

**STATE OF MAINE**

**LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of )  
Development Permit DP 4889 )  
Champlain Wind LLC )  
Bowers Mountain Project )  
Carroll Plantation, Penobscot County )  
Kossuth Township, Washington County )

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF LOUIS CATALDO**  
**ON BEHALF OF INTERVENOR, PARTNERSHIP FOR**  
**THE PRESERVATION OF THE DOWNEAST LAKES WATERSHED**

Testimony to LURC 6/28/11  
RE: Bowers Mt. /Kossuth Project

My name is Louis Cataldo, I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Downeast Lakes guide, my family settled in the Grand Lake Stream area in the mid to late 1800's. I am also currently serving my 4<sup>th</sup> term as 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman of the Village of Grand Lake Stream. The reason I am testifying here today is I feel it is my job as 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman to protect the economy of Grand Lake Stream, and as a professional guide, it's my job to protect my own livelihood.

What I would like to address is the potential impact this industrial wind power project will have on the economy of the Grand Lake Stream area, and in fact, the entire watershed. Its no secret that the entire economy of this whole area is driven by tourism, either by people coming to recreate at one of the many lodges in the area, or by people who own second homes on our beautiful lake shores who come for extended visits throughout the year.

Over the last century we have hosted many famous people. Ted Williams, Buffalo Bob Smith, General Dolittle, Curt Gowdy and George Carlin just to name a few. What makes our area so attractive to the people who come here from, literally, all over the world is miles and miles of unspoiled wilderness and shoreline. Countless hours of hard work and many millions of dollars have been raised to keep this area natural and beautiful.

We started the process of protecting the area back 20 years ago, when the east shore of Grand Lake Stream was slated for development. Fly fishermen from all over the world have been traveling to Grand Lake Stream for over 120 years to catch landlocked salmon in a natural setting. We knew that we had something special then and had to save it. Back then we appealed to the LURC commissioners to not allow the beautiful stretch of stream to be developed, and I am proud to say the stream looks the same now as it did 20 years ago and it will be that way forever.

The next threat to our existence was 10 years ago when a large piece of land west of Grand Lake Stream was sold and there was talk of forest liquidation, shoreline development, and gated access. The land that we used for recreation and the back bone of our sporting camp and guiding businesses was very much in question. The residents of this area along with an expanded group of citizens and friends of the area made a huge commitment and I am damned proud to say the Down East Lakes Landtrust now owns 2 and a half townships West of Grand Lake Stream and West Grand Lake and along with that deal, we've helped put conservation easements on about another 350,000 acres around the Doweast Lakes Watershed. This means that this land will never be developed and the public will forever have access to it. In a world where gates and no trespassing signs dot more of the landscape each day, this means a lot to the natural setting and the wilderness character of the whole watershed. Another benefit to the area is this land will be providing wood fiber to area businesses to keep people working. Places this large where the general public has access are very rare now, but think of the future 50 or 100 years down the road. How important will it be to the outdoor sporting public then?

What worries me the most about this industrial wind power project being visible from all the lakes north of Grand Lake Stream is whether or not we will be able to keep our valued clients coming back to our area. Certainly there will be a loss of business for all of us who make a living in the recreational based tourism business, the only question is, "How much?" But equally important is, how would we be able to attract new clients to come to this area in the future? All of the conservation work we've accomplished over the last 20+ years was done with a view for the long term, to insure that additional generations would be able to make a living in the traditional fashion that my family has for 4 generations. I think this is where we will really suffer if this project is allowed to go forward. Having these huge wind turbines on our horizon will definitely have a negative impact on our ability to attract and retain our current and future customer base.

An example of that is when I was guiding one of my long time clients on Baskahegan Lake several years ago when the wind turbines were being built on Stetson Ridge. You could see those huge towers going up and it just changed the whole feel of fishing there. We fished for a few hours and my client said, "Lou those windmills are so ugly, can you turn your canoe in another direction so I can't see them. I did my best for the rest of the day. We had very good fishing that day, but when we got to the boat landing and were loading up our gear. My client said "Lou we have fished here for years and always done well, but those windmills have ruined it for me. Lets not fish here anymore." And we have never returned.

My clients come here to escape the large cities and industrialized environments where many of them are forced to live because of their careers. People come here to experience nature at it's finest. Long before viewing the photosimulations of what the area would look like after these turbines are installed, I reached the conclusion (with the help of the comments made by my best clients) that the extreme size and visibility of this project will change the natural character of this entire watershed forever. This project WILL NOT fit harmoniously within it's environment and WILL definitely have a very substantial negative impact not only on the character of the whole watershed, but on our future ability to retain the lifestyle and livelihoods we all enjoy today.

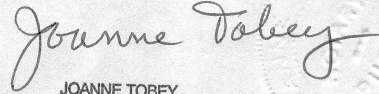
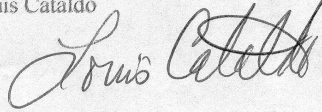
I hope this testimony helps you make your decision.

If you vote to approve this project, make no mistake that you will be voting to change the view shed of one of the most beautiful and natural watersheds in the world, forever. If you vote "No" on this project I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I only wish we could have Mother Nature here to testify for herself, I think we all know where she would stand!

Thank You  
Louis Cataldo

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JOANNE TOBEY  
Notary Public, Maine  
My Commission Expires September 18, 2017

