bob Pelletier. I
11 currently live in Connecticut, but I was born in Portland,
12 Maine. My parents were born -- were from Van Buren, Maine.
13 I've been coming to the Grand Lakes area since I was a
14 teenager when my aunt and uncle bought a camp on Bottle
15 Lake. And as my wife Chris just said, we've owned our camp
16 on Keg Lake for about 28 years now. That translates to
17 about 50 years of me personally experiencing the Grand
18 Lakes area.

19 We spend a couple of months at a camp every summer.
20 And as my retirement approaches, we plan to spend more time
21 here. I have been hearing about the proposed wind towers
22 for a long time and have been dreading the sight of them,
23 but I did not realize just how much until this week. We
24 closed camp last fall -- when we closed camp last fall,
25 there were no wind towers visible on our ride home. And as

1 we arrived on Sunday in the rain, there were no wind towers
2 still visible. However, on Monday morning, I rode into
3 Lincoln from Lakeville on Route 6 and, after passing
4 through Lee, I came over a ridge and suddenly there were
5 huge wind towers in view. When I drove to this hearing
6 last night, I realized that the wind towers were visible as
7 soon as I turned onto Route 6 from Bottle Lake Road in
8 Springfield.

9 I checked Google maps today to see how far Bottle Lake
10 Road in Springfield is from the towers, and the distance is
11 15 miles. 15 miles. Those towers are visible 15 miles
12 away. And I understand the towers proposed for Bowers
13 Mountain will be even taller.

14 That only describes the daytime views. When I was
15 returning back to camp last night, I took a small back road
16 that leads to Route 6 and I experienced what the view will
17 be at night. As I drove along the road, I saw a string of
18 red lights that totally overwhelmed the view.

19 Many folks have spoken about what we like to call the
20 Maine sky. There are only a few places left in this
21 country where one can experience the unbroken darkness that
22 is offered by the Maine sky. These red lights I saw last
23 night totally destroyed the peace and serenity of that
24 gorgeous sky.

25 In closing, I'm going to paraphrase some lyrics from

1 the song A Big Yellow Taxi, that was written by Joni
2 Mitchell, that I would like you to think about. Mitchell
3 said, from a 1996 interview with the Los Angeles Times, I
4 road in a big yellow taxi on my first trip to Hawaii. I
5 took a taxi to the hotel and when I woke up the next
6 morning, I threw back the curtains, saw these beautiful
7 green mountains in the distance, and then I looked down to
8 -- and then I looked down and there was a parking lot for
9 as far as the eye could see. And it broke my heart, this
10 blight on paradise. That's when I sat down and wrote the
11 song.

12 In Joni's version, she says: They paved paradise and
13 put up a parking lot, with a pink hotel, a boutique, and a
14 swinging hot spot. Don't it always seem to go that you
15 don't know what you've got until it's gone. They paved
16 paradise and put up a parking lot.

17 In my version, what -- I would like to believe that you
18 will prevent my version from happening. And my version
19 goes like this: They shaved paradise and put up some ugly
20 blocks with lots of tall towers, nude floors -- forest --
21 and blinking red spots. Don't it always seem to go that
22 you don't know what you've got until it's gone, they shaved
23 paradise and put up some ugly blocks.

24 You don't know what you've got until it's gone.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. HORN OLSEN: I understand Ted Greenlaw had to
2 leave. Mr. Greenlaw isn't here, is he? Okay.

3 So the next names on the list. Gary Kuhn, Josh Brass,
4 Mary Nolette. Mr. Murphy, I understand Fred has already --
5 wherever you are -- has already talked to you about not
6 being able to speak a second time. Okay. And then Carl
7 McGillvray.

8 So Mr. Kuhn?

9 MR. KUHN: Good evening. My name is Gary Kuhn. I'm
10 from Eastbrook, Maine. I was before you on the Bull Hill
11 project. I provided you with a presentation about the lack
12 of a wind resource for Bull Hill. Just out of curiosity, I
13 notice that it was 7.2 in Bull Hill, and -- this is pretty
14 annoying. 7.2 in Bull Hill and it's 7.5 here. I find that
15 interesting when the wind source in Lincoln basically is
16 what it was at Mt. Desert Island. But I'm not here about
17 that. I'm here about the impact to the Grand Lake
18 watershed.

19 On your website it basically states about the
20 Commission, it says much of this area may seem like
21 wilderness compared to most of the rest of the northeast,
22 but agriculture, forestry and recreational activities
23 clearly identify the region as a hardworking resource vital
24 to the overall economy of the state. Residents and
25 visitors alike place a premium on the unique values they

1 find here.

2 The Maine Department of Transportation -- excuse me --
3 of Tourism, figures show that for 2009, 34 million tourists
4 provided over 170,000 full-time jobs, \$535 million in tax
5 revenues, and \$10 billion in goods and services.

6 The Brookings Institute, in the 2006 report, Charting
7 Maine's Future, asserted that Maine's quality of place is
8 under threat, diminishing future economic prospects. Many
9 lakes in Maine have been included on a Maine Department of
10 Environmental Protection list of lakes at risk from new
11 development. Research shows that water quality drops and
12 recreational use and shoreline property values diminish,
13 which harms local and regional economies. They also
14 stated: As its world-famous brand declares, Maine has in
15 its vivid small towns and waterfronts, its lakes and fields
16 and rocky coastline, exactly the sort of authenticity and
17 quality of place that can be set apart. Maine is
18 unforgettable and distinctive, and that matters.

19 On June 17, 2011, Governor LePage publicly stated:
20 Wind projects are doing an awful lot of damage to our
21 quality of place, our mountains, he said. I don't think
22 it's going to lower the cost of energy. I think in ten
23 years we're going to be like Sweden and Denmark, and we're
24 going to be swearing at ourselves.

25 Economic studies in the state of Maine have shown that

1 the lake use depends on clear water and pours \$1.8 billion
2 into the state's economy every year while supporting more
3 than 52,000 jobs. A 2006 state planning office study found
4 that the wildlife related activities also brought in over
5 \$1 billion to the state of Maine.

6 Economics -- economists have also found that the
7 quality of place attracts and helps retain skilled and
8 creative workers and entrepreneurs needed for today's
9 growth industries, such as professional services.

10 And technology. Why should the people of Maine be
11 forced to invest in a technology that continues to show
12 returns of 11 to 23 percent of nameplate capacity? You can
13 look at Vinalhaven. You can look at Stetson I and II. You
14 can look at anyplace where wind turbines are turning in the
15 world and you are not going to find anything greater than
16 30 percent. And if I was to give somebody money and say to
17 them, well, I'm only going to -- if somebody gave me money
18 and I said to them, I'm going to give you 30 cents back
19 instead of a dollar-thirty for my investment, I don't think
20 we'd have too many takers. And I think that's what we're
21 seeing.

22 Idaho Power Company recently stated: When special
23 interest groups and wind developers talk about the cost of
24 wind energy, remember that the profits go into their
25 pockets while the costs come from your pockets. To arrive

1 at their numbers, developers have to resort to the fiction
2 that their wind machines produce energy at the same rate as
3 more traditional sources like hydro and gas, but we all
4 know that wind doesn't blow all the time. By law, electric
5 utilities have to provide fair-priced electricity on a 24/7
6 basis, so every megawatt of intermittent energy on the
7 system, additional capacity is needed and ready to deploy
8 the moment that the wind stops blowing.

9 There are currently 50,000 wind turbines in the world.
10 If we doubled that to 100,000 turbines in the world, we
11 still would not produce enough energy if every household in
12 the United States just put 60 watts of LCDs in the screws
13 in their homes. That shows you how inefficient this
14 technology is.

15 In the simplest terms, the special interest groups and
16 wind developers are asking you to pay for a less reliable
17 product, and that isn't right. Wind is expensive,
18 unreliable, intermittent, causes health problems when sited
19 too close to people, causes loss of value to real estate,
20 kills birds and bats, and it cannot be stored.

21 That's all I have.

22 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

23 MS. HORN OLSEN: I'll just ask -- Scott, do we need to
24 do anything different with the mic to prevent feedback
25 or --? Do the speakers need to do anything different with

1 the mic to prevent the feedback? Need to get closer?

2 Okay. Thank you. Josh Bragg?

3 MR. BRAGG: Hi. I'll try. I'm not very good at this.
4 Okay. My name is Josh Bragg, and I'm here tonight in my
5 capacity as Chair of the Sunrise County Economic Counsel
6 Board of Directors. We will be submitting some comments
7 electronically, but we also wanted to make a few in person.
8 Thank you for giving us a few minutes of your time.

9 The SCEC Board of Directors would like to express a
10 strong support for renewable energy projects, including on
11 and offshore wind, tidal power, bio mass, and other green
12 energy alternatives that will benefit local communities and
13 businesses alike.

14 Consistently SCEC has endorsed numerous alternative
15 energy projects, such as Bowers Mountain, in keeping with
16 our guiding principles for economic development, which
17 include economic impact, community impact, technical
18 feasibility, and stakeholder involvement, and with our
19 mission of creating jobs and prosperity in Washington
20 County.

21 Starting at the local level, alternative and renewable
22 energy projects will inject dollars both directly and
23 indirectly into Maine's economy while at the same time
24 diversifying our energy market and reducing our dependence
25 on fossil fuels from abroad. Many small businesses in

1 Maine report that they have earned profits in recent years
2 as a direct result of these projects at a time when our
3 national economy struggles. This approach allowed them not
4 only to sustain employees but to hire workers and expand
5 operations.

6 Renewable energy developers and contractors have hired
7 local subcontractors and have worked with local vendors to
8 support these initiatives, so much so the renewable energy
9 has become a big part of our community, supporting local
10 charities, scholarships, schools and municipal services.

11 This economic activity ripples across our communities
12 and has helped to contribute to rural Maine's long-term
13 sustainability as much as direct employment has.

14 In closing, we hope that you recognize the positive
15 impact alternative energy can have on Maine's rural
16 communities and acknowledge that further development will
17 bring investment dollars and job creation to the state
18 while respecting the need for sustainable economic and
19 community development practices and Maine's scenic beauty.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. NOLETTE: My name is Mary Nolette. I'm from
22 Scarborough. My family has been in the state of Maine
23 since 1765, and I have two camps in Lincoln on Long Pond,
24 and I grew up going to a hunting camp on the airline.

25 My family always spoke of Grand Lakes as kind of this

1 special, almost a mystical place that should be revered.
2 And that's how I grew up, and that's what I believe. It's
3 an unspoiled area. It's unindustrialized. And it's famous
4 for its remoteness. It's often written up in magazines,
5 and fishermen do come from all over the world to -- to
6 catch smallmouth bass and the landlocked salmon. There are
7 only seven lakes in Maine larger than East Grand; however,
8 if you look at the total area of the watershed, it is the
9 largest lake system in the state. That should be
10 protected.

11 If this project is approved, these 43-story structures
12 are allowed, the scenic importance of this important Maine
13 region will be forever sacrificed. This is one of Maine's
14 crown jewels. We cannot afford to hand it over to an
15 industry that is still unproven. We still don't know how
16 the sound will reflect across the lakes because the
17 windmills have not been started up yet in Lincoln, and this
18 is the test area for that. And I think the jury is still
19 out as far as how the sound is going to travel and how it's
20 going to travel at different times during the day.

21 First Wind so far has refused to share actual Maine
22 production data with government officials. They claim that
23 its proprietary information. Providing historical data at
24 this point, I believe, should be a prerequisite to
25 approvals. Taking the word of any big corporation may be

1 justifiable for the first installation, or even the second,
2 but we have data now. This is data from a variety of areas
3 in the state to tell us what the real trade-off is. I
4 mean, we don't even know if it's worth the sacrifice, you
5 know, in terms of energy production.

6 The -- what we get is estimates and assumptions, and
7 they're presented like they're facts. Given their lack of
8 forthcomingness, we must use the data that we can. The
9 University of Maine Presque Isle installation was erected
10 to give our Maine institutions and taxpayers real data.
11 Until it recently shut down, it had over two years'
12 production, and it produced at just over 10 percent
13 efficiency. Of that 10 percent, we have no data regarding
14 how much of that was produced when the consumer would
15 really need it -- whether the demand for that electricity
16 even existed at the time it's being produced.

17 There's another wind installation in Newburyport,
18 Massachusetts that I read produces electricity at around 14
19 percent. This is a coastal region and it's nearby the
20 Saudi Arabia -- Saudi Arabia production region, but it's
21 still only got 14 percent.

22 I have also received data from 4,000 wind turbines in
23 southern California over the course of nine years from 1998
24 until 2006. They -- in none of those years -- went over 20
25 percent production, and they did actually look at demand.

1 What the data showed is that the electrical output was only
2 at 1 percent of capacity at the greatest time of demand. 1
3 percent when we needed it the most. Most of it was in the
4 middle of the night when demand was at its lowest.

5 MS. HILTON: One minute.

6 MS. NOWLETTE: Okay. Where do we stand here in Maine?
7 Well, it's really anybody's guess. My opinion is it comes
8 down to this. We do not have enough information to justify
9 the sacrifice of this irreplaceable gem. The data from
10 which we can draw does not support approval at this time.
11 Neither does it justify our precious taxpayer support.

12 Thank you. I would like to submit this photograph,
13 which is of the turbines looking down the lake from my
14 camp.

15 MS. HORN OLSEN: Thank you. I'll also just mention
16 that -- I know -- the Commission has made it a condition of
17 permit approval for at least one prior project, and maybe
18 two; I'm trying to recall, to provide some production data.
19 And so we will make an attempt to make that available. I
20 know we've gotten at least one submission in the past. I
21 just -- I can't recall the specifics, so we will do our
22 best to make that available to you.

23 Okay. Thank you very much.

24 MS. HILTON: Thank you. Go ahead.

25 MR. MCGILLVRAY: My name is Carl McGillvray. I'm from

1 Lincoln. And I understood that the main reason for putting
2 these turbines in was to increase the efficiency of energy.
3 In Maine, we're 44 percent higher than the normal average
4 of all the states. I don't see how putting these in will
5 increase our efficiency in this state or bring jobs to the
6 state of Maine with 44 percent higher electrical rates. It
7 certainly doesn't reduce real estate taxes and doesn't
8 reduce my electrical bill.

9 I would like to submit a photo here taken of one of the
10 lakes here in Lincoln that shows what you really get from a
11 view point of view in Upper Pond.

12 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

13 MS. HORN OLSEN: The next five speakers are J.R.
14 Mabee -- Mabeck -- I apologize if I got that wrong -- Chris
15 Gleason, Linda Ilse, Dean Beaupain and Elgin Turner.

16 MR. MABEE: Can I go ahead and start?

17 MS. HORN OLSEN: Go ahead, please. Thank you.

18 MR. MABEE: Okay. My name is J.R. Mabee, I'm the
19 president of the Grand Lake Stream Guides Association.
20 J.R. are initials. It stands for James Robert.

21 I spent pretty much my -- well, my entire life going to
22 West Grand Lake to my grandfather's camp and eventually,
23 you know, went on, went to college, came back to the area.
24 Even though I never really left, I always enjoyed spending
25 time there. I now guide approximately 80 days a year,

1 guiding fishermen.

2 I'll travel all over the place. I spend my winters in
3 Bangor, summers in Grand Lake Stream. I do a little
4 guiding over on the Penobscot River, which has been a
5 nationally, you know, written about place to fish. Much
6 more industrialized. Out of Grand Lake Stream, I'll travel
7 north to places like Lower Hot Brook Lake and further south
8 down towards the coast to the town of Pembroke.

9 The main reason for people to come up here is the
10 wilderness. I have some people that are adamant fishermen,
11 they fish all over the world. Some of them, you know,
12 still don't mind going to a place that has windmills. I've
13 been asking my clients this year about it. Most of them
14 would rather fish in a place where they do not see
15 windmills. They do see them in some places that I take
16 them, but they prefer not to.

17 As Jerry Hamza said earlier, the fishing around Grand
18 Lake Stream is good. I'd like to say it's a little better
19 than that. I too, myself, have fished out west in Montana,
20 Alaska, Labrador, where they say it's great, but we have a
21 big business in Grand Lake Stream between sporting camps
22 and one of the highest populations of registered Maine
23 working guides.

24 We had a meeting -- our monthly meeting -- on the first
25 Wednesday of every month, and we just polled the members in

1 attendance on Wednesday, June 1st, this year. Every member
2 in attendance was opposed to this particular project
3 because we're all afraid that it's going to degrade the
4 wilderness values of what people come up here for.

5 These are the same hills that writer Edmund Ware
6 Smith -- he might not be as popular as Henry David Thoreau,
7 but he's pretty popular. And maybe I actually like him a
8 little better because I've spent more time on the waters
9 around there, even though I did work as a white-water guide
10 up on the west branch of the Penobscot.

11 But he mentioned these same exact hills time and time
12 again. And this is an economy -- a fishing economy that's
13 been going on -- people have come to town since the 1800s
14 to first fish for landlocked salmon. And now the
15 smallmouth bass has become a great fishery.

16 I also think that it's a little bit of a slap in the
17 face -- there's been a huge private conservation effort to
18 protect land from state of Maine land around Gassabias and
19 Nicauous Lake right through and across the Canadian border
20 into New Brunswick. And to have that and have that great
21 wilderness and then have these wind turbines, you know,
22 staring you in the face, it definitely takes away from the
23 qualities that people not only come up here for, but what's
24 been worked for, trying to attain this little place that we
25 have. I thank you for your time.

1 MS. HORN OLSEN: Chris Gleason? Is Chris Gleason here?
2 No? Okay. Linda Ilge? Ilse? I apologize.

3 MS. ILSE: I probably didn't write it well. I'm not --
4 I don't really like microphones, but I'll do my best with
5 it.

6 My name is Linda Ilse. I'm a research assistant
7 professor in the Department of Wildlife Ecology at the
8 University of Maine. I live in Burlington. I do not live
9 on a lake, and I do not see the windmills from my home. I
10 see them coming and going, but not there. So I say that
11 just to let you know I don't have an agenda with regard to
12 that.

13 And I have scratched in my notes here to try to get rid
14 of issues that other people have touched on. I think my
15 primary concerns and questions to you deal from a, perhaps,
16 different perspective.

17 I'm very concerned about the rapid permitting process
18 and the ecological and environmental impacts. And I know
19 Joy has addressed some of that, and I got a chance to talk
20 to her very briefly last night. And in no way do any of my
21 comments or questions mean to question the integrity of
22 anybody involved. I simply have questions and concerns and
23 would hope to find some answers. I know you can't answer
24 them right now, but maybe you can direct me to where I can
25 get the answers.

1 I have been to a number of workshops, most recently
2 Orono, and when those who have the authority to do the
3 permitting have -- when they've been asked questions, they
4 say, well, you know, we aren't going to listen to anything
5 unless it's peer-reviewed scientific literature. There is
6 a shortage of that, I will admit. Having dealt with that
7 process, it takes years to do the research, and that
8 peer-review process does take a certain amount of time. So
9 there is a shortcoming there. There is more out there than
10 has been alluded to.

11 Good valid research takes time. I'm a little unclear
12 as to the seasons, if that means in one year or seasons
13 scattered over a period of time. There's a tremendous
14 difference in seasons with regard to not only wind
15 conditions, but animal behavior and the landscape itself.

16 I'm concerned that rapid-style research could lead to
17 some erroneous results when, actually, the purpose of some
18 of that is to propose some hypotheses.

19 There are some proposed guidelines put out by the U.S.
20 Fish and Wildlife Service suggesting a three-year a priori
21 research period and three years a posteriori, and of course
22 those have not been adopted yet, but they are recommended.

23 I think that this research should be conducted not just
24 by First Wind or Champlain or any of the other
25 organizations, but by independent researchers or

1 independent researchers coordinating with these people just
2 to make the research more valid. We do that with medical
3 research. We always question results and, in order to
4 avoid that, I believe that we should work together.

5 Also I would like to know if there's any way I can, you
6 know, see some of the data, some of the methodology, and so
7 on, with regard to the research that's been conducted.

8 I think research needs to be focused more on a
9 landscape level than just those areas that, by state
10 regulation, have to be examined. Those buffer areas around
11 lakes and wetland and so on. Because you can't just have
12 an impact in one area. It's going to impact a broad area
13 in a variety of ways. So I would like to see that. I
14 don't know; perhaps it's been done here.

15 Most of the research and references have been to birds
16 and to bats. Raptors are birds. I had a little discussion
17 about that with somebody. They aren't the only ones being
18 involved. I haven't heard anything about plants. In
19 ecology we have a tropic pyramid beginning with plants as
20 the primary producers, it goes up to the herbivores,
21 carnivores, top carnivores. As man, as humans, we are the
22 top predator now, and we rely on all those levels beneath
23 us. So we're getting our energy for life from the bottom
24 up, but it seems like we're taking a top-down approach;
25 how's it going to affect us rather than those parts of the

1 landscape and earth that provide us with what we need.

2 Regarding plants, I'm sure some of you remember the yew
3 tree out in California; it was about to be destroyed, and
4 now we use that for Tamoxifen, which is one of the leading
5 drugs in breast cancer treatments.

6 As far as the expedited permitting process --

7 MS. HILTON: One more minute.

8 MS. ILSE: Okay. The expedited permitting process
9 precludes the ability to do some of this research and
10 address questions that many people do have.

11 There have been validated and peer-reviewed
12 publications by bat biologists indicating that the highest
13 negative impact so far have occurred in the east and are
14 most prevalent on mountain ridge tops. Mortalities are
15 underestimated because carrying feeders come in and eat
16 what has died through whatever reason.

17 I question strongly why these projects are being
18 proposed in areas of low wind speed and seasonal variation.
19 These projects are being completed in areas rated as one on
20 a scale of one to seven with one being the lowest with
21 regard to average seasonal wind speed and efficiency.

22 Those data come from Wind Energy published by the Maine
23 Department of Economic and Community Development. Some of
24 these impacts -- some of the lighting on the windmill --

25 MS. HILTON: Your time is up. You will submit that?

1 MS. ILSE: I would like to submit something else
2 because this is all scratched up, but I would love to
3 submit something.

4 MS. HILTON: Oh, okay. All right. And also talk to
5 the staff about how to get more of the information.

6 MS. ILSE: I would like to do that. I haven't been
7 able to find any on the Web. Thank you for listening to me
8 tonight. I know you guys have been through hell the last
9 few days.

10 MS. HORN OLSEN: Dean?

11 MR. BEAUPAIN: Good evening. My name is Dean Beaupain.
12 I'm an attorney. 71 Broadway, Bangor, Maine. I'm here on
13 behalf of the Haynes Family from Winn, Maine; H.C. Haynes,
14 Incorporated, Lakeville Shores, and related companies.

15 My clients are large timber producers. You're really
16 in our backyard. We own a lot of property here. You
17 permitted the Vinegar Hill large lot division in Carroll.
18 You've issued permits on Lakeville Shores I and II. In
19 fact, Lakeville Shores is named for that project. We
20 bought the west shore of Junior Lake, and at that time,
21 you'd have thought the world was going to end if we went
22 out there and cut trees and then sold some land. I think
23 today the people that are coming here that have those camps
24 take a different view of it, and they don't want any
25 change.

1 Now in this particular project, we don't have any
2 turbines. We don't have any axe to grind here. We do have
3 Stetson I, we have Stetson II, we have Rollins Mountain.
4 We have other projects in the pipeline. And what we've
5 learned as a timber producer is the payments to the
6 landowner are a very stabilizing influence. When Great
7 Northern Paper Company went bankrupt, it threw the timber
8 industry into turmoil. When Katahdin Paper shut down, it
9 threw the timber industry into turmoil. These payments
10 stabilize the industry. They allow you to keep people on
11 the payroll when large markets disappear with no notice.

12 Now, I'd like to address the wilderness concept. From
13 our perspective, this is not the wilderness. We've
14 harvested trees all around West Grand Lake. Several times.
15 That's our business. The roads are there to harvest the
16 wood, to nurture the forest.

17 We believe in multiple use. We have no problem with
18 the guides using our property. One of our key points with
19 these projects is we will keep these projects open for
20 public use as long as the turbines are there. Stetson I
21 and Stetson II must be 30,000 plus acres open to public
22 use. We'd like to see that continue.

23 We think there's room for tourism. We think there's
24 room for windmills. And we think there's room for the
25 timber industry. And in northern Penobscot and northern

1 Washington County, we need them all. We have to work
2 together.

3 Now I remember when I was with Fred Todd, probably the
4 only two people in this room on the hearings before your
5 Commission for the Big A Dam, and the rafting industry
6 said, well, we've got 15,000 rafters a summer, and if you
7 build the dam it's going to destroy our industry, and our
8 projection is we're going to 50,000 a year. Well, the dam
9 wasn't built, and rafting peaked at 18,000 rafters a
10 summer, and they're lucky to do that today. Which is what
11 they did in the mid '80s.

12 I don't think fishermen are going to take over this
13 area and replace everything people need to do and are doing
14 today in the timber industry.

15 Now, on a personal note, I have owned land in
16 Lakeville, Maine, for over 20 years. I built one of the
17 first camps on the west shore of Junior Lake. I've fished
18 all these lakes. I've put my boat in on Bottle Lake and
19 gone down Bottle Lake Stream to Junior Lake. I have marked
20 the channel from Junior Lake down to West Grand Lake. I've
21 led a flotilla of boats from Junior Lake to West Grand Lake
22 because that's where the fishing is. Let's keep in mind,
23 bass are not a native fish up here. If anyone is coming to
24 Grand Lake stream to fish for bass in the wilderness, I
25 don't know who's telling them that. It's an invasive

1 species we all hate most places.

2 As far as salmon goes, there's no salmon spawning above
3 the dam at Grand Lake Stream. West Grand Lake has
4 tremendous fishing because the state stocks 8 to 10,000
5 fish some years in that lake. If you're in Junior Lake and
6 you get 300 fish every five years, where are you going to
7 fish? You're going to go down to West Grand Lake. There's
8 room for everybody up here.

9 I love to boat. If I'm in the middle of West Grand
10 Lake a little bit of a turbine in the distance is not going
11 to destroy my experience and make me go somewhere else. I
12 know you folks have a tough job, but what we need is to all
13 work together.

14 You've got Stetson I, Stetson II, this project, and
15 Rollins Mountain clustered together using the same
16 infrastructure, and that's the type of projects we need to
17 approve. Thank you.

18 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

19 MS. HORN OLSEN: Elgin Turner?

20 MR. TURNER: Good evening. I'm Elgin Turner, and I'm
21 on behalf H.C. Haynes and the associated companies.

22 Basically, Dean has said most of everything that I
23 really had kind of written down here, but I will have a
24 couple other things. You know, I have been involved with a
25 lot of the land divisions around either Duck Lake, Junior

1 Lake and Keg Lake, and I can tell you for sure that all of
2 that land has been harvested. And occasionally, we'll
3 acquire other pieces next to it and next to these lakes,
4 and they are being harvested again.

5 So I know earlier I had heard about this 250-foot
6 zone -- well, 50-foot zone is more like it. And then in
7 back of that, you can clear 40 percent every 10 years. So
8 like I say, I don't want to go over the same stuff again.
9 But anyway, he is right, as far as the income that comes
10 from this -- this type of use. It does help keep our other
11 lands wide open, and we do still plan on keeping them.

12 I think we've got a pretty good record in the Stetson
13 regions and in the Rollins regions of -- because you can,
14 say, drive right up to them and by them, and we don't have
15 no gates or anything, and that has been one very important
16 issue that we have -- we feel very strongly about as a
17 company, to try to keep -- and as long as everybody
18 maintains good manners, then it will stay that way.

19 Okay. I guess the only other thing is a personal
20 thing, again. From my picture window on the Phinney Farm
21 Road -- actually, I live on a hill on the Phinney Farm Road
22 here in Lincoln -- I can see 26 of these wind turbines, and
23 I do see the lights blinking at night out of my picture
24 window. I can set on the couch and see them. It's not
25 that big of a deal to me, to be honest with you. I'm

1 sorry, but that's the way I feel. Thank you.

2 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

3 MS. HORN OLSEN: So the next five speakers are Calvin
4 Murphy; Lance Wheaton, perhaps? Lance W; Gerald Griffin;
5 Liam Griffin; and John Gaskins. So Calvin Murphy?

6 MR. MURPHY: Good evening. And thank you for taking
7 your time to listen to all the comments from all the
8 speakers that have come before you tonight.

9 My name is Calvin Murphy. I was born and grew up in
10 Washington County. I now reside in Bangor in Penobscot
11 County and own a summer home on the St. Croix River.

12 From the St. Croix River, we have buoys. I'm on the
13 very lower end of the St. Croix River in Passamaquoddy Bay.
14 So we have buoys out there at night that blink all night
15 long. We have cell phone towers out on historic St. Croix
16 Island that blink all night long. I find it very soothing.
17 I sit on my porch, watch it; I could fall right to sleep.

18 But I'm not here on a personal campaign or anything.
19 I'm here as a representative of the International
20 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1253. The
21 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has worked
22 on all the wind farms so far in the state of Maine. This
23 past winter, we worked on the Rollins Mountain project,
24 employed 20 Maine licensed electricians, and 10 electrical
25 apprentices aspiring to become licensed electricians

1 through our apprenticeship program. So they get on-the-job
2 training and skills. They go to school at night, work
3 during the day. These are nontraditional students that
4 can't afford college or don't want to get caught up in the
5 college setting.

6 All the workers that worked on these were from
7 Washington and Hancock County. Some lived right in Lee,
8 some lived in Springfield, some lived in Woodland. The
9 workers work through tough conditions throughout the winter
10 months logging close to 3,000 safe man hours at a project
11 cost of close to \$1.5 million. This money stays locally in
12 the counties and the towns of Maine and is a huge tax
13 windfall to the state to support many other unfunded
14 programs.

15 The people that didn't live right close to town here
16 stayed here during the week. They ate here. They spent
17 part of their paycheck here. So this is money that is
18 going in all different directions to help support the local
19 economies. These wind farms are a good thing.

20 Green energy is the way of the future. Maine needs to
21 lead the industry, not follow the negative comments of not
22 in my back yard groups.

23 IBEW is in support of the Bowers Mountain project.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. HORN OLSEN: Lance Wheaton?

1 MR. WHEATON: I'll try to keep it short. If you want
2 history, I'll give you history. You know, my great
3 grandfather fought in the civil war. Both grandfathers
4 were guides. One died in a canoe with a party. Father
5 guided all his life.

6 MS. HILTON: Where are you from?

7 MR. WHEATON: Forest City, Maine. Forest City. Yeah,
8 there are only nine people; there's just as many moose as
9 there are people.

10 But over the years -- I've guided for 50 years. I've
11 owned a set of sporting camps there for 44 years.

12 Over the years, I have joined the -- I am a life member
13 of the Maine guides, the State Guides Association, a member
14 of the Grand Lake Guides Association, the Princeton Rod and
15 Gun Club, Calais Rod and Gun Club, Washington County
16 Conservation Association.

17 And recently, Mr. Paul LePage made me advisory counsel
18 to represent Washington County for Inland Fish & Wildlife
19 in the commissioner's office. Now at no time am I going to
20 represent one of those clubs or represent the
21 commissioner's office, but I see and hear a lot.

22 And you know, I have been to those turbines at Stetson
23 Mountain, and I have watched them. And I've guided from
24 lakes where you saw them and lakes that you didn't see.
25 And I've done a lot of guiding. That's the only job I've

1 got. Oh, no, in the wintertime, I have built 81 Grand Lake
2 canoes that the guides are using and continuing on our
3 tradition.

4 I think that -- that we are the keepers of the land.
5 We see kids from outside come and get in our canoes that
6 have been exposed to dope, drugs, alcohol, you name it.
7 But you know, if I can spend my life and teach one of your
8 kids to enjoy the outdoors, seeing an otter swim and play
9 and fish, seeing beaver, seeing a deer on the shore
10 feeding, or seeing a moose from across the lake, this isn't
11 my first day. I've got a brother in the back of the room
12 and he and I one time jumped on a moose's back and rode him
13 across the lake. I'm telling you the truth. We were
14 foolish, but we did it.

15 As I drive to Augusta to my meetings, and you drove
16 from Augusta to here for this meeting, did you notice
17 something? You didn't cross that bridge down in Kittery,
18 did you? When you get up here, you started seeing some
19 woods, you started seeing less houses. It's unique. But
20 let me tell you something. I have traveled the east coast,
21 but I live here year round. I think that if this is gone,
22 there will be no place left. There is a Canadian border,
23 and your kids cannot learn the outdoors by going across the
24 Canadian border. This is a big country, but there's little
25 wilderness left.

1 How much have we got to give? You know, we talked
2 eagles at the last meeting we were at. We have protected
3 eagles. They were on the endangered species list. And the
4 DDT passed and eagles started gaining. Then they were on
5 the threatened list. So they've been on a threatened list
6 and finally they've been delisted. There are eagles
7 everywhere, but we still keep talking eagles in Augusta.

8 When do we have enough? When do we have enough?

9 Now these windmills. Are they helping our people here?
10 No, the power is going out of state. Everybody is talking
11 about, oh, just that windmill. That windmill is generating
12 all kinds of power. What about that transmission line that
13 goes the whole length of the state, eats up tons of forest.

14 There's not a rabbit can be -- you know, I've been
15 around those Stetson towers, and I noticed the deer just
16 charging up there -- the doe deer -- to lamb right by the
17 tower. They do that, you know, and -- and God help you if
18 you're there late in the afternoon because the partridge
19 will roost on all those blades for the night and -- and the
20 light makes sure they can get up and go to the bathroom.
21 You know, it's foolishness. And I'm not going to sell out
22 what we love for a fistful of dollars.

23 I'm against the project. And we're -- as federal
24 government, our kids are going to be in bad shape to pay
25 the bill that we're doing. Don't sell out our forests.

1 There will be a day when you'll like to go with your kids
2 and see some of the forests. I've trained a lot of them.
3 Thank you.

4 MS. HILTON: Thank you. Gerald Griffin.

5 MR. GRIFFIN: Hi. My name is Gerry Griffin. I'm here
6 as a visitor to this area. We own a camp in Lowell about
7 15 miles from here. It's called Lake Escutarsis. It's a
8 very small lake, and I was given these photos by a member
9 of an opposition group to present to the Commission.

10 They're not photos of Lake Escutarsis, but they do very
11 accurately portray what our lake looks like from my dock.
12 And I'd like to just hand those to you so you can take a
13 look. Very representative.

14 We -- my wife's parents originally came up here in the
15 '50s. They bought a camp. My wife has been coming here
16 since she's been a young girl in the '50s, and then we
17 met -- we honeymooned at this camp. We've been coming to
18 this camp for over 20 years, every single year.

19 Two days ago we came up to the camp, drove in, walked
20 out to the dock and saw 24 wind turbines before us. And
21 I'm just here to tell you my personal experience that it
22 destroyed the feeling that I have for this lake. We gladly
23 drive 450 miles every year to come here and spend our two
24 weeks vacation here, and that feeling is lost for me. I
25 feel like I've been mugged. I feel like I've been, you

1 know, something really precious has been taken away from me
2 and my family.

3 I don't have any prepared remarks, but I would just
4 like to say that I'm not sure that everyone is taking into
5 consideration the benefits versus the detriments here.

6 The land values have to decrease anywhere that these
7 towers are visible around a lake. So I know the valuations
8 around our lake have to go down. So that's -- when the
9 valuations go down, the tax revenue is going to go down.

10 So this company might be giving, you know, a hundred
11 thousand here or 20,000 there, but the town councils have
12 to consider what their valuations are going to go down.
13 And it's just -- I'm just asking you to weigh the pros and
14 cons here that there is going to be, number one, tremendous
15 loss of land value for recreational purposes; and number
16 two, a lot of loss of tourism because people are going to
17 choose to say, well, do I want to drive 450 miles even
18 though we've been coming here for 30 or 40 years. Maybe
19 it's not worth it anymore. And you know, we -- it's
20 something to consider.

21 And I just -- I've been on a board myself. My local
22 little village, we've faced hard economic times. We depend
23 on a prison in the rural town that I live in in New York,
24 and we depend on that for a large part of our money. I've
25 been on the board of trustees, I've been on the zoning

1 board of appeals, and I know that sometimes it's very hard
2 to stand up and, you know, when the whole tide is going
3 against you. But I'm asking everybody to, you know, really
4 at least see if we can move some of those towers away from
5 the lakes. You know, I understand the need for, you know,
6 renewable energy, but does it have to be right where, you
7 know, ruining everybody's property values? That's all I
8 have to say. Thanks.

9 MS. HORN OLSEN: Liam Griffin?

10 MR. GRIFFIN: I'm Liam Griffin. I'm 17. I'm from
11 Cossackie, New York. I've been coming up to Maine, since I
12 was born, for 17 years. The car ride is eight hours long,
13 and it sucks, but we still come up every year. And we look
14 forward to it, regardless of how bad the one day is.

15 This year we came up, we walked up the dock and we saw
16 dotted along the hills 24 wind turbines. And at that
17 moment, I think my heart sank. It hasn't been the same as
18 previous years. I think the residents of Maine sometimes
19 might not appreciate all that they have up here. It is --
20 it's a slice of paradise. It's like heaven up here.

21 Where I come from, the land is developed, and it's just
22 not like how it is up here. When I was younger and I was
23 up at the camp, I used to say to myself, wow, it's going to
24 be great to have kids up here, and no matter how bad things
25 get and no matter how bad the world is, I can still take

1 refuge in this camp on this lake that I have, eight hours
2 away from where I am.

3 I don't have any written remarks. I just wrote these
4 down. So it's a little messed up.

5 I used to dream that my kids could experience pristine
6 wilderness where there hasn't been any development, where
7 they could imagine what it's like to close their eyes and
8 imagine what it's like to live 200 years ago where none of
9 it is developed because it's that easy; where they could
10 experience complete darkness at night; where loons cry and
11 you can hear them from your bed, even though you can't see
12 them.

13 In New York, I don't have a job, and I don't pay taxes,
14 and I'm unemployed because I have to go to school; but in
15 my 17 years, I do know a few things. I know that when you
16 have something truly beautiful and something you really
17 like, that you shouldn't just let it go without thinking
18 about it twice. Some people may think I'm naive, but I do
19 think that in some respects, these windmill deals are like
20 making a deal with the devil.

21 It sucks that the residents of Maine have to -- are in
22 such an economic -- are -- that the economy is so bad that
23 they have to pawn off the beauty they have in order to
24 survive. But still, I think that people should think
25 twice. I can't do anything for my lake or for my

1 experience because it's already been completely ruined for
2 me, but I can ask the next guy to think for himself and to
3 consider what I've said.

4 I'm glad that I've had the chance to speak. Thank you.

5 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

6 MS. HORN OLSEN: John Gaskins.

7 MR. GASKINS: Good evening. Thank you for your time.
8 I live in Forest City, Maine half the year. The other half
9 of the year, I live down in the Amish Country in
10 southeastern Pennsylvania. I've worked in the summers and
11 in Maine for 37 years as a fishing and hunting guide. I
12 have my own guiding businesses, and I work for several
13 lodges in Forest City.

14 Normally I'm one of those people that would not ever
15 think about coming to a meeting like this or speaking out,
16 but I had -- I had a client in the canoe about ten days
17 ago, and this is the first time this has happened. I took
18 him to Baskahegan Lake where the Stetson project is
19 obviously visible, and the gentleman was from Westchester
20 County, New York. And when we got to the landing -- and we
21 were the only ones there, and he looked across at me and I
22 said, oh, there's a new wind farm over there. And he
23 turned to me and he said, that's not what I came here for.
24 And it wasn't pleasant; his tone was not pleasant at all.

25 During the day -- and we had a nice day fishing, but

1 during the day, he brought up five or six times that his
2 experience was diminished by the view. So I guess my point
3 is aesthetics. It's corny, but it's true. There are
4 people from Westchester County, New York, and as this
5 gentleman said, he came here to escape that, to get away
6 from the development, to get away from the scenes of
7 civilization.

8 And what was that interesting was, this man had been on
9 Baskahegan in 2004 and he had not been back. He shows up
10 in 2011, sees the wind farm; and as much as the wind farm
11 probably is needed in some respects, it ruined his
12 experience. And he made the comment -- he said, I won't be
13 back. Now, that's money out of my pocket. It's money out
14 of the pockets of the businesses that I work for.

15 My wife and I have come to Maine since 1969, spent our
16 summers here, and I'm a retired schoolteacher. I used to
17 teach high school biology and chemistry. And we love it
18 here. And yeah, it's not wilderness like Alaska's
19 wilderness, but there's a charm and a remote beauty of
20 something that isn't fully spoiled; it isn't fully
21 developed. Maine is trying to strike a balance of
22 beneficial development and the environment, but as a
23 guide -- as somebody who now spends half the year here and
24 has a guiding business -- the truth is, that people that --
25 that I have, some of them I've guided over and over again

1 for 25 to 30 years; they come back for the same things that
2 many of the folks this evening have spoken about. You get
3 to see a little piece of heaven. You get to see a little
4 bit of a lake that doesn't have wires and -- wires and
5 lights and whatever.

6 It wouldn't matter if it was some other kind of
7 development. The wind farm just happens to be the point of
8 this discussion. And it does diminish our environmental
9 experience, and it diminishes the experience of these
10 people that come from the city and work their little butts
11 off all year long just to have two-weeks vacation or a
12 fishing trip to Maine. And then they come up here and they
13 don't expect to see that, so this comes as a shock to them.

14 And my point is that I'm here this evening to voice my
15 opposition to the project because it affects directly the
16 impressions that people take home when they're done.

17 And if this gentleman's word holds true, that's one
18 customer I won't get back. He likes it here, but the point
19 was that he felt that he could go to some other place and
20 maybe spend more money and do a little more remote fishing
21 trip in Canada or Labrador or someplace, and he didn't need
22 to see development.

23 So I formally would like to voice my opinion that I
24 oppose the project, and I hope you'll consider all the
25 possibilities. Thank you.

1 (Whereupon a recess was held at 7:51 p.m., and the
2 hearing was resumed at 8:06 p.m. this date.)

3 MS. HILTON: Okay, folks. We'd like to get going.

4 I can't remember. Did you call off some names before?
5 Samantha is going to call off the next five names.

6 If you have not already been sworn in and you want to
7 testify tonight, this would probably be a good time to do
8 that. Is there anyone who hasn't been sworn in?

9 Okay. Those who haven't been sworn in, would you
10 please stand up and raise your right hand?

11 And do you promise to tell the whole truth and nothing
12 but the truth?

13 PARTICIPANTS: Yes.

14 MS. HILTON: All right. Good. Thank you.

15 MS. HORN OLSEN: The next five speakers on the list are
16 Bob Kay, Alan Michka, Kay Michka, Hannah Seavey and
17 Jonathan Carter.

18 So Bob Kay. Is Mr. Kay here?

19 MR. KAY: I'm Bob Kay, and I thank you for this
20 opportunity. I will be brief. I'm a registered Maine
21 guide. I work in Washington County. I'm a -- I reside in
22 Forest City, Maine and also South Berwick, Maine, and I am
23 entirely against this project. I too have lived through
24 the shock of people who have not so much enjoyed the view
25 at Baskahegan Lake. And I -- my livelihood depends upon

1 the natural beauty of the state of Maine. It's that
2 simple. Thank you.

3 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

4 MR. MICHKA: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is
5 Alan Michka. I'm a member -- or resident of Lexington
6 Township. Once again, I respectfully thank you for your
7 service and appreciate you being here this evening.
8 Welcome, Commissioner Hammond. Welcome to the fray.

9 There's no way I can possibly say everything that I
10 want to say tonight, so I will be submitting my written
11 comments for you, hopefully by the end of the week.

12 Sometime in the last year or so, I spoke to you at
13 another hearing on another wind project, and I opened my
14 comments with some words taken directly from your CLUP.
15 They're the first paragraph, actually, in that document.
16 I'm just going to just reread the last three sentences of
17 that paragraph.

18 Over 40 years old, they were written in 1969, and
19 they're as true today as they were back then. It says:
20 More and more as the northeastern U.S. develops, the Maine
21 woods are becoming an almost unparalleled resource both for
22 tree production and for recreational opportunity. But who
23 is to come forward to say that this resource must not be
24 squandered? Can we guarantee that the next generations
25 will be able to set out in a canoe and know that adventure

1 is just around the bend?

2 I might be naive, but I'd like to believe that in
3 another 40 years, those that follow us will be able to find
4 adventure and wander around the bend in Maine. I also hope
5 they'll enjoy a cleaner and more secure energy system.

6 And I really hope that they can be appreciative that
7 when faced with challenges, their predecessors, us, we rose
8 to the occasion and secured their energy future and
9 preserved the state's greatest assets at the same time.

10 Hopefully they won't be able to point a finger back at
11 us and say that in a span of less than a generation, their
12 predecessors squandered Maine's treasures for their own
13 financial expediency and unwillingness to consider
14 alternatives.

15 I continue to be amazed at how cheaply and easily some
16 people can sell out the best that Maine has to offer, but
17 here we are. Our state is launched on a brash and largely
18 unexplained mission that promises to make Maine look and
19 sound more like any other state east of the Mississippi,
20 with only vague and unsubstantiated promises of what might
21 be expected in return.

22 And you here, you're faced once again with the
23 unenviable task of making the tough call.

24 I'm just going to make a few comments on some things
25 that struck me from the application. As I said, most of my

1 comments will be in written form that I'll submit later.

2 There was a submission by a Cameron Wake from the
3 University of New Hampshire on behalf the Conservation Law
4 Foundation. He apparently is a climate change expert. He
5 submitted a 46-page submission, a lengthy submission; but
6 what's really important is what's missing from Mr. Wake's
7 submission, and that was any evidence or any assertion that
8 this project -- this particular project -- would have any
9 significant impact on climate change. This man is an
10 expert on climate change. He never made the case in that
11 46 pages that this project would have any significant
12 impact on that. I think that omission speaks volumes.

13 Also on behalf of the Conservation Law Foundation,
14 Abigail Krich or Krick -- I'm sorry if I don't pronounce
15 her name correctly -- but she wrote expansively on the
16 energy prices supplied by wind power as well as on the New
17 England Wind Integration Study. I'm going to be submitting
18 comments on both of those things. She kind of cherry picks
19 a lot of things -- a lot of things that are favorable to
20 wind development, but leaves out a lot of other important
21 things.

22 Specifically, she didn't even point out that the New
23 England Wind Integration Study made the observation that
24 land-based wind sites in Maine are inconveniently located a
25 long distance from load centers to the south or that

1 potential offshore sites are much more conveniently located
2 near those load centers; an important point if you're
3 trying to keep one close to the other and reduce the entire
4 transmission infrastructure. The study's observations.
5 Not mine. She didn't mention them.

6 Regarding the visual impact, this whole study of visual
7 impact, I was paddling on Junior Lake today. It was the
8 first time I've ever been on the lake. It's remarkable.
9 It's beautiful. And I looked up to where the project
10 was -- to where the prospective project is going to be
11 located. And I'm here to tell you, after being out there
12 on the lake today, the experience I had reading through the
13 visual impact studies, all three of them in this
14 application, I tell you it's going to have an unreasonable
15 adverse effect on the experience on that lake. At least on
16 that one lake I was on.

17 It's unreasonable because Mr. -- among all the legal
18 reasons within the statute, but -- one minute? But it's
19 also unreasonable because Mr. Wake couldn't tell us that
20 this project was actually going to have any impact on
21 climate change.

22 And it's unreasonable because Miss Krich can't tell us
23 why, despite the magic of free fuel for their wind turbines
24 and the low energy prices, why they still rely on so much
25 public support and a mandated market for them through the

1 RPS.

2 It's unreasonable because our state legislators have
3 never considered alternatives to wind turbines on
4 mountaintops. There was a passage in the final report from
5 the governor's task force in wind power development. It
6 said -- and this is a quote from it -- it says: There may
7 be a limit to how much wind power development the people of
8 Maine are willing to accept over time. I think we might be
9 there already.

10 If you look at the New England Wind Integration Study,
11 and I hope that you do, look at all of it. It will scare
12 you when you see the scenarios they develop for the future
13 to get any amount of wind penetration into our grid. The
14 scenarios will frighten you if you take a look at them.
15 This is just a tip of the iceberg. This is just the
16 beginning. It's much, much larger than this. Thank you.

17 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

18 MS. MICHKA: Good evening, LURC commissioners. My name
19 is Kay Michka. Thank you for the opportunity to speak
20 tonight.

21 As my husband said, my family has come straight from
22 Junior Lake to this hearing. We paddled our kayaks among
23 breathtaking scenery, swam in cool water with crystal clear
24 reflections, and glazed wistfully at Bowers Mountain,
25 trying to banish the looming specter of industrial wind

1 turbines from our minds.

2 We have spent our tourist dollars here today and will
3 tomorrow. Yet with unmistakable irony, we have rented a
4 cabin at the water's edge which is very simple. It does
5 not even have electricity. The fact that people repeatedly
6 pay to experience this way of life in Maine proves that it
7 is something of value, something that is worth driving to
8 this area for.

9 So I ask you, why in the world would anyone pay for
10 this unique nonelectric experience amid such beauty and
11 simplicity of nature under the shadow of enormous,
12 inefficient, unreliable electricity producers which
13 completely and negatively alter that experience simply by
14 their mechanical presence? My family certainly would not,
15 and I feel we certainly are not alone. As a matter of
16 fact, I cancelled a reservation for a cabin at Folsom Pond
17 tonight once I discovered turbines are now visible from
18 that cabin.

19 I dread running the gauntlet of scenery marred with
20 turbines most of the way back to our cabin this evening. I
21 am sad that my memories of this visit to this area with my
22 niece and husband will include the disturbing imprints of
23 those unnatural mechanical objects currently towering over
24 the unparalleled landscape along our route.

25 I fear for the people who live near Bowers Mountain who

1 quite probably will lose long-term tourist dollars if the
2 proposed turbine development is permitted. I ask you to
3 deny First Wind's industrial wind turbine development
4 application for their Bowers Mountain project. Thank you.

5 MS. SEAVEY: Good evening, LURC commissioners. My name
6 is Hannah Seavey.

7 A windmill. That seems a bit of an understatement,
8 doesn't it? So instead, a turbine: A huge industrial
9 turbine. A huge industrial turbine that visually pollutes
10 the visual landscapes of Maine's mountains and lakes. Yes,
11 this is what a so-called windmill is to me.

12 This is the fourth summer I have visited Maine, and
13 each year I find something new to wonder at. The stars,
14 the trees, the wildlife and the mountains; the beauty of it
15 all never cease to amaze me.

16 So what did I do when I found out more turbines were
17 being erected in this area? I sighed. These turbines
18 affect what I come to see. The pristine night sky obscured
19 by red strobing lights; the mountains free of development,
20 until now.

21 These turbines certainly change my opinion of the
22 natural beauty of Maine. I ask you not to grant the Bowers
23 Mountain industrial wind turbine permit so that the wonder
24 is preserved. Thank you.

25 MS. HILTON: Hannah, where are you from?

1 MS. SEAVEY: I'm from Clear Lake City, which is just
2 outside of Houston.

3 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

4 MR. CARTER: Hello, Commission. It's a late evening.
5 I'm Jonathan Carter. I'm the director of the Forest
6 Ecology Network. We have about 1200 members all across the
7 state, all across New England, and actually all across the
8 country in different locations.

9 Our mission is to protect and preserve and conserve the
10 north woods of Maine. And I am absolutely alarmed by the
11 fact that there is even consideration of an industrial wind
12 facility in this best kept secret in Maine, the Downeast
13 lakes region.

14 I grew up a lot and spent a lot of time in the Rangeley
15 area, and I've seen what's happened to that area over the
16 last 50 years as development as spread across. Go paddle
17 around the Grand Lakes and you will find what Maine was
18 like 50 years ago. It's an unparalleled, pristine
19 environment that can be found nowhere else, in my opinion,
20 in the lower 48. And to mar them with industrial turbines
21 is a crime against -- not only nature, but a crime against
22 Maine's important heritage.

23 I want you to understand that there's a lot of myths
24 about industrial wind in this project that need to be
25 considered. This project is both an ecological nightmare

1 and an economic boondoggle. The developers will try to
2 convince you that it's going to reduce carbon emissions.
3 There's been three separate studies now that show
4 industrial wind does not reduce carbon, and in fact, one of
5 those studies showed it increases carbon emissions because
6 of the need for backup. Because wind is intermittent and
7 it can't be stored when the wind blows, you've got to turn
8 something else off. When it stops blowing, you have to
9 turn something else on. Ramping up and down fossil fuel
10 plants consumes more energy and puts out more carbon
11 dioxide. It's like driving in stop-and-go traffic. This
12 industrial wind is not going to reduce carbon emissions.

13 It's an ecological disaster because you're going to
14 blow up a mountaintop. You're going to change the
15 hydrology. You're going to eradicate soils. You're going
16 to remove wildlife. You're going to get rid of the top
17 predators, which is going to have an impact on the plant
18 diversity. I'm a botanist, a scientist, by training.

19 It's an ecological disaster. But I know people like to
20 talk about the economics, and this group, First Wind, gets
21 up and extols all the economic benefits of this project and
22 how it's going to put so much money into the community. In
23 fact, if you look at the people who got up and spoke for
24 this project, almost every single one of them has a
25 financial interest being generated by First Wind dollars.

1 The fact is that they don't like to talk about the
2 negative economic impacts of industrial wind. Many people
3 have alluded to them and said them straight out tonight.
4 It's been estimated that mountaintop industrial wind is
5 four times as expensive as conventional gas-powered wind.
6 Who's going to foot the bill for the increased cost? The
7 rate payers. This will drive up electricity costs in
8 Maine.

9 What is the one factor that will damage the economic
10 climate in Maine? One of the major factors, and that's the
11 cost of energy. If the cost of energy goes up, business
12 goes down. Well, that loss of business, because of high
13 energy prices, should be considered in the cost of this
14 whole project.

15 Many people have alluded to the fact that they have
16 property that is quite valuable --

17 MS. HILTON: One minute.

18 MR. CARTER: -- and now it's being degraded. One study
19 has shown that if you're within two miles of a turbine,
20 your property values go down 20 to 40 percent. That's
21 stripping Mainers of wealth. An all for what? A few jobs.
22 A few permanent jobs. And the loss of, perhaps, thousands
23 of dollars because of a reduction in tourism and
24 recreation.

25 The environmental damage of this project is

1 catastrophic, but it was also an economic boondoggle.
2 Electric rates will go up because of projects like this; it
3 will drain dollars from Mainers' pockets; it will reduce
4 tourism and recreation, revenue, as well as strip Mainers
5 of their wealth through reduced property values.

6 This is not an economic positive thing, and you need to
7 gauge that. And I just, in closing, want to remind you
8 that I know some of you feel constrained by the expedited
9 law, thinking that it tells you what you have to do, but I
10 want to remind you in the very first sentence of the
11 legislative findings in the Maine Wind Energy Act, the
12 Legislature plainly states that it wants to encourage wind
13 development -- it not only wants to encourage wind
14 development; it only wants to do so where it is
15 appropriate. And it is not appropriate on Bowers Mountain.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. HORN OLSEN: Okay. The next five speakers are
18 Richard Hesslein -- I hope I pronounced that correctly;
19 Karen Pease; Brad Blake; Christopher O'Neil; and Steven
20 Neil.

21 Richard Hesslein? Go ahead.

22 MS. HESSLEIN: Hi. I'm Richard Hesslein from
23 Brownfield, Maine, about five and a half hours from here.
24 And I would just like to say that Maine is still struggling
25 to restore some of the ecological damage that has gone on

1 over the last couple hundred years, and it seems a shame to
2 step backwards by having such huge impacts on mountaintops
3 and our beautiful lake region resources. So please don't
4 allow certain industries that are benefitting from big
5 federal subsidies to undermine our state's values. Thank
6 you.

7 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

8 MS. PEASE: Good evening. My name is Karen Besse
9 Pease. I'm a resident of Lexington Township in the western
10 mountains. And although I live in the western mountains
11 region of this state, I began my life here, Downeast.

12 My father is a retired Maine State game warden, and the
13 unique area surrounding the proposed Bowers Mountains
14 project was part of the district he patrolled in the 1960s.

15 The owners and guides of the local sporting camps
16 became his friends and then friends of the family. We
17 lived in Danforth, which now lies in the shadow of First
18 Wind Stetson I and Stetson II projects. Spending time with
19 my grandparents included frequent visits here to Lincoln
20 where the Rollins wind project is under construction.

21 Later when they were transferred to Megantic, our trips
22 to visit my grandparents took us along Route 27 to Coburn
23 Gore past the chain of ponds and through the boundary
24 mountains where the Kibby I and II projects are now the
25 dominant feature of the landscape. And where the Sisk

1 project may soon be built.

2 I live on a homestead in Lexington Township. Currently
3 there are proposals for a wind project in Highland, the
4 plantation north of my farm. There is a project planned
5 for Lexington and Concord, directly behind my home. To the
6 north, add a wind development for Moscow and Caratunk in
7 the mix. And then directly to the east, include Bingham,
8 Brighton, Kingsbury, Abbott and Blanchard as communities
9 soon to be impacted by grid scale wind turbines.

10 These towns and UTs comprise the whole route my family
11 travels as we go home to the Monson/Greenville area,
12 through what we affectionately call the big woods.

13 Cumulative impact. As I think about the projects built
14 and the projects in some stage of development and those yet
15 to come, I'm realizing that every place I've called home
16 will be impacted by industrial wind turbines.

17 The wind energy plan that is currently underway in our
18 state is on course to completely alter the precious quality
19 of place about which I've always bragged. Pride of place
20 is what Mainers have; the vast land of northern, western
21 and eastern Maine is a treasure, and treasures require
22 extra protection.

23 In these proceedings, you've heard over and over again
24 what a treasure the Downeast lakes region is. There is no
25 mistaking the significance of this area. Its very value

1 lies in its naturalness and in its undeveloped state. This
2 unique, unspoiled area is the very essence of Maine.

3 Cumulative impact. We're already seeing it right here.
4 Stetson I. Stetson II. Rollins. Already there have been
5 significant alterations to the quality of place in this
6 region. Already some camp owners have decided to sell.
7 Already owners of rental cabins are being questioned by
8 potential tourists about the impacts of the local wind
9 facilities on their lake front cottages. And already,
10 sporting camps are losing business.

11 I'm going to read a short quote from a letter I
12 received in January of this year from the owner of a lodge
13 impacted by industrial wind in Maine. He says: The
14 windmill project in our area has greatly --

15 MS. HILTON: One minute.

16 MS. PEASE: Thank you. Has greatly affected our
17 business and definitely not in a good way. If I knew
18 before I purchased our land, built our lodge, cabins and
19 started our business, that they were going to put windmills
20 up across the lake and within two, or even five miles from
21 us, I would have never done it; however, now with our
22 lives -- whole lives invested into our place, our business,
23 as well as over a half million dollars, we are just trying
24 to survive. That was a small portion of a three-page
25 letter about the impacts of industrial wind on Maine on a

1 sporting camp owner and his family. It's added to their
2 daily stress and diminished their quality of life.

3 I would like you to think about his words: We're just
4 trying to survive. That's not what we do to people in
5 Maine. We don't put them in those circumstances.

6 I have more, but I'm not going to make you have to shut
7 me up. Thank you very much for what you do.

8 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

9 MR. BLAKE: Good evening. My name is Brad Blake. I am
10 a resident of Cape Elizabeth, Lincoln, Lee, and the Grand
11 Lakes of Downeast, Maine.

12 The reason why I say that is that I am a native of
13 Lincoln; I am staying tonight at the family cottage on
14 Silver Lake in Lee; and I spend a great deal of my time --
15 as I was growing up in Lincoln -- in the Downeast Grand
16 Lakes.

17 Growing up in Lincoln, for 60 years I used to look up
18 the lakes and just really enjoy what I thought was
19 paradise. Now when I come to Lincoln, I cry. Looking
20 across Mattanawcook Lake at the turbines that have been put
21 on the blasted away Rocky Dundee Ridges is heartbreaking.

22 Out at Silver lake, we happen to be in a cove. You go
23 on the east side of Silver Lake, which I did this
24 afternoon, and you see 15 turbines on Rollins Mountain and
25 you see four turbines -- the most northern ones -- of the

1 Rocky Dundee Ridges.

2 When I was a kid, I used to think, jeez, it's great,
3 land of 13 lakes, which Lincoln should change to land of 40
4 turbines. And then in high school, my best friend's family
5 had a cottage on Bottle Lake and had opened up a whole new
6 paradise to me. As beautiful as the Lincoln Lakes and
7 rolling ridges are, here when you go 15 miles further
8 beyond them, in Bottle Lake we used to go down the
9 thoroughfare and into Keg Lake and Junior Lake and up into
10 Scraggly Lake. And if we had the big boat, we went to West
11 Grand Lake. We went up into Upper and Lower Sysladobsis.

12 I know this region. This region belongs to the people
13 of the state of Maine and not to First Wind.

14 The Downeast Grand Lakes everybody has been referring
15 to as paradise, as a treasure, and so forth. If you were
16 to go due east of here, you would come to Kejimkujik
17 National Park. And give me a quizzical look. Nobody has
18 ever heard of that? It's a national park in Nova Scotia,
19 which the Canadian government has said, we deem this of
20 enough value to preserve. And I'm going to draw a
21 comparison between Kejimkujik and the Downeast Grand Lakes.

22 Kejimkujik National Park is 404 square kilometers in
23 size. It's centered around Kejimkujik Lake, which is 26
24 square kilometers or 64,025 acres. If you look at the
25 Downeast lakes watershed, it's approximately 1400 square

1 kilometers of watershed, and it's centered around West
2 Grand Lake, which by itself is 56 square kilometers or some
3 14,000 acres. The Canadian government is protecting
4 Kejimkujik.

5 What are we doing? We're encircling the Downeast Grand
6 Lakes with wind turbines because Stetson, Rollins, Bowers
7 is just the beginning of what these subsidy sucking
8 thieves, First Wind, have as a grand plan for turning every
9 ridge from the Penobscot River to the Canadian border from
10 places like Bull Hill to the southwest of the Grand Lakes
11 all the way up to the very foothills of Baxter State Park
12 into First Windiana, their own fiefdom of wind turbines.

13 MS. HILTON: One more minute.

14 MR. BLAKE: One last thing in drawing a contrast
15 between Kejimkujik and the Downeast Grand Lakes because
16 you've heard a lot about the brilliance of the dark skies.

17 Again, the Canadian government at Kejimkujik has
18 designated this in 2010 by the Royal Astronomical Society
19 of Canada as part of their Dark Sky Preserve Program.

20 If the Canadians can protect Kejimkujik, which is small
21 in stature compared to the magnificent Downeast Grand
22 Lakes, then I challenge this Commission to go back to the
23 original language and mission statement of Land Use
24 Regulation Commission -- go back to the original language
25 of the Natural Resources Protection Act and say: This is

1 more important than the heinous expedited wind permitting
2 process language and say no to Bowers Mountain.

3 MS. HILTON: Your time is up.

4 MR. BLAKE: My time is up, but I would like to explain
5 that I'm the person who took all of the photos that we have
6 been giving to you. This is Grand Lake Stream on West
7 Grand Lake and several other Rollins Mountain project
8 photos, all of which you notice have had water in them.

9 So take your imagination from viewing the destruction
10 from First Wind of the Lincoln Lakes Region and apply it to
11 Bowers Mountain and the magnificent Grand Lakes and, just
12 think, they're a hell of a lot bigger.

13 MS. HILTON: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. O'NEIL: Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you
15 for your patience and your diligence in this proceeding.

16 I'm Chris O'Neil. I live in the city of Saco where
17 many of my neighbors hear Maine guides, and they think of a
18 baseball team in Old Orchard. Please know that I have
19 intermittently been retained by Friends of Maine's
20 Mountains to do legislative advocacy for them in Augusta,
21 but I'm here tonight as a citizen.

22 I went to college outside of Maine and I've spent the
23 rest of my 50 years in Maine. One of the things about
24 Maine that has held me all this time is the outdoors.
25 Which I get a lot of.

1 I can get to Logan or Fenway or First Wind's offices in
2 90 minutes, but I can get to the Maine woods in 90 minutes.
3 In fact, eight days ago -- you might have seen me
4 limping -- I broke a toe, but it doesn't stop me because I
5 had made two friends -- promises to two friends that we'd
6 do a couple of hikes last weekend. We scaled it back and
7 on a miserable day, we did Little Spencer and enjoyed the
8 Ram Trail. And then the next day in the rain we did Kineo.

9 I do Katahdin every Labor Day as a tribute to my dad
10 who died on Labor Day back in the '80s. And I've got to
11 tell you that this year, I'm going to look to the
12 southeast, I'm going to see this town. Percy and I are
13 going to get shook up.

14 Two years of caution and focus. Economy and
15 aesthetics. You heard lots of criticism about how ugly
16 wind turbines look, and that is a subjective metric. But
17 you know the economics of wind. You know the vast
18 performance shortcomings. You've heard it over and over
19 again as you've sat on this Commission. That is what makes
20 wind projects ugly. So don't assume or presume benefits,
21 economic or otherwise, as you judge the worthiness of this
22 application. My words of caution.

23 Second, your mission is not economic development. It's
24 not boosterism of any particular industry, especially an
25 industry that has such high impact and low benefit. The

1 Grand Lake watershed is home to an industry -- a long, rich
2 industry that already exists and is a rich part of Maine
3 heritage. The customers for this industry could go to
4 Alaska with the click of a mouse, and they will.

5 So regarding economic development, do no harm. Do no
6 harm stepping over dollars to get at pennies.

7 I hope this proceeding finally serves as a wake-up call
8 to the Maine people. Mainers and our summer visitors --
9 and you heard from some today who expressed their shock and
10 awe at what they saw returning to one of their favorite
11 places -- are faced with another senseless sprawling wind
12 project that threatens to destroy thousands of acres of
13 irreplaceable wilderness, all for a methodology about which
14 you know all of its shortcomings.

15 This great community, once infamous for its Stinkin'
16 Lincoln nickname, knows very well the principle that
17 sacrifices need to be made. In exchange for some odd
18 smelling air, a community derived great benefit for
19 generations. The benefits far exceeded the impacts.

20 Now especially in weak resource areas like this, one
21 with wilderness mountaintop wind power, the massive and
22 permanent impacts dwarf the negligible and temporary
23 benefits. You know that.

24 We all accept -- and I do, too, a little appropriate
25 scarring of the Earth for infrastructure that is both

1 necessary and useful. Blinking buoys in a river, cell
2 towers, bridges, transmission lines, airports.

3 MS. HILTON: One minute.

4 MR. O'NEIL: They come to mind as necessary and useful.
5 Worth sacrificing for.

6 Today's wake-up call is that perhaps Maine can realize
7 that this Commission as a permitting authority can say no,
8 and everybody around Maine will say, well, gee, I wonder
9 why they said no; everybody loves wind power. And we'll
10 engage in a pretty decent conversation that starts to turn
11 us from the horrible path we're on.

12 I understand how you've previously struggled and
13 struggled with the dynamic that you have policies, laws,
14 rules and standards that are created by somebody else that
15 you need to adhere to. And at times it appears you have to
16 rubber stamp a proposal even against your better judgment.

17 What I ask of you here, as you deliberate and as you
18 decide, give the applicant no benefit of the doubt. I
19 encourage you as commissioners to review this application
20 with honesty and with the highest level of skepticism and
21 scrutiny that you can muster.

22 If you say no to Bowers, what a great wake-up call that
23 would be. So as we say around here, squeeze 'em. Squeeze
24 'em wicked hard. Thank you.

25 MR. NEIL: Good evening. I'm Steven Neil, and I'm here

1 with my wife Diane tonight. We primarily live in Camden,
2 but we're in the middle of a development in Lakeville on
3 Junior Lake.

4 We've been Maine residents for nearly 40 years. We
5 purchased our Lakeville property four years ago. Our
6 intent was to own a piece of property in one of the most
7 beautiful lake districts of Maine, still natural and
8 beautiful, where we can enjoy time in our later years.

9 We searched for a suitable property for well over a
10 year. We settled on the Lakeville lot for all of its
11 natural values and year-round accessibility. It is a
12 unique place for those reasons.

13 As it turns out, we purchased at the peak in the
14 property market. The shell of our structure was erected
15 last August just before the expedited area was expanded for
16 the Bowers wind project. In our mind, that decision
17 enabled First Wind to make the entire project feasible, and
18 without this project, may not have moved forward.

19 Since that LURC decision, we have made our own decision
20 not to spend any unnecessary money on local contractors,
21 preferring to finish whatever we are capable of ourselves
22 and cut back on the scope of our project. This was not our
23 intent, but faced with the very real possibility that our
24 property will be further devalued if the Bowers Mountain
25 wind project is approved, we feel we have to maintain as

1 much equity as we can with sweat.

2 Our house is small, super-insulated and, with the sun
3 shining this February, our inside temperatures reached 74
4 degrees and maintained the heat well through the night.
5 Our boiler didn't come on until later in the morning.

6 We have made a concerted effort to make our property as
7 energy efficient as we can afford. We're trying to do our
8 part. We did not buy our property to look at a wind farm.
9 Anyone that views before and after pictures would certainly
10 prefer the before picture unquestionably and would place a
11 different value on the two settings accordingly.

12 The 400-foot towers will dominate the skyline to the
13 northeast. And the nighttime flashing red lights will
14 offend any viewer.

15 Now we can look over Penobscot Bay and clearly see the
16 three wind towers of the Fox Island project over seven
17 miles away. Their red flashing lights do, indeed, stand
18 out in the night sky. The prospect of 27 red flashing
19 lights higher above us and closer is not a pleasant
20 thought.

21 We are not or ever will be against alternative energy
22 in principle, but the way that this nation and state is
23 going about it seems to be business as usual.
24 Corporations, their lobbyists, and politicians are
25 directing the show.

1 We do have to develop a better way, but to proceed in
2 an atmosphere of fear and panic doesn't produce good,
3 long-term results. A few of the people will have jobs and
4 make some money. Most will not. Many others will lose
5 money. The incentive programs offered to the consumer to
6 do their energy part seems proportionately quite small and
7 rather subdued compared to the incentives for corporations.

8 We wonder why a bigger emphasis isn't placed on home
9 and business energy improvement as well as energy
10 production. With widespread net metering programs, solar
11 hot water systems, efficient wood systems, and conservation
12 programs, hundreds of local contractors would sell,
13 install, maintain, upgrade the systems, putting people to
14 work, paying taxes, and improving the economy and quality
15 of life.

16 But more importantly, and straight to the heart of the
17 energy problem, people would take a vested interest in
18 their consumption and production of their own energy. With
19 the current attitude, people are waiting for someone else
20 to solve a problem for them and hand them a product in
21 unlimited amounts at the expense of the forest, wildlife,
22 ecosystem and views.

23 Smaller community used wind turbines are viable for the
24 community that wants them. This is not a community project
25 for our own electricity consumption.

1 MS. HILTON: One minute more.

2 MR. NEIL: The benefits of land-based utility scaled
3 wind generation in Maine is certainly questionable in its
4 biggest picture. If wind industry development is the way
5 Maine wants to expand its already exported product, then it
6 needs to be sited where people will not risk lost value in
7 their properties or quality of their surroundings.

8 If Maine wants people to be attracted to live, work and
9 recreate in an area as beautiful and natural as the
10 Downeast lakes watershed for the long term, a wind farm
11 will not bring them. Place an industrial scale wind farm
12 away from people and their properties, such as offshore, to
13 lessen the impact on the land and all inhabitants.
14 Offshore is where the most wind is and people are not.

15 We think there are more people beginning to understand
16 this and agree. We realize this is a ways off, but it will
17 surely be worth the wait not to destroy the values of our
18 living space.

19 Maine needs to preserve its natural settings,
20 especially one as unique as this site, and large scale,
21 land-based wind projects do not accomplish this.

22 If the Bowers Mountain project is allowed to proceed,
23 we will be looking back on this as a very sad and wasteful
24 day and not just by the two of us. Thank you.

25 MS. HORN OLSEN: The next five speakers are Steve

1 Perry; Peter Fisher; Kay Campbell; Art Wheaton; and Dale
2 Wheaton. And then we'll just have one more which is either
3 Mark or Mary Gray. I couldn't quite read it.

4 MR. PERRY: Good evening. I'm Steve Perry, and thank
5 you very much for your patience tonight and last night, and
6 I'm going to keep my comments very short.

7 I have given you a handout of my home on the Little
8 Narrows. I live at 30 Shore Drive. On the map it's Upper
9 Cold Stream Pond, but we commonly know it as the Little
10 Narrows.

11 I've enjoyed this lake ever since I was 10 years old.
12 And as a matter of fact over 40 years ago, I learned how to
13 play basketball in this very gym. And so the lakes have a
14 very dear feeling to me.

15 And I'd like to say, right off the bat to make it very
16 clear, that I am for this project. We get to see these
17 turbines on the southern portion of Rollins, close to nine
18 of them, every morning and every evening. And I am
19 building a retirement home on this lake, and I plan on
20 retiring there and enjoying my grandchildren.

21 Our first granddaughter, who's about a year and a half,
22 actually thinks that the lights are Christmas coming early.
23 And so I'm really proud of the fact that when she's old
24 enough to understand, that I can demonstrate to her that
25 like every other thing that we have grown to export in

1 Maine, from the granite that is in New York City and
2 Washington State from Stonington, to the lumber that made
3 Bangor the lumber capital of the east coast at one time, to
4 the trees, to the paper mills, and to the lobster and
5 blueberries, we have another product that we can be proud
6 of to export. And a clean energy that provides jobs.

7 I've worked for a construction company for 35 years and
8 I can honestly tell you firsthand that this is a boost to
9 the economy in many directions. And I know you've heard
10 many testimonies, so I'm not going to reiterate that, but
11 it is good for Maine. And thank you very much for your
12 patience.

13 MS. HORN OLSEN: Peter Fisher.

14 MR. FISHER: Good evening. My name is Peter Fisher. I
15 don't work for H.C. Haynes. I don't work for First Wind.
16 I have not been offered any donations from First Wind for
17 any of my hobbies or side things. They have not offered to
18 repair my camp roads, they haven't sponsored any road races
19 for me, and I have not partaken of the free lunch at the
20 end of the annual snowmobile trip that First Wind sponsors.
21 I am not planning on shaking Neil Kiely's hand as did the
22 woman from the Maine Wilderness Camps who, after having
23 lost the lease to the campground, is probably hoping to
24 rent her cabins and RV spaces to possible workers from this
25 project. And I have not received the girl scout wind power

1 merit badge that I understand this industry sponsored as
2 well.

3 But I am a camp owner on Junior Lake, and I have to
4 admit that I did buy a property there that was subdivided
5 by H.C. Haynes.

6 Contrary to a couple of the Carroll residents that have
7 spoken as to Junior Lake not being a wilderness lake and
8 all the people that came in and bought camps and spoiled
9 the wilderness, my friends and I have done circle trips
10 around the entirety of Junior -- and you saw the size of it
11 on your boat tour -- there are 65 camps on that entire
12 lake, and I think you can attest to the fact that you don't
13 see most of those homes. I still consider it certainly a
14 wilderness.

15 I had previously owned a camp on Long Pond in Lincoln.
16 The Rollins wind project now has visible turbines from that
17 lake, along with flashing red night lights and the
18 ever-present motion of rotating blades forever cancelling
19 the peaceful stillness of that pond.

20 Now the lake chain that I am currently living on is
21 threatened by another industrial wind project. The West
22 Grand Lake watershed is a unique asset to the state of
23 Maine. After truly experiencing this wonderful region, one
24 would undeniably have to agree. Yet once the state has
25 imposed convoluted terms to define and quantify the

1 qualities of our Maine wild lands, we the common citizens
2 are faced with the virtually insurmountable task of finding
3 an argument for our plight that is allowable, quantifiable,
4 pertinent and acceptable to the state's predefined
5 definitions and parameters for what seems so obvious to our
6 personal daily experiences.

7 In my opinion, the cumulative effect that was discussed
8 so extensively earlier today certainly exists and is
9 reality. I experience this cumulative effect every day
10 when I drive from Lincoln's gazebo all the way up to
11 Springfield. With every rise and turn of the road, one
12 more shock of a new and altered environment is in view.
13 It's -- every two or three minutes, there's another thing
14 to be seen.

15 As Mr. Milton stated earlier today -- Milligan, excuse
16 me -- stated earlier today, this region of Lincoln has
17 become defined by its turbines. And I would also agree
18 with Mr. Rafael earlier today when he stated, in response
19 to one of your questions, as to how many turbines are too
20 many, well, I guess you'll know it when you see it. I've
21 seen it, and I know it. I think we've got too many in one
22 concentrated area, and I'm hoping you'll deny this permit.
23 Thank you.

24 MS. CAMPBELL: Good evening. I want to thank all the
25 commissioners and your staff for the opportunity to be a

1 part of this process, for the chance to express our views.
2 Thank you for your hard work in shepherding this
3 complicated process along. And also, I'm really in awe of
4 your stamina right now.

5 My husband and I own a simple camp in Lakeville. We
6 will have no views of the project.

7 MS. HILTON: Kay?

8 MS. CAMPBELL: My name? Oh, yes. Kay Campbell from
9 Lakeville.

10 MS. HILTON: There you go.

11 MS. CAMPBELL: Sorry. We came here because of the
12 chain of lakes and the many recreational opportunities they
13 afford so that we can enjoy Maine's glorious north woods.

14 As we all know by now, the issue comes down to whether
15 or not the scenic impact of the proposed project will cause
16 that very-hard-to-think-about, unreasonably-adverse impact
17 on the traditional uses in eight or nine scenic lakes.

18 But how can we tell if the impact is unreasonably
19 adverse? Is it just adverse or very adverse? Personally,
20 I don't believe a visual impact assessment can create a
21 mathematical formula or a chart to put in numeric terms a
22 way of quantifying the combined impact.

23 In the end, I think it's a judgment call that you'll
24 have to make. To me, it's pretty obvious because I think
25 the following factors put together push that impact over

1 that line.

2 First it's the sheer number of affected lakes of scenic
3 character. Eight or nine scenic lakes are affected within
4 eight miles. And it's not just each lake on its own.
5 They're are almost all interconnected. They're an organic
6 whole.

7 We've heard ample testimony that the project's damage
8 to the pristine vistas will -- has really affected visitors
9 and highly prized tourists who have been coming to the area
10 for decades, even generations. This alone shows that the
11 scenic impact will damage both the traditional uses and
12 user expectations.

13 Further, even though the wind law has the magic
14 eight-mile line, because the scenic impact of the project
15 lies outside the expedited wind territory, please don't
16 forget the other connected lakes that extend for so many
17 miles in so many directions.

18 The sporting camps and Maine guides whose businesses
19 will be damaged by the negative scenic impact of the
20 project, these businesses -- they're the heart of the
21 region's traditional recreational economy. They're a
22 special concern of the state, and any potential damage to
23 their way of life should be considered unreasonably
24 adverse.

25 Finally, I believe approving this project would reverse

1 the efforts of hundreds of people, many organizations,
2 including the federal government and millions of dollars
3 that have been spent to protect and conserve the scenic
4 character of the Downeast lakes watershed.

5 To me it's clear that the scenic impact on these lakes,
6 because of all these factors put together, would be clearly
7 unreasonably adverse. And therefore, I urge you to deny
8 the permit application. Thank you.

9 MS. HORN OLSEN: Art Wheaton?

10 MR. WHEATON: Thank you very much. I'm sure it's been
11 a long night for you as it has for us sitting back there.

12 Art Wheaton. I live in Forest City. Born and raised
13 in Grand Lake Stream and have a vested interest in the
14 whole area.

15 I find it interesting tonight to listen to the
16 testimony when in reality we have two watersheds; east and
17 west branch of the St. Croix River. And we have two very
18 active land trusts; the Woody Wheaton Land Trust in Forest
19 City, and the Downeast Lakes Land Trust in the village of
20 Grand Lake Stream, both of them aggressively trying to
21 conserve land and protect what they -- the very lifestyle
22 that they lead for the guides and the sporting camps. And
23 yet, here we are proposing turbines that literally are
24 going to trump what they're trying to do.

25 I think you need to think long and hard about this

1 because you're basically on the cusp of killing the golden
2 goose. It took us a while to learn that too many
3 billboards on our highways are sickening. We're going to
4 learn from this very fast, and I urge the Commission to
5 take a real serious look at this. Vote your conscience
6 because many of the folks that came here tonight spent
7 their own money. They didn't spend money that was being
8 reimbursable. They don't have pension plans, they don't
9 have health plans, they make a daily wage. I think that's
10 pretty serious business, and they care a lot for coming a
11 long way and spending gas money to do so. This is serious
12 business tonight. Thank you.

13 MS. HORN OLSEN: Dale Wheaton.

14 MR. WHEATON: Thanks very much. My name is Dale
15 Wheaton. I'm from Forest City. I'm the good brother.

16 I'll try to be brief. People have hit on everything.

17 Clearly, I'm opposed to the project. My wife and I
18 have a fishing lodge in Forest City, Maine. It's Wheaton's
19 Lodge. It's a humble little place; however, we probably
20 employ more fishing guides, more guides, than any other
21 establishment in the state of Maine.

22 As soon as you go over the hills in Carroll and you
23 look at the landscape of Washington County, that's what we
24 do. You have two economies in eastern Maine; you have the
25 forest products economy, and you have the outdoor sporting

1 economy. From our little establishment, we sustain about
2 20 jobs. My wife and I have had it for the last 33 years,
3 and my parents started it in 1952. So we've done better
4 than just survive, and we've done it on that landscape that
5 you're looking at.

6 Many, many local folks and lakes people have talked
7 about the adverse impact on the landscape. And from my
8 perspective, this issue is entirely about landscape. The
9 essential difference -- and I agree with many of these
10 folks, but if I can try to touch upon, perhaps, an area
11 that hasn't been beaten to death, that is that while many
12 speak about the value of this unspoiled landscape to them
13 personally, those folks that frequent my lodge, about 96
14 percent of them from out of state, pay to see the unspoiled
15 landscape. They pay not to look at an industrial landscape
16 or lights at night.

17 The last time I talked to you folks, it was to testify
18 against Stetson I in the Lee Academy gym. I told you then
19 it wasn't going to kill me, but it was going to sting.
20 This one also probably won't kill me, but it's going to
21 sting some more. We fish in the shadows of Stetson I. We
22 fish in the shadows of Stetson II. We range to Pleasant
23 and Junior. And when we leave, we haven't changed
24 anything.

25 You can kill the sporting camp industry directly and

1 immediately or you can kill it softly. And I speak for
2 that economy of eastern Maine where we -- as my brother has
3 just stated -- has -- have tried for the last 20 years to
4 raise dollars to protect the landscape. It seems ironic
5 that at the same time, we could destroy the abutting
6 landscape before we've had time to, perhaps, acquire it.

7 Note that if you violate the landscape and the millions
8 of dollars that have been invested already, that you're not
9 only defrauding the efforts that have taken place, you're
10 violating the investment that's been made by the Land for
11 Maine's Future board and the State of Maine to protect that
12 landscape.

13 It's very difficult to try to save a rock in the pond
14 and lose the pond. It's -- everything here is connected.
15 And we rely upon that landscape --

16 MS. HILTON: One minute.

17 MR. WHEATON: -- for our livelihood.

18 So I urge you to oppose that. You know we only have
19 you to help us. I have nothing against wind power. I have
20 nothing against construction jobs. And the people of Mars
21 Hill are entitled to vote up or down however they like
22 their wind project. And the people of Lincoln are allowed
23 to vote up or down however they like their wind project,
24 whether it's a yea or a nay.

25 In the unorganized, we don't have that privilege. All

1 we have is you. So I hope that you will listen to the
2 majority of people out there because we have no advocacy.
3 All we can do is come to the podium. Thanks very much.

4 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

5 MS. HORN OLSEN: The next -- we have three more
6 speakers. M-a-r --?

7 MR. BEARD: It's Mary with the beard. Bad handwriting.

8 MS. HORN OLSEN: Okay.

9 MR. BEARD: Good evening. My name is Marc Gray.

10 MS. HORN OLSEN: Thank you.

11 MR. BEARD: I'm a resident of Hampden, Maine and
12 property owner in the village of Grand Lake Stream, Maine.

13 My family and I have had the house in Grand Lake since
14 2001 and use it as a vacation house and as a base of
15 operations for my work as a Maine guide each fall.

16 I'm here this evening to express my extreme opposition
17 to the Bowers Mountain industrial wind project. Simply
18 put, I am disgusted that ruining our ridge tops, viewshed
19 and aquifers for the purpose of heavily subsidized
20 electricity is even being considered.

21 Please have the foresight to refuse permitting for this
22 industrial wind project. For the people of Lincoln, Lee
23 and Danforth, it is already too late. Stetson and Rollins
24 Mountains have already been destroyed. Sincerely, Marc
25 Gray.

1 MS. HORN OLSEN: Thank you. The last two speakers on
2 the list are Larry Hawkes and Paul House. Have both of you
3 been sworn in? I don't think this gentleman has.

4 MS. HILTON: Come on up. Right there. Just raise your
5 right hand. And do you solemnly swear to tell the whole
6 truth and nothing but the truth?

7 MR. HAWKES: Yes, I do.

 MS. HILTON: All right.

 MR. HAWKES: My name is Larry Hawkes. I live right
here in the Lincoln area. You've got to excuse my
appearance. I just came out of the hayfield. It's
supposed to be raining tomorrow, so I was busy. Somebody
told me to get my butt up here and explain to you people --
I live off the grid. I produce my own power, a battery
generator and solar. Currently, I probably have got less
than \$3000 in my whole electrical system. My wife is
assistant director at the vocational school. She does all
her work on the computer. We watch a DVD and all the
reading we can take in. And the last thing that I would do
is put a windmill up as far as cost and producing
electricity. Somebody told me to get up here and mention
that to you people. I don't know if a feasibility study
has ever been done as far as wind power is concerned. If
it has, I guess I'm barking up the wrong tree. If the
feasibility study has never been done, I request one done

before this permit is approved.

And I know you people have got a long ways to go tonight. Thank you for your time.

MS. HILTON: Thank you.

MS. HORN OLSEN: Paul House.

MR. HOUSE: Yeah. My name is Paul House. I live right in Lee. I'm registered a Maine guide, and I was a logger -- a professional logger for over 20 years here in Maine.

I try to look at the positive things in life. The reason I say that, I look through different eyes now. My son was killed June 23rd, 2007 in Taji, Iraq by an IED. And since then, I've had a different outlook on life, and I try to look at the positive things.

And listening tonight, I know a lot of people are opposing the windmills. I think we ought to give things a chance. We don't know when something new comes in if it's going to be the answer or if it's going to work. I say give it a try. I think it's great that people want to do something without a smoke stack coming out of it, pollution. I think this is clean energy.

If you don't think so, pull up to the gas pumps and fill your vehicle up and see what it's costing. I think we need to start somewhere in life and give it a chance.

I'm kind of old school, and I understand changes are difficult. And I know growing up my mom had 15 kids. We

grew up on a family farm. I know values, and I know what it used to be like. But since I was a kid, I've seen highways go in, I've seen power lines go in. And people may have opposed them back then, but the animals adjust. I don't believe it's going to affect the fishing. I don't believe it's going to affect the hunting. And as far as the economy with the guides losing their jobs, it's been the economy that's the reason a lot of guides are losing their jobs, not because of the windmills. And I'm an experienced guide. I've been doing it for quite some time now, but it's the economy. So blaming it on the windmills, the turbines, is not right.

I think we ought to give it a chance, and I think people -- I think we can get very selfish. And I'm hearing about people's views and they don't want to spoil their view. Well, me as a kid growing up, I can remember when there was just a handful of camps on some of these lakes. Now we have people coming in from away, which I'm not opposed to, putting camps on lakes.

Well, I did not like that personally, but it happened, and I adjusted. And I think we need to give First Wind a chance and see what happens before we be too judgmental.

And I just think it's a -- it's a step in the right direction. And we'll see what happens. And I thank you for the opportunity to talk. Thank you.

MS. HILTON: Thank you. Do we have anyone else that would like to testify? Okay. I guess, seeing none, I have a closing statement.

The second and final session to hear testimony from the public is now concluded. The hearing will be recessed until Wednesday, July 6, at 9:30 a.m., at which time an additional technical session to ask questions of review agencies and consultants will be held at the Spectacular Event Center in Bangor.

I wish to remind everyone that the record of this hearing will remain open until Monday, July 18th, to receive written statements from the interested public, and for an additional seven days until Monday July 25th for the purpose of receiving rebuttal comments.

No additional evidence or testimony will be allowed into the record after the closing of the record.

I now declare this hearing in recess.

(Concluded this hearing at 9:10 p.m. this date.)

CERTIFICATE

I, Angella D. Clukey, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, hereby certify that on June 28, 2011, a hearing was held regarding Bowers Mountain, Development Permit DP 4889; and that this hearing was stenographically reported by me to the best of my ability and later reduced to typewritten form with the aid of computer-aided transcription; and the foregoing is a full and true record of the testimony given by the witnesses.

I further certify that I am a disinterested person in the event or outcome of the above-named cause of action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and affix my seal this 18th day of July, 2011.

ANGELLA D. CLUKEY, NOTARY PUBLIC
Court Reporter

My commission expires: March 17, 2017

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