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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

Monday, June 27, 2011

Volume I of III

Held at Ella P. Burr Elementary School

Lincoln, Maine

Don Thompson & Associates

Court Reporting

1 and Kossuth Township, Washington County. The other members
2 of the Land Use Regulation Commission are here tonight, and
3 I'm going to have them introduce themselves starting with
4 Ed on my left.

5 MR. LAVERTY: Ed Laverty, Medford, Maine.

6 MR. HAMMOND: Toby Hammond, Naples, Maine.

7 MS. CARROLL: Good evening. My name Catherine Carroll,
8 and I'm the commission staff director.

9 MS. HILTON: I'm Gwen Hilton, I'm from Starks.

10 MS. MILLS: I'm Amy Mills from the AG's office.

11 MR. FARRAND: Good evening. Sally Farrand from Beaver
12 Cove.

13 MR. NADEAU: And I'm Jim Nadeau, Winterville
14 Plantation.

15 MS. HILTON: We also have with us tonight Fred Todd who
16 is our project planner for this project; Samantha
17 Horn-Olsen, manager of the planning division; Mark Russell,
18 regional representative -- I don't know where Mark is.
19 He's in the back. Thanks, Mark. And Scott Perrow who is
20 recording today's session; and Angella Clukey who is our
21 court reporter; and then we also have Jim Palmer who is our
22 -- LURC's scenic consultant.

23 This evening's hear 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 the 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 kilowatt 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 M.R.S., sections 685-B(4) and
20 (4-B) of the Commission's statutes, and also the
21 Commission's Land 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. So you need to sign up on those sheets so that
25 we know you want to testify.

1 And all witnesses must be sworn and will be required
2 before they give testimony to state for the record their
3 name, residence, business or professional affiliation, the
4 nature of their interest in the hearing and whether or not
5 they represent another individual, firm or a legal entity
6 for the purpose of the hearing.

7 In addition to being transcribed, we will also be
8 recording the proceedings. And I request that you speak
9 clearly and it also is much easier for us to get the
10 information accurately if you don't speak too quickly. And
11 I may --if you start going too fast, I may slow you down or
12 ask you to slow down.

13 All questions and testimony must be relevant to the
14 Commission's criteria for approval of this proposal.
15 Irrelevant or unduly repetitious material or questions will
16 be excluded.

17 The record of this hearing will remain open until
18 Monday, July 18, 2011 to receive written statements from
19 the interested public and for an additional seven days
20 until Monday, July 25th, for the purpose of receiving
21 rebuttal comments. No additional evidence or testimony
22 will allowed into the record after the closing of the
23 record.

24 Persons attending the hearing who wish to be notified
25 of the final action taken by the Commission as a result of

1 this hearing may leave their names and addresses with our
2 staff. And I guess they could leave that with you folks
3 over here on the right.

4 At this time I would like to swear in any witnesses who
5 plan to testify this evening. And I ask that you stand up
6 and just raise your right hand. And I'll ask you if you
7 swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth?
8 Just say I do.

9 PARTICIPANTS: I do.

10 MS. HILTON: All right. Thank you very much. Before
11 we get started on the public testimony, Fred Todd of the
12 project staff has a few comments and we're also going to
13 hear from the applicant who's going to explain a little bit
14 about the project.

15 MR. TODD: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. My name is
16 Fred Todd, I'm the lead staff person for the Commission on
17 this project. One of my responsibilities is to manage the
18 flow of information from the applicant, from the
19 intervenors, from the State agencies, et cetera, and from
20 the public and put that into a record as a basis for the
21 Commission's decision.

22 So at this point I'd like to enter all of the exhibits
23 I currently have submitted on this proceeding. I have a
24 list of those exhibits. I'm not going to read them, it's
25 four pages long. Each of the Commission members have been

1 given a list of the exhibits and I have a few extra copies
2 if there's anybody here who wants to see what's currently
3 in the record.

4 I would add that anything that you folks submit
5 tonight, whether it's a copy of your written statements or
6 whatever, will be added into the record as well as
7 everything else I currently have.

8 So that concludes my statement. And I guess at this
9 point I would turn it over to the applicant for their
10 presentation.

11 MS. PRESCOTT: Good evening. I'm Joy Prescott, I'm a
12 project manager with Stantec. And I have been responsible
13 for many of the field surveys as well as the permitting
14 process. And I am going to take a couple minutes and
15 provide an overview of the project for you tonight.

16 I know many of you have probably already read the
17 application either online or at one of the LURC offices or
18 at either the Carroll town hall or the Lakeville town
19 office. But I'd like to just take a few minutes and give
20 you an overview of the project and then we'll hear some of
21 your comments on the project.

22 Bowers wind project is being proposed by Champlain
23 Wind, which is a subsidiary of First Wind. And First Wind
24 has constructed and operates several grid scale wind
25 projects throughout Maine.

1 The Bowers project will be located on three low
2 elevation ridges in Carroll Plantation and Kossuth
3 Township. And the elevations range from 750 to
4 approximately 1,100 feet. The project is located
5 approximately 7 miles -- is that better? Okay. I'll hold
6 this, so I'll look a little funny. The project is located
7 approximately 7 miles south of the existing Stetson project
8 and it will connect to the transmission line that was
9 constructed for Stetson.

10 There will be approximately 27 turbines which are
11 located on the three elevations. This is Route 6. So
12 headed out of Lincoln on Route 6, heading through Lee into
13 Springfield, to Carroll Plantation and then into Kossuth
14 Township. The project located -- the turbines are located
15 to the south of Route 6.

16 There will be up to 27 turbines, ten of which will be
17 Siemens 3.0 megawatt machines and the remainder will be
18 Siemens 2.3 megawatt machines. These have a maximum height
19 of 428 feet when the blade is fully extended.

20 The project will also include access roads, which if
21 you have a chance to look at this -- and this has also been
22 included in the record -- as shown here will connect each
23 of the roads and then also connect the project to Route 2.
24 It also includes an electrical collection system that
25 collects power from each of the turbines. And then it will

1 take -- go north across Route 6 and connect up with the
2 transmission line that was constructed for the Stetson
3 project, also known as Line 56. There will be a substation
4 located there. And the project also includes an O and M
5 facility that's located to the north of Route 6 as well as
6 up to four permanent towers that will be located within the
7 project area.

8 Champlain conducted wind surveys at the site which
9 indicate that the project hosts a wind resource of 7.5
10 meters per second. And Champlain has also conducted an
11 extensive suite of environmental surveys. These include
12 two seasons of bird surveys, three seasons of bat surveys,
13 two seasons of raptor surveys, all of which showed results
14 that are consistent with other surveys that have been done
15 pre-construction and post-construction for sites both in
16 Maine and New England.

17 In addition, wetland delineation surveys were conducted
18 throughout the project area. And as a result of those
19 surveys, the overall wetland impact is limited to 0.10
20 acres of wetland fill as well as 3.79 acres of clearing in
21 wetlands, primarily underneath the electrical collection
22 poles on what is referred to as the express collector as it
23 runs up to the substation.

24 In addition, vernal pool surveys were done throughout
25 the project area. And there's one significant vernal pool

1 that was identified. And the project design avoids all
2 impacts to that resource. In addition, historic surveys --
3 historic architectural surveys as well as archeological
4 surveys both historic and pre-conduct were conducted and
5 found that the project would not have any impacts on those
6 resources.

7 Bowers complies with all of the sound requirements of
8 the State and does not require any sound easements. The
9 nearest residence or camp is approximately 2,500 feet from
10 the nearest turbine. In addition, LURC regulates the
11 scenic impacts to -- regulates the scenic impacts to scenic
12 resources that are located within 8 miles of the project.
13 And in this case, there are four lakes within 3 miles of
14 the project area and there are an additional four lakes
15 within 8 miles of the project area. These are lakes that
16 have been designated by LURC as having either significant
17 or outstanding scenic quality. There are also five
18 additional lakes that are within 8 miles, but will have no
19 visibility of the project.

20 LandWorks conducted a visual impact assessment of these
21 resources in which they evaluated the resources themselves,
22 the existing use and character of those resources and the
23 potential impact of the project on those uses. In that it
24 found that there will be visibility from the lakes within
25 the project area, but that the visibility will not

1 necessarily impact the use -- uses within those lakes. And
2 specifically it found that those impacts range from low to
3 medium depending on the resource. LandWorks also found in
4 conclusion that there would be no unreasonable adverse
5 effect on the uses associated with these resources.

6 And in addition to the environmental and other
7 regulations that the project needs to comply with, it needs
8 to demonstrate that it will provide a significant tangible
9 benefit to the State, particularly with emphasis on the
10 host communities. And in this case, it exceeds the minimum
11 of \$4,000 per turbine per year or 108,000 annually. And
12 this is in addition to the payment of taxes, construction
13 activity and permanent employment positions that would be
14 created as a result of the project.

15 Specific tangible benefits that are involved include a
16 community benefits agreement with Carroll Plantation for
17 \$92,000 for the life of the project; a community benefit
18 agreement with Washington County for \$10,000 for the life
19 of the project; an energy fund that's set up for the
20 residents of Kossuth Township that will be funded initially
21 at \$20,000 and then \$10,000 for the life of the project;
22 and then, finally, a conservation fund that will be
23 established in cooperation with the Forest Society of Maine
24 in which grants will be made for resources -- for
25 recreational opportunities, natural resource conservation

1 and public access.

2 These grants will be made based on the recommendation
3 of local people who understand the resource needs in the
4 area and specifically grants are made for those resources
5 related to woods and water in Kossuth, Carroll and
6 Lakeville. In total, these tangible benefits equal
7 \$2,845,000 across the 20-year period.

8 So in summary, Bowers has avoided many of the impacts
9 to environmental and residential resources and the project
10 was designed by a team of experts who have the technical
11 capability to ensure that the project was designed in the
12 most environmentally sound manner. Overall, the project
13 will result in direct and immediate results and benefits to
14 the local and regional economy.

15 And with that, we look forward to hearing your comments
16 tonight and to future discussion with LURC tomorrow.

17 MS. HILTON: Thank you, both of you. We spent -- the
18 commissioners spent the day doing a site visit; that is, we
19 traveled around -- I think we started about 9 o'clock this
20 morning and traveled around the site and also visited a
21 number of the lakes today. So it was very -- it's very
22 helpful for us to be able to do that.

23 Right now I have 40 people signed up to testify
24 tonight. And if I gave everybody five minutes, we would be
25 here three and a half hours. And that is to say we really

1 do want to hear from you. What is helpful is if you have
2 written comments or can submit written comments to support
3 -- or say more, maybe that you would like to say to us or
4 tell us what you think, that would be very helpful. And if
5 you have it with you here tonight, you can drop it off with
6 the staff down here before you leave.

7 What we're going -- so I'm going to give you five
8 minutes and be very strict on that just because I think I
9 have to be fair to everybody here and I don't want to keep
10 all of us up later than we need to be. Catherine is going
11 -- she has the list of names and -- so she's going to call
12 you up. We don't -- well, actually, we have space over
13 here we could call up --.

14 Also -- we also have -- we're going to have party
15 sessions during the day tomorrow here and then tomorrow
16 night we have another open public hearing like this one
17 where we can hear from folks as well.

18 So with that, why don't we begin. And I just want to
19 remind you when you come up to state your name, where you
20 live and what your -- if you have an affiliation to a
21 business or you're a resident or you have a cottage in the
22 area, whatever that is. So go ahead.

23 MS. CARROLL: Just so -- I can tell some people can't
24 see all of us at the table, so I'm here in the middle. I'm
25 going to name off the first five folks that signed up to

1 testify. And then as we get close to ending the testimony
2 of those first five people, well, then I'll get another
3 opportunity to name off the next five people. So in
4 theory, you can line up behind the microphone and be ready
5 to provide your testimony.

6 So with that -- and I apologize if I do not pronounce
7 your name correctly. You can correct me when you come up
8 to the mic, though. I'd appreciate that. First we have
9 Ted Koffman, Jeremy Payne, Tici Conant, Gary Conant and
10 Richard Washburn. So that's Ted, Jeremy, T-i-c-i, Gary and
11 Richard.

12 MR. KOFFMAN: Thank you, Commissioners. Thank you for
13 the opportunity to speak on behalf of Maine Audubon and our
14 15,000 members and friends in support of Bowers Wind
15 Project Development Permit 4889 proposed by Champlain Wind,
16 LLC for construction in Carroll Plantation in Kossuth
17 Township. I'm Ted Koffman, executive director of Maine
18 Audubon based in Falmouth and former house chair of the
19 Legislature's Natural Resources committee.

20 Maine Audubon supports the Bowers project. We spoke
21 before LURC in favor of incorporating the whole Bowers
22 Ridge into the expedited development areas so the entire
23 project could be reviewed at one time. We also supported
24 both phases of the nearby Stetson project because they did
25 not present undue adverse impacts to wildlife and wildlife

1 habitat.

2 In assessing potential environmental impacts of wind
3 development, Maine Audubon's decision to support or oppose
4 any given project is guided by five key wildlife
5 considerations. These include impacts to unique natural
6 communities, large blocks of undeveloped habitat,
7 significant wildlife habitat, species of conservation
8 concern, as in endangered, threatened, special concern or
9 otherwise rare, and bird and bat migration.

10 Our staff has carefully reviewed the Bowers application
11 and has concluded there are no significant wildlife issues
12 aside from potential impacts to bats that are of some
13 concern. With steep declines in bat populations throughout
14 other states in the northeast and with pending state and
15 federal endangered listing for several bat species, Maine
16 may play a crucial role in providing quality roosting and
17 breeding and migratory habitat.

18 We believe that reducing mortality risk to bats in
19 Maine is important especially with the discovery of
20 white-nose syndrome here in Maine. Studies have shown that
21 raising the cut in speed to 5 meters per second from one
22 half hour before sunset to one half hour after sunrise can
23 reduce bat mortality. We support I F & W's request for
24 curtailment at this site and urge that the developer agree
25 to consider further studies of curtailment.

1 The design and the protocols for such studies should
2 include expert third-party assistance along with I F & W
3 oversight. Post-construction studies could demonstrate
4 that different curtailment conditions, or elimination of
5 curtailment provisions altogether, is appropriate. But
6 given the rapidly changing status of bats in the northeast,
7 we feel this is a careful approach and it should be
8 warranted at this time.

9 Throughout the almost 20 years of involvement with this
10 emerging industry, we have consistently advocated for
11 rightly cited wind power development where no undue adverse
12 impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat result from the
13 construction of roads, pads, transmission corridors or from
14 the operation of the turbines themselves. We also
15 participated actively in the governor's task force of wind
16 power development in Maine that was convened in 2007 and a
17 variety of other task forces.

18 Given the considerations above, we support the Bowers
19 wind project as another step toward obtaining the State's
20 wind power goals. Thank you very much.

21 MS. HILTON: Okay. Do any commissioners have any
22 questions? Thank you very much.

23 MR. PAYNE: Good evening. My name is Jeremy Payne and
24 I live in Sidney, Maine. I'm the executive director of the
25 Maine Renewable Energy Association. MREA is a not for

1 profit association of renewable power producers, suppliers
2 of goods and services to those producers and other
3 supporters of the industry. The members also sustainably
4 manufacture electricity from hydro power, biomass, wind,
5 tidal and waste energy.

6 I'm here to testify in support of the project. As you
7 know, Maine has in statute certain goals to host wind power
8 in our state. These goals and other sections of statute
9 recognize the important opportunity we have in front of us
10 to seize upon our natural resource advantage and host
11 appropriately cited and sized wind power projects. By no
12 means does this mean we should be putting wind projects up
13 across every acre, ridge line or all over our coastal
14 waters. But it does mean that we have a significant
15 opportunity to reshape our energy future, reduce the
16 environmental and health impacts from regional energy
17 generation and, perhaps, most importantly, a chance to grow
18 new jobs and create prospects for keeping our youth from
19 leaving Maine upon graduation from high school or college.

20 One of the best decisions we can make to improve our
21 energy prices is to diversify our energy portfolio. One of
22 the ways we can do this is to embrace the development of
23 wind. Wind is effectively an inflation-proof fuel source.
24 Meaning that once a project is built, its fuel costs are
25 virtually nil. Wind also offers Maine the chance to

1 greatly reduce the environmentally harmful emissions we
2 currently experience from the combustion of fossil fuels.
3 A 2008 study from the US Department of Energy found that
4 1,000 megawatts of wind power in Maine could reduce CO2
5 emissions by 2.8 million tons annually.

6 The wind industry has invested heavily in Maine over
7 the last seven plus years and will only continue to do so
8 if they believe the regulatory environment is both
9 predictable and reasonable. Since 2003 total investment is
10 \$946 million of which \$378 million remains in Maine to
11 benefit our local and state economies.

12 A recent study of three wind projects, Mars Hill,
13 Stetson and Kibby, conducted by Dr. Charlie Colgan found
14 that during peak periods of construction recent projects
15 created and supported over of 600 jobs. The average over
16 that seven-year period was 240 jobs supported annually.
17 Additionally, over 300 Maine businesses have benefitted
18 from the seven operating wind projects. It should not be
19 lost on us that these jobs are occurring in the rural areas
20 of Maine, many of which remain some of the hardest hit
21 during the economic recession.

22 As you consider this development application and those
23 that will follow, it's important to take stock of recent
24 activities during the first regular session of the 125th
25 Maine Legislature. There were 14 pieces of legislation

1 introduced this session proposing to make changes to
2 regulations on sound, setbacks, visual impacts, property
3 tax abatements and other infrastructure requirements. All
4 but one of these bills was unanimously defeated in
5 committee serving as a continued endorsement of the Wind
6 Energy Act and its accompanying goals and public policies.

7 The lone bill not killed in committee, LD-1366, was
8 turned into a state agency study of a few of the issues
9 cited above. However, the existence of this forthcoming
10 study must not be used as a justification to halt progress.
11 The Legislature was clear in its desire to leave the Wind
12 Energy Act unchanged.

13 We believe development applications like the Bowers
14 wind project offers Maine its great chance to jump start
15 it's economy, protect and improve its environment and
16 positively change its energy future. Time and time again
17 we've seen statewide polls and surveys where Mainers voice
18 their strong support, over 80 percent, by saying yes to the
19 continued development of wind in Maine. It's important to
20 put these energy choices in context and remember what
21 saying no to wind power in Maine means for our future, more
22 coal, more oil and more gas.

23 Thank you and I'd be happy to answer any of your
24 questions.

25 MS. HILTON: Thanks.

1 MS. CONANT: My name is Tici Conant, I live in Raymond,
2 Maine and we have a camp on Bottle Lake Road in Lakeville.
3 Visiting our friend's camp on Bottle Lake we have been
4 enjoying the West Grand Lake region for 15 years. Over the
5 years we grew to love it so much that we bought a place of
6 our own four years ago. We make the journey just about
7 every month year-round and hate when it's time to leave.
8 There is no better or more peaceful place to enjoy the
9 lakes and hills than right here.

10 We're seldom at our camp because we'd rather be
11 kayaking, fishing or boating and swimming on the many
12 islands and the many lakes. During the following winter we
13 hunt, ski, snowshoe and ice fish. One of our favorite
14 things to do is overnight camping trips in our kayaks or
15 boat to one of the many primitive campsites on the lake's
16 islands. There are many lakes and hills in the Raymond
17 area also, which we do enjoy, but they don't come close to
18 the beauty and serenity found in these lakes with their
19 undeveloped shorelines and eagles soaring above.

20 As you know, over the last few years several wind
21 projects have been established in this area. Now on our
22 drive from Lincoln to Lakeville we see wind turbines from
23 every town along the way. I ask you, when is enough
24 enough? I say, now. The greed demonstrated by the sheer
25 number of turbines seen when driving down the Route 6

1 corridor has got to stop. It is ruining our precious and
2 beautiful ridge lines, taking away our spectacular night
3 sky, destroying the animal habitats and will discourage
4 tourism, which many people in this area depend on.

5 Many nights I have laid awake thinking about the
6 pending Bowers wind project because I fear more than
7 anything that our beloved views will soon be marred. I ask
8 each one of you -- no, I beg you to consider our pleas and
9 put an end to this destruction right here and now by saying
10 no to the Bowers wind project. Thank you.

11 MR. CONANT: Hi. My name is Gary Conant and I live in
12 Raymond, Maine, we own a camp on Bottle Lake Road in
13 Lakeville. And our camp isn't on the lake, but it has a
14 screened in porch that overlooks a valley and over Dill
15 Ridge and -- it's a beautiful ridge. And perhaps you can
16 picture it. And if you can, you're probably not picturing
17 it with turbines on it. And when I look at that ridge,
18 sometimes I ask myself, where is it going to end, when all
19 of the ridges in all of the unorganized townships and rural
20 areas of our state are covered with wind turbines because
21 there's gold in those hills. And that gold comes in the
22 form of profits from industrial wind projects.

23 Even if some of the people responsible for building
24 these large wind farms do care about the environment and
25 jobs, there will be an endless stream of others waiting

1 their chance to stake a claim, others that care about
2 little else but money. So where does it end? Nobody
3 really knows. The proposed Bowers wind project would be
4 the proper location at the proper time to demonstrate
5 reasonable constraint in the onslaught of eastern Maine's
6 awe-inspiring night sky, unspoiled ridge lines and the
7 unique feeling of solitude that's felt every time one
8 ventures onto the spectacular lakes of this region.

9 Please do not let them rob the state of Maine and
10 future generations of these precious and dwindling natural
11 gifts. Thank you.

12 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

13 MS. CARROLL: Richard, if I may name off the next five
14 before you start your testimony.

15 MR. WASHBURN: By all means.

16 MS. CARROLL: Thank you. Lenny Murphy, Clyde
17 MacDonald, Marilyn Roper, Liz Gilman and Charlotte Brooks.
18 That's Lenny, Clyde, Marilyn, Liz and Charlotte. Thank
19 you.

20 MR. WASHBURN: Good evening again. My name is Richard
21 Washburn, I currently reside in Fremont, New Hampshire. My
22 wife and I own property on Duck Lake, the property that
23 LURC, the Preservation for the Lakes Committee and
24 Champlain were allowed to go to today. And I just learned
25 this evening that that opportunity was turned down because

1 from my side of the lake you would have to look at in the
2 direction of the turbines.

3 With that said, I first would like to say how I
4 appreciate the opportunity to be a voice in your decision
5 in a matter that will, in my opinion, have an affect on
6 Maine until the next ice age.

7 My name is Richard Washburn, I was born in Margaret
8 Chase Smith's house in Skowhegan, Maine, once known as the
9 big house. My first Washburns to Maine took place shortly
10 before 1800 to Hebron and they went on to migrate to Bangor
11 and Brewer. Recent ancestry derives from Princeton and Bar
12 Harbor.

13 I would have lived all my life in Maine if not for my
14 father having to find employment outside of Maine at what
15 was his profession, the shoe business. His profession took
16 him to United Shoe in Massachusetts. For as long back as I
17 can remember, family trips and visits to Maine became a
18 standard way of life. After college and marriage, I always
19 knew at some point in life I would be finding my way back
20 to Maine.

21 In 1997 my wife and I decided to begin this venture.
22 We spent weekends driving east to west, north to south to
23 find a peaceful location to call our piece of Maine. This
24 search took much into consideration as the decision where
25 to purchase soon included a plan to build and retire to

1 where our decision took us. Based upon the natural
2 resources, the scenic value and central location to
3 Princeton, Bangor and Bar Harbor, we chose to purchase
4 property in 2001 within the Grand Lake chain of lakes on
5 Duck Lake in Lakeville.

6 Our dream was becoming reality as you, LURC, granted a
7 building permit for an unattached garage and a log home.
8 At this point we have -- we have constructed the garage and
9 now our dream is on hold. My property is now for sale and
10 has been since December. I never in my life considered the
11 state of Maine allowing 4- to 500-foot wind machines strung
12 along the mountain range across the lake from us with their
13 red lights blinking all night. And God only knows what
14 other effects they will introduce to the Grand Lake Stream
15 watershed district. And here I am urging you to make a
16 decision to stop the ruination of the area and say no to --
17 to the destruction of this unique watershed district and
18 allow me to remove my property from the for sale listings.

19 You see, if the Bowers plan is allowed by you, what
20 would be next? The wind machine use of Getchell Mountain,
21 a mere 1 mile from my current location, and directly across
22 the street. Does the first -- does the plan First Wind
23 have before you support job growth? I say, no. These jobs
24 associated with this plan are temporary. If the state of
25 Maine was interested in job creation, the state would be

1 attracting businesses that create year-round employment.

2 Does the plan First Wind have before you support green
3 electricity for Maine? I say, no. I ask, where will the
4 green electricity go? Where does the storage of wind
5 electricity get stored and what oil power plants will be
6 turned off when the wind blows? Did the First Wind plan or
7 the state of Maine in the plan before you take into
8 consideration the effects to the natural beauty that these
9 wind machines will remove from Maine's natural resources?
10 Again I say, no. If the state of Maine and First Wind
11 considered this, the compromise would be putting these wind
12 machine towers along Route I-95 all the way to Houlton and
13 then Maine would make a statement.

14 I ask and urge you to make a decision not to allow the
15 destruction of Maine's mountains, hills and the draw that
16 they have to the uniqueness of the Grand Lake Stream
17 district. This is not about a decision of majority versus
18 minority, for or against. Your decision, in my view, is
19 about common sense. The wind machines just do not fit in
20 the Grand Lake Stream district. They will remove the
21 reasons why people live, visit, vacation and recreate in
22 that area. I am here as an example of this.

23 Please make a decision allowing me to remove my
24 retirement property from the for sale listing. And, again,
25 thank you for allowing me a voice in your decision.

1 MS. HILTON: I would like to make a request of you
2 folks. I think we've got the general idea that there's
3 quite a few of you that support some of what has been said
4 here. And I think we could move things along faster if you
5 withheld the applause. And go ahead.

6 MR. MACDONALD: Cheating me of my applause. My name is
7 Clyde MacDonald of Hampden, long interested in energy
8 projects. And I think I am the first person in the country
9 and maybe in the world to have seen the intimate connection
10 between forest fires and wind turbines. The -- at first it
11 was very difficult to find material on this. I did see a
12 report of one U.S. corporation, the Caithness Corporation,
13 with wind farms in the northwest which had experienced 110
14 turbine fires over a 20-year period, but the reports did
15 not say whether they had caused forest fires, so I had to
16 look deeper.

17 Then I struck gold. I found a 92-page compilation that
18 contains a record of 992 instances of turbine safety
19 problems such as deaths, injuries, property damage, tower
20 collapses, ice throws and forest fires. It included 143
21 turbine fires, 25 of which had caused forest fires. And
22 these had occurred in European countries as well as in
23 states in the United States.

24 We do not know how many turbine fires have spread to
25 the fields and forests and homes because most of the

1 reports simply state: No details available. But they do
2 cite 25 turbine fires with eight in California alone. In
3 Maine it has been all but impossible to find ways to let
4 the public know of the threats that wind turbines pose to
5 our forests.

6 Two weeks ago I sent packets of material to most of the
7 weeklies in Maine but so far they have not seen fit to
8 print it. I'm thankful that this month a prestigious quasi
9 national trade magazine titled The Northern Logger and
10 Timber Harvester, with readers extending from Wisconsin to
11 Maine did publish my article in which I explain more fully
12 the relationships between wind turbines and forest fires.

13 I would like to submit a copy of that for the record,
14 by the way.

15 I was encouraged after giving my testimony in March at
16 the DEP hearing in Dixfield. The DEP responded by asking a
17 would-be developer how his firm proposed to cope with the
18 danger of forest fires. The applicant replied by stating
19 his firm will be using General Electric turbines only and
20 he had received a notice from General Electric that their
21 newer turbines very rarely catch fire, implying that the
22 older ones did, of course.

23 This -- I think this is an untested response, it's a
24 response that needs to be tested to the degree to which GE
25 and other companies do have turbines that catch fire --

1 that catch fire. Commentators have noted that the taller
2 the turbine, they're heavier than ourselves and the greater
3 the danger of fires caused by lightening strikes and the
4 inner workings of their mechanical parts. Twenty-two of
5 the turbines in my document state that the fires were
6 caused by lightening on turbines as short as 270 feet tall.
7 I believe all recent Maine applications call for turbines
8 higher than 400 feet making such lightening strikes much
9 more likely in the future. Should this not be a question
10 that should explored?

11 Another unanswered question concerns what allowances
12 have been made for a state or communities to acquire and
13 pay for firefighting equipment. California was able to
14 limit the spread of turbine-caused forest fires by having
15 massive equipment located somewhat in proximity to where
16 those fires had occurred. The equipment included such
17 things as water-carrying planes, helicopters, water trucks,
18 bulldozers and dozens of personnel on the ground.

19 Australia was not so fortunate. It lost thousands of
20 acres of forest land to turbine fires. At least one of its
21 provinces has enacted a law banning the placement of
22 turbines near forested areas. Should not Maine at least
23 consider that option? Yet, our Legislature recently
24 rejected a moratorium bill. And so our only hope is that
25 this Commission and the DEP will pause and not approve

1 these projects until they've had a chance to explore deeply
2 this deep relationship between turbines and forest fires.
3 I mean, thousands of Maine forest jobs are at stake. The
4 Lincoln mill needs its wood.

5 Other questions to be resolved include whether the
6 local benefits provisions specify who should pay for the
7 firefighters, who should pay for their equipment, and who
8 should pay for the maintenance of them and the like? How
9 many stations should there be and where should these
10 firefighting units be located?

11 I guess I'll stop there because I think my five minutes
12 are up. But I want to thank the Commission for providing
13 me with this opportunity to testify because so far the only
14 way I have been able to get the word out is nationally
15 through this quasi national magazine. And I'd like to
16 leave a copy of my testimony and the article and the
17 magazine with the committee. I also have several copies of
18 my article that I would like for the public to pick up, if
19 they would like, and I don't know where to place them.

20 MS. ROPER: My name is Marilyn Roper, I live in
21 Houlton, Maine, I own an acre on the sand beach across from
22 Stetson 2 on upper Hot Brook Lake, so I have been subjected
23 to the Stetson 2 wind farm. I'm entering with my testimony
24 the copy, which is much further away, of our property -- my
25 husband's and my property overlooking Upper Hot Brook Lake

1 and Lower Hot Brook Lake. This is Stetson 2.

2 My interest here today is because I spent many, many
3 summers at Darrow Canoe Camp on West Grand Lake, the dock
4 of which, if you were sitting on it, will be in direct view
5 of the behemoth that you are considering to be placed.

6 My opposition to the Bowers Mountain, Kossuth Township
7 wind complex arises from research on the Federal Energy
8 Regulatory Commission, FERC, website and on data from
9 European countries where grid scale wind complexes have a
10 longer history. To begin with, the reason why First Wind
11 is proposing to place 17 gigantic 2.3 megawatt turbines and
12 10 mammoth 3.0 megawatt turbines on these pristine
13 promontories is because of the very poor performance of the
14 1.5 megawatt GE turbines on Stetson, Jimmy and Owl
15 Mountains in Washington County. In one recent quarter
16 Stetson 2 only yielded 14 percent of installed capacity of
17 electricity actually produced.

18 Will these twirling white giants with ever-blinking red
19 eyes in the night sky reduce our carbon footprint, help
20 reduce global warming? No. Anyone in this room who thinks
21 that it will, has not done his or her homework. Maine is
22 not a prairie.

23 The first victims of industrial wind complexes in our
24 beautiful state are the thousands upon thousands of trees
25 that actually absorb many thousands of tons of CO2.

1 They're cut down, permanently eliminated. Combine this
2 with loss, it is -- combined with this loss is the
3 overproduction of CO2 caused by the constant ramping up and
4 down of natural gas turbines needed to be kept alive to
5 replace energy on the grid because of the intermittent
6 winds of inland Maine. Overall, considering the
7 manufacturer and transport of turbines and blades,
8 construction of wind complexes, their substations and
9 transmission lines, there is not a reduction of CO2 but
10 rather an increase.

11 Dr. Sarah Myhill in 2009 -- and I will be giving this
12 document to Fred. Dr. Sarah Myhill in 2009 states that
13 during its lifetime one 3-megawatt turbine will save,
14 quote, unquote, 6,000 tons of carbon but cost 27,000 to
15 40,000 tons of carbon, a 19 percent to 81 percent ratio.
16 Very unfavorable to the claims of industrial wind
17 developers.

18 Likewise, the John New York Trust of Scotland, unlike
19 some of our so-called environmental friendly organizations
20 in Maine, has opposed many industrial wind complexes in
21 Scotland and severely questioned the reliability of
22 information given to the public by grid-scale wind
23 developers, especially, about their claims of savings with
24 regard to CO2. Maine will not be reducing its dependence
25 on oil either because less than 2 percent of our

1 electricity comes from oil. And I have yet to see any
2 electric cars in my neck of the woods.

3 All in all, we have a wind scam going on in Maine right
4 now like the ethanal from corn con going on in the Midwest.
5 Folks are starting to see through this corn con. Every day
6 more and more people in Maine are waking up to the wind
7 scam in our midst. You, the LURC commissioners, have begun
8 to realize the environmental damage in Maine done by the
9 construction of these huge industrial wind complexes. It
10 is time that you spoke up even louder to oppose the
11 expedited wind farm law passed so foolishly by the Maine
12 Legislature a few years ago that zoned industrial most of
13 the rural regions of our state. You are beginning to
14 realize the loss of wild habitat, harm to wildlife,
15 decrease of tourists and other unfortunate impacts of these
16 useless wind complexes.

17 Please do not grant to First Wind the right to ruin the
18 beautiful wild pristine Downeast lakes region of our state
19 or very shortly we will lose the moniker of vacationland.

20 MS. GILMAN: Well, it's going to be kind of short and
21 sweet because I don't like to talk in front of crowds, so
22 -- not to be mean. But I'm Liz Gilman, I've grown up in
23 the town of Danforth for the last several years, 20 years
24 of age, graduated just last year from East Grand High
25 School, class of 2010. Within our group and our school

1 we've grown to like the wind projects because it exposes
2 our students.

3 But the one thing I found out I liked is our high
4 school likes to hold an adventure race, which is what the
5 two T-shirts represent, are both the adventure races. And
6 First Wind is one of the companies that actually helped
7 fund us. So I'm actually pretty proud of that because our
8 school is small, so isn't our town and I agree.

9 But most of what I would like to say about this is I
10 became familiar with the Stetson wind farm, I was there
11 when it was opened, my brother helped put up some of the
12 wind turbines when he worked for Reed & Reed throughout the
13 companies.

14 The adventure race took place two years in Stetson wind
15 farm. The first year we actually did a bushwhack up
16 through to one of the towers, which bushwhacking is
17 basically map and compass coursing. Throughout the race we
18 do biking, canoeing and then you use your map and compass
19 skills, which that took us to the towers. And then from
20 the towers you bike down through them, which wasn't bad.

21 But I kind of liked it because it incorporated more and
22 it brought people to our area. We had over 40 or so
23 racers. And if you want further info on our race, go to
24 www.eastgrandschool.org, go to the outdoor education
25 portion of it and you'll find out we have videotapings from

1 -- Bill Green's Maine was with us. He had his own personal
2 guides that were with him that took him throughout the
3 whole area so he could cover the whole race. He was there,
4 we had Channel 8 News that came and talked to us students
5 and was also part of our deal. So you can see them. And
6 my head instructor, which was Dave Conley, he's actually
7 the one who rigged me into this, which I'm kind of proud
8 of.

9 But other than that, I'm kind of for the project, not
10 against it. But I'm also an adventure recreation and
11 tourism student from Washington County Community College.
12 So our college has actually had the experience of being
13 through the wind farm, or our instructor has. But any
14 questions about that?

15 MS. HILTON: What was your last name again?

16 MS. GILMAN: Gilman.

17 MS. HILTON: Gilman, okay. Thank you. Okay. Thank
18 you very much.

19 MS. BROOKS: Hi. My name is Charlotte Brooks, I'm one
20 of the owners and operators of Maine Wilderness Camps in
21 Kossuth County -- I mean, Kossuth Township. We have owned
22 Maine Wilderness Camps for 14 years. Most of our customers
23 are from out of state or southern Maine. We are in the
24 wilderness and our customers enjoy the peace and quiet that
25 we have there.

1 We have campers that live up on the north road and have
2 had many conversations with them about the windmills and
3 wildlife in the area. We were concerned that it may have
4 an adverse effect on the wildlife, but it seems that the
5 wildlife are more adaptable than some people are. We have
6 a lot of ATV riders that stay with us. And one of the most
7 popular rides is up to see the windmills on the North Road.
8 People like to go out and check it out for themselves and
9 always have something positive to say when they get back.
10 It is cleaner than they thought or that there are no loud
11 swishing sounds that they expected, no dead birds on the
12 ground. The animal sightings and hunting have not changed
13 either.

14 We believe in renewable energy and, in fact, live off
15 the -- live off the grid by solar ourselves. Renewable
16 energy is our future, it is the way that our children will
17 have a better and cleaner life. We wholeheartedly support
18 the windmill project. Thank you.

19 MS. CARROLL: Charlotte, may I ask you a question?

20 MS. BROOKS: Sure.

21 MS. CARROLL: Your camps are on Pleasant Lake?

22 MS. BROOKS: Yes.

23 MS. CARROLL: We were on Pleasant Lake today.

24 MS. BROOKS: We're on the north side.

25 MS. CARROLL: Where we were we -- and I'm not very

1 familiar with the area, but we were standing at a boat
2 launch, is that right, and looking directly across the lake
3 to your camps?

4 MS. BROOKS: Yes.

5 MS. CARROLL: Can you tell me a little bit about that
6 boat launch and the -- what seems to be a campground within
7 --? Is that owned by -- is that privately owned? Can you
8 describe to me the ownership of the launch and the
9 campground that's right there?

10 MS. BROOKS: The launch is a public launch, the public
11 -- for, you know, the public to use for free. We used to
12 have the lease to that property, but we lost the lease. So
13 we no longer have the lease to that property, so we -- we
14 have no control what happens over there.

15 MS. CARROLL: Do you know who owns the launch?

16 MS. BROOKS: I know Wagner manages it, Wagner Timber.

17 MS. CARROLL: Okay. Thank you very much.

18 MS. BROOKS: Okay.

19 MR. MURPHY: Yes, Lenny Murphy. I'm not sure if I
20 should get a chance to speak, I have intervenor status.
21 But I was kind of told that to mark that I wanted to speak.

22 MS. CARROLL: You're an intervenor?

23 MR. MURPHY: Yeah. I would rather give someone else
24 the time, I'll have my chance, probably on the 6th.

25 MS. MILLS: Which group are you with?

1 MR. MURPHY: I'm an individual, Lenny Murphy -- Leonard
2 Murphy, Jr. I have intervenor status on my own as an
3 individual.

4 MS. MILLS: Yeah, I don't know that we --

5 MR. MURPHY: Maybe Fred Todd can verify that?

6 MR. TODD: Lenny has filed notice that he wanted to be
7 a, quote, unquote, interested person and I indicated he
8 could -- as an interested person he could testify with the
9 public in the evening.

10 MR. MURPHY: Oh, so I can testify --

11 MS. MILLS: So this is the appropriate time for you to
12 testify.

13 MR. MURPHY: -- as well.

14 MS. MILLS: Not tomorrow during the day session. The
15 day session is for the parties.

16 MR. MURPHY: Well, the witnesses I listed, I'm not
17 going to be able to bring them forward, is that what you're
18 saying, after you said I would be able to bring them
19 forward?

20 MS. MILLS: This evening is the appropriate time to --

21 MR. MURPHY: Well, I know tonight, but I'm talking
22 about tomorrow or the 6th. Am I on the agenda to have my
23 witnesses brought forward as you said I will be?

24 MR. TODD: Now, what I recall telling you was that you
25 could bring your witnesses with you tonight and testify

1 with the rest of the public.

2 MR. MURPHY: That was your suggestion, not mine.

3 MR. TODD: Pardon?

4 MR. MURPHY: That was your suggestion. I wanted to
5 keep my status so you could continue informing me. That
6 was my last comment.

7 MS. MILLS: So my recommendation would be to go ahead
8 and offer the testimony you're prepared to give tonight and
9 then perhaps you can step over and Fred and I can talk to
10 you.

11 MR. MURPHY: Okay. First of all, I wasn't here when
12 you were sworn in. Would you like to swear me in? And
13 then I'd like have maybe all you folks swear in as well so
14 we can see that you want to uphold your duty that you have
15 taken from the State to protect our resources?

16 MS. HILTON: Do you want to be sworn in and testify?

17 MR. MURPHY: Yes. I would like you to do the same --

18 MS. HILTON: We are all sworn in when we -- when we're
19 appointed. And, I mean, that is part of that process.

20 MR. MURPHY: It should be sufficient, hopefully, to
21 keep our resources intact then because that should be the
22 bottom line what you should be following.

23 MS. HILTON: And we'd like to hear from you on that.
24 Do you want to raise your right hand? And do you solemnly
25 swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

1 MR. MURPHY: I do.

2 MS. HILTON: Okay. Good. Go ahead.

3 MR. MURPHY: I guess I will have to cut my little
4 speech short here. I've got several pages written that I
5 will pass in at a slightly later date here. Basically, I
6 guess, what bothers me most is the lack of discipline that
7 goes on within the capitalistic structure. Once money is
8 intervened like the new God, it kind of goes to people's
9 heads and they can't see the woods from the trees, so to
10 speak.

11 I think we can all realize that this atrocity on our
12 mountains basically is being imposed on us from powers from
13 above and beyond. I think we can all realize the facts for
14 what they are, that these are taxation without
15 representation. We know that these subsidies are imposing
16 financial harm to the point where it's a national security
17 issue. This country is desperately broke. And I would ask
18 you not to continue the farce.

19 This is a constitutional issue and I'm here on a
20 constitutional basis tonight to further tell you that our
21 constitutional rights -- me being a veteran, the only
22 reason I went in when I was drafted was to have our
23 constitutional rights upheld because I believed in it. And
24 then you get out and you see our constitutional rights
25 totally eroded on a regular basis. And their jobs or money

1 is the new God. But we have a pursuit of happiness that's
2 taken away, we have a freedom of choice in Lincoln that was
3 taken away. And you folks, unfortunately, have the
4 deliberation of possibly taking away our freedoms as well
5 as stifling our freedom of speech by only having a meeting
6 that would entail five minutes, which doesn't give me a
7 chance to explain to you what needs to be said.

8 So I'm going to have to stop short here and let the
9 taxation without representation issue be the one
10 constitutional issue that you look at. If we had a viable
11 project that was financially viable, they wouldn't have to
12 go to the feds running for money, they wouldn't have to get
13 subsidized in several different ways to uphold their
14 projects. When these generators wear out in four and a
15 half years, where are they going to be to replace the
16 expensive parts?

17 Their commitments are nil in this area and I'm sure
18 they'll be nil in the next 27 generators going up. And by
19 digging deeper, I proved to the geology department that all
20 this blasting that they did were within 2 miles of the
21 center of the earthquake we had in Burlington. And I
22 realized the trigger effect was all the blastings
23 triggered. And now they're agreeing with me all the way
24 down to Boston that these earthquakes -- the earthquake in
25 Burlington was probably triggered from all the -- the

1 blasting. If we blast 27 more generators out, even deeper
2 for the bigger ones --. Basically, it's like we had lead
3 in our gas and it was polluting us, so we did something
4 about it. The learning results in Maine were stifling our
5 kids, now we're doing something about it. This project has
6 gone over and beyond and it has basically corrupted our
7 community in several ways which we can document and we
8 don't need it any further.

9 And, basically, it's an accumulation -- a cumulative
10 effect that you have to consider legally. And when
11 Mt. Katahdin up here sees 27 more wind generators making
12 believe they're a Christmas tree, who's going to visit
13 Mt. Katahdin? And that's all I have to say. Any
14 questions?

15 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

16 MS. CARROLL: Okay. I'm going to read off the next
17 five names on my list. Starr Clough, Cathy Johnson, Anita
18 Duerr, who introduced herself earlier to me and I apologize
19 for not remembering the pronunciation of your last name,
20 Dan Remian and Martha Marchut. So that's Starr, Cathy,
21 Anita, Dan and Martha. Thank you.

22 MS. CLOUGH: Good evening. I'm Starr Clough from
23 Carroll Plantation. And I am the tax collector, road
24 commissioner and a few other jobs in town that I do. I
25 would like to say that with First Wind coming into town I

1 think and I believe wholeheartedly that it's going to be a
2 big impact on the people for the town of Carroll. They
3 have never seen anything so big to bring in any income. We
4 are very fortunate to have something like this coming into
5 town.

6 I believe with this coming into town we will have
7 better roads, we might be able to fix our roads that are
8 well in need of repair that hasn't been done for the last
9 25, 30 years. I've done my best, I've been there for five
10 years trying to do with what we have. We never have enough
11 money to take care of these roads. We have buildings that
12 need to be repaired, especially the town office, that's
13 something else that needs to be done.

14 As far as the impact on them, I have nothing against
15 the windmills, I think they're really something to see,
16 I've never seen anything like it in my life. The wildlife
17 that's up there, will continue to be there. I have seen in
18 the last two years more animals and I live approximately
19 maybe 1 and a half to 2 miles away from these windmills
20 where they're supposed to go. I have hunted Bowers
21 Mountain all my life, I have lived in town and was born
22 there, I am 53 years old.

23 And I believe that without these we would not see -- or
24 have the opportunity to progress into the future for the
25 town of Carroll that we need to have. These people will

1 make a big difference to the residents of the town of
2 Carroll. Not only will the residents of the town of
3 Carroll see a difference, but the nonresidents that also
4 are there will see a big difference in their tax bills if
5 this project goes through, which I believe wholeheartedly
6 that it will. And hopefully it really will. We need this
7 for our benefit. Thank you.

8 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening. My name is Cathy Johnson,
9 I'm the North Woods project director for the Natural
10 Resources Council of Maine. And I'm here tonight on behalf
11 NRCM's 12,000 members and supporters. We're testifying
12 neither for nor against this project, but rather I'm here
13 to provide some information and some comments on the
14 project that we hope that you'll consider as you deliberate
15 on the project. We appreciate the very difficult but
16 important role that you face in translating a vision of
17 maintaining the jurisdiction into specific decisions like
18 the one you have to make here on Bowers and we really
19 appreciate your service. We understand it's very
20 difficult.

21 NRCM is a strong supporter both of protecting the
22 scenic and recreational resources of the unorganized
23 townships and of developing renewable energy as one part of
24 a -- of a strategy to limit climate change. We believe
25 that the combination of the recently enacted wind power law

1 and LURC's guiding statutes indicate that the state is also
2 committed to both of these goals.

3 After reviewing the proposed Bowers project, we've
4 concluded that it is a very close call whether the proposed
5 project meets the legal criteria regarding the effect of
6 the proposed project on the scenic character and the
7 related existing recreational uses in the region. We agree
8 with Jim Palmer that based on the information available now
9 it appears that there will be very adverse impacts on some
10 scenic resources and related uses of statewide significance
11 and adverse impact on other scenic resources of statewide
12 significance and related recreational use.

13 In determining whether these adverse impacts are
14 unreasonable or undue, it's important to consider the
15 energy and climate benefits. It's this weighing of the
16 adverse impacts to scenic and recreational resources
17 against the benefits to our energy supply and climate that
18 should lead you to the decision whether or not this project
19 meets the criteria for approval. We're providing
20 information that we hope will be useful to you as you weigh
21 these issues, but we're leaving the ultimate determination
22 of whether the adverse impacts outweigh the benefits or not
23 to you.

24 Turning first quickly to the energy and climate
25 context, the sort of benefits side of the thing that you

1 have to weigh, it's important to remember the purpose of
2 wind power and renewable energy in Maine. The region
3 continues to be overdependent on fossil fuels for power, a
4 situation that's unsustainable both economically and
5 environmentally. The impacts of our dependence on gas,
6 coal and oil may be out of sight much of the time, but they
7 are clearly harmful and unsustainable to all living things
8 and must not be out of mind.

9 Climate change is one of the most dramatic negative
10 effects of continued fossil fuel use and will cause
11 increased harm to Maine's forests, coasts, fisheries,
12 wildlife, public health and public infrastructure. Here
13 are two examples of the impacts. Just this month the
14 National Science Foundation issued a report that the rate
15 of sea level rise along the U.S. coast, Atlantic coast, is
16 now greater than at any time in the last 2,000 years and
17 has shown a consistent link between changes in global mean
18 surface temperature and sea level. They said that the --
19 the projected sea level rise at -- is at or near the upper
20 range of the current projections, that is, more than a
21 meter by the end of the century if we continue on business
22 as usual in terms of using our fossil fuels.

23 In another report in 2002, the -- entitled Effects of
24 Global Warming on Trout and Salmon in U.S. Streams, the
25 conclusion was that trout and salmon habitat is indeed

1 vulnerable to the effects of global warming. And based on
2 the emissions scenarios from the intergovernmental panel on
3 climate change, the estimate is that individual species of
4 trout and salmon could lose 5 to 17 percent of their
5 existing habitat by the year 2030.

6 We must transition to a cleaner, more affordable future
7 through several simultaneous policies including energy
8 efficiency and additional use of renewable energy here in
9 Maine. We've examined the impact of wind power in
10 displacing pollution and fossil fuel energy, primarily
11 natural gas, at great length. The simple conclusion is
12 that wind power can play an important role in displacing
13 these fuels and reducing pollution levels.

14 There is no comprehensive assessment of Maine and the
15 region's climate and pollution mitigation strategy that
16 does not include a significant amount of new non-emitting
17 electricity generation. Where will that electricity come
18 from, nuclear, solar, biomass, new ocean renewable
19 resources? Wind power is one of the most cost effective
20 and abundant renewable energy resources in Maine and the
21 region, although, it must sometimes still struggle to
22 compete with traditional sources of energy, such as oil and
23 gas that we have collectively subsidized and invested in
24 for a generation. The need to develop clean energy is very
25 important, but it does not trump other needs, hence, the

1 balancing with conservation goals.

2 Just a couple words about wind power siting in Maine.
3 Maine has taken some important steps to guide wind power to
4 certain areas of the state and, as you know, about
5 one-third of LURC jurisdiction has been designated as
6 expedited for wind power. But in our view it was not the
7 intention of the governor's task force on wind power or the
8 Legislature for permitting authorities such as yourselves
9 to give a rubber stamp to every wind project simply because
10 it's in the proposed expedited area.

11 Recently the Maine Appalachian Mountain Club did a --
12 an analysis of wind power sites in Maine. They looked at
13 268 windy areas in Maine. Unfortunately, Bowers was not
14 one of them. But they ranked those in terms of the
15 potential conflicts that they have with various resources,
16 whether it be wildlife or vernal pools or scenic or
17 recreation or whatever. And they ranked those. They came
18 up with 70 sites that were the most suitable sites, in
19 other words, the fewest potential conflicts. Of those 70
20 sites, all of them had some adverse impacts. There are no
21 sites that don't have some adverse impacts.

22 The large majority of the 70, 52 of them, were within 3
23 miles of statewide scenic resources. 30, or nearly half of
24 them, were within 3 miles of two or more scenic resources
25 of statewide significance. On the other hand, only 10 of

1 the 70 more preferable sites were within 3 miles of four or
2 more scenic resources. And as we'll talk a little bit
3 later, the Bowers project is within 8 miles of nine scenic
4 resources.

5 I just want to touch briefly, NRCM did testify on the
6 petition to allow the area that was within Kossuth
7 Plantation to be added to this project and we supported
8 that petition. We supported it at that time because we
9 felt that all of the impacts of this project could be fully
10 reviewed at the time that the whole project was being
11 reviewed. So the fact that we supported that at that time
12 did not indicate that we supported the whole project. And,
13 in fact, here today we are neither supporting, nor opposing
14 this project. But I just wanted to clarify that in our --
15 in our opinion the scenic impact can be reviewed at this
16 point and this is the appropriate point to review it, so
17 the time has now come to do the review that we felt didn't
18 need to be done at the time of the expedited petition to
19 add the area.

20 So turning now to the scenic resources. They do
21 include nine lakes with significant resources of statewide
22 significance. The applicant's proposal includes eight.
23 And the one additional one that I believe is -- is included
24 is this area down here, Pug Lake, which is the northern
25 most part of Junior Bay, which is part of West Grand Lake

1 and is -- and is all considered a statewide resource of
2 outstanding scenic character. So that's the additional one
3 that I couldn't find anywhere in the applicant's material
4 in terms of the ninth -- the ninth resource.

5 Four of the nine lakes, including one outstanding
6 resource, are within 3 miles. So those are these right
7 here. So four of them including one that's outstanding and
8 three that are significant resources are within 3 miles.
9 And then you have the other five that are within 8 miles.

10 There are also three public lots within 8 miles of the
11 turbines, all of them within the town of Lakeville. While
12 two of them have no views of the turbines at all, one of
13 them, an 898-acre Keg Lake lot, has frontage on both Keg
14 Lake and Duck Lake. And that's this little green square
15 right here. The land surrounding the portage in this
16 public land lot has been designated by the Bureau of Public
17 Parks and Lands as a remote recreation area and there is
18 potential for development of campsites and boat launches
19 according to BPL's management plan. According to
20 information provided by the applicant, between 10 and 18
21 turbines would be visible from the publicly-owned shoreline
22 on Duck Lake.

23 Both the applicant and Jim Palmer, in our opinion,
24 underrate the significance of the nine lakes with
25 significant or outstanding resources. Neither the

1 applicant nor Palmer discuss the use of the region for
2 multi-day paddling by either family and friends or by youth
3 camps at all in the application or in the reviews. These
4 lakes are the northern portion of one of the largest
5 interconnected lake systems in the east that provides
6 opportunities for multi-day loop canoe and kayak trips in a
7 remote environment. The Appalachian Mountain Club's lake
8 canoeing guide called White Water describes this loop as,
9 quote, one of the best extended quiet water loop trails in
10 the state, especially when one detours for a few days into
11 Scraggly Lake. Scraggly is described as, quote, wild and
12 remote, this is the paddler's ideal lake; too shallow for
13 most motor boaters and far enough remote access that you
14 have to do some work to get here.

15 The loop that -- that the book is describing I can show
16 you here on the map. It's what these purpose lines are on
17 the map. But it starts here, it goes up Sysladobsis Lake
18 -- I mean, obviously, you can do it in different areas --
19 it goes up Sysladobsis Lake, over into Bottle Lake and then
20 either down into Junior Lake or up into Keg Lake, and then
21 you can detour over into Scraggly, up portage into Pleasant
22 Lake, if you like, portage into Shaw Lake, if you like,
23 come back and continue back down through the western part
24 of West Grand Lake and make a loop there.

25 MS. HILTON: Cathy, can you sort of summarize and wrap

1 it up? And I'm assuming you're going to leave your
2 testimony with us?

3 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. Okay. The map also shows camping
4 areas in that area. And I just wanted to emphasize, again,
5 the applicant said that there were only eight resources
6 that were being affected here, scenic resources, and I
7 would encourage you to think that eight is a lot, not only
8 eight, but, in fact, eight is a lot. The applicant also
9 suggests that Pleasant Lake is -- is -- it's barely an
10 outstanding lake, but it's important to remember that only
11 73 lakes out of the 2,635 lakes in LURC jurisdiction are
12 designated as outstanding scenic resources. There are
13 another 27 that are scenic resources. So together the --
14 significant scenic resources. So together the significant
15 and outstanding scenic resources are only 100 of the 2,635
16 lakes in LURC jurisdiction.

17 I also wanted to briefly mention the conservation
18 context of this project because I think it's really
19 important. The green shows conservation easement, the
20 light green does, the dark green shows conservation
21 purchases. \$35 million of federal, state, private and
22 local money have been spent on these conservation projects
23 in the last decade. And this white block that you see
24 right here has just recently received another \$6 million
25 from the federal government so that this land can also be

1 conserved. So over the last decade conservation has been
2 going on and on and on.

3 And I think the fact that it's federal and state money
4 shows that, in contrary to what the applicant suggested,
5 that this is an area of national significance, the federal
6 government has backed that up with lots of federal dollars.

7 Quickly addressing the expectations of typical viewers,
8 the -- typical views, the applicant suggested that the
9 guides who testified and that they had in their testimony
10 did not represent typical viewers, but I would suggest that
11 the guides and sporting camp owners are the people who know
12 the most about the typical viewers who come to this region.

13 MS. HILTON: Cathy, I think I've got a -- you've got to
14 stop. I can tell you've got it all written down and we
15 will get a copy of it.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you.

17 MS. HILTON: All right. Thank you very much.

18 MS. DUERR: My name is Anita Duerr, I'm an assessor
19 from Carroll Plantation. I've lived in Carroll Plantation
20 for over 50 years.

21 On March 26 of this year we had a nonbinding vote at
22 the annual meeting, the vote was 21 to 10 in favor of a
23 wind farm. On May 16th we had a special Plantation meeting
24 to accept tangible benefits agreements with First Wind and
25 to commission the assessors to assign the agreement on

1 behalf of the Plantation, the vote was 24 in favor, 10
2 opposed with 40 people in attendance.

3 A lot of people in Carroll are retired and living on a
4 fixed income, some are living on land that has been in
5 their families for three or more generations. The benefits
6 from the wind farm will enable these residents to stay on
7 their land. Carroll Plantation has struggled with trying
8 to keep roads and repair, pay for education and snow
9 removal without taxing our residents off their land. The
10 wind farm will be a large contributor to making this
11 possible. The taxes and tangible benefits package will
12 have a substantial financial impact to the town.

13 We also appreciate the opportunity to have an input on
14 the conservation fund. Thank you.

15 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

16 MR. REMIAN: Presiding Officer Hilton, commission
17 members, Director Carroll, my name is Dan Remian from
18 Cushing in Knox County. I am an engineer and have over 52
19 cumulative years as chair of planning boards, zoning
20 commissions, wetlands commissions and conservation
21 commissions in three New England states. Presently I serve
22 as an assessor and as chair of the planning board for the
23 Town of Cushing. And I don't envy your chair positions
24 either.

25 I believe we have an environmental and energy issue and

1 I believe these issues should be solved with real science.
2 Most of you may agree that this may make sense. You may be
3 asking, what is real science? It's a hypothesis, such as,
4 wind energy can be equivalent to our conventional power
5 sources, being subjected to a comprehensive, objective,
6 independent, transparent and empirical-based assessment,
7 this has never been done for the wind industry.

8 Before most utility companies commit to new generating
9 sources, they are -- if they're not forced upon them by
10 legislation -- they require that the source provide large
11 amounts of electricity, provide reliable and predictable
12 electricity, provide dispatchable, on-demand electricity,
13 provide economic electricity, provide a compact facility --
14 in other words, a small footprint -- and provide grid
15 demand elements such as base load, load following and peak
16 load. Wind power does not satisfy any of these
17 requirements.

18 The Wall Street Journal and many utilities are now
19 questioning and campaigning against wind farms. One such
20 company is Idaho Power and Light. In their first three ads
21 the themes are, what is the real cost of Idaho wind power,
22 how do we make wind energy seem less expensive, what
23 happens when the wind doesn't blow?

24 What if a developer came to Maine and presented us with
25 a solution to our energy and environmental issues, they

1 claim they have this black box that will solve these
2 problems but needs several billion dollars of taxpayer and
3 rate payer money, would you take out your wallet without
4 seeing an effective cost benefit analysis? I doubt it.
5 But this is what our Legislature and utility committee has
6 allowed without essential scrutiny and even debate. Am I
7 being unreasonable to ask for genuine scientific proof and
8 a technical economic and environmental assessment of any
9 new alternative energy, especially wind?

10 Now, would you purchase a vehicle that would provide
11 you power for only being able to drive 30 percent of the
12 time and then take a tow truck to continue on your
13 destination? That's what wind turbines do. Developers
14 claim 30 percent output while FERC data shows that the
15 Stetson wind produced 17 percent one year, 14 in another.
16 And our own University of Presque Isle had an output of
17 only 11 percent. They had a very transparent website,
18 which I really applaud them for.

19 Wind power is vigorously promoted as a cure all,
20 reducing our dependence on foreign oil, providing free
21 reliable energy and creating thousands of jobs and reducing
22 global warming. However, wind power is not benign. The
23 manufacturers of wind generation components transport from
24 foreign countries, their site devastation, their
25 installation, maintenance and infrastructure requirements

1 do contribute to a carbon footprint.

2 Wind power development also initiates many mining
3 operations for cement, iron ore, copper, aluminum, many
4 rare earth metals for generator magnets. They're
5 extracting, smelting, refining and fabricating processes
6 have a cumulative contribution to a carbon footprint. The
7 site development alone here in Maine destroys carbon
8 sequestering forests.

9 When the subsidies and tax incentives are eliminated,
10 as now are happening in Europe, when the LLCs disappear as
11 they often do, who will remove these monuments to an
12 unsustainable industry and who will reverse their
13 associated environmental damage? I encourage you to read
14 their poor decommissioning plan.

15 Amongst much touted survey completed when the previous
16 governor was promoting his emergency, indicated that 80
17 percent of Mainers approve for wind power. That is an old
18 survey --

19 MR. NADEAU: Could you slow down just a little bit?

20 MR. REMIAN: Oh, slower. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm trying to
21 rush through it. That 80 percent of Maine as approving
22 wind energy is an old survey back in 2007. In a recent
23 survey, however, results a totally opposite result with
24 only 2 percent favoring land-based wind farms and 84
25 opposing any land-based wind. These results are

1 significant because so little of media reporting is other
2 than promotion. In Europe, Australia and many parts of the
3 United States the results are similar, wind power is
4 inefficient, costly and unwanted. The dishonesty of the
5 wind developers' claims of benefits to Maine households is
6 evident in these latest polls.

7 The promise of hundreds and possible thousands of jobs
8 for Maine and millions of dollars spent in Maine is
9 exploited and is a misrepresentation of facts. Are a few
10 temporary jobs worth sacrificing the other businesses in
11 Maine that depend on the beauty that is now being destroyed
12 and possibly forever?

13 After one developer claim after another is exposed by
14 an informed public and found to be misrepresented and
15 dishonest, such as, Maine's dependence on fossil fuels, our
16 carbon footprint and now the developers are promoting
17 hundreds of jobs for these new projects. Take a look at
18 the vehicle number plates of these workers and you may
19 realize they have very long commutes. A Vermont newspaper
20 last month wrote of the displeasure of the local unions
21 that are now opposing northern Vermont and New Hampshire
22 wind projects. The unions have found that for every
23 hundred wind and transmission jobs created, only two are
24 for local tradesmen.

25 I have been a licensed real estate broker in two

1 southern states for over 14 years. One very significant
2 property asset is scenic views, whether mountains, water,
3 fields, forests or open space. If you look at any real
4 estate ad, you'll realize this. The wind farms of Maine
5 are an industrial nuisance and, therefore, devalue
6 property, especially lake property. The wind industry uses
7 the Berkley study to claim no value reductions. However,
8 several true appraisers offer scenarios of lake front
9 losses of up to 69 percent and some total abandonment. Can
10 Maine people and communities afford these losses?

11 I can personally speak to this because our family has
12 21 acres and 600 feet of water front property on Spruce
13 Mountain Pond. That's not an ad. We received two offers
14 from very nice families and kept it open for one year for
15 both of them as they attempted to sell their properties.
16 Both of these properties are still for sale at Mars Hill.

17 Our number one business, tourism, generates millions of
18 dollars in wages and retail sales and thousands of jobs for
19 Maine people. Hunting and fishing generate about 4. --
20 \$498 million, snowmobiling 300 million, water sports
21 generates 185 million, and wildlife watching generates a
22 massive \$1.3 billion. This is from the Department of
23 Inland Fisheries data. How much money will wind watching
24 generate?

25 I gave a presentation back in the spring and after the

1 presentation a couple approached me and asked if one of the
2 photos was of Hot Brook Pond near Stetson wind project.
3 The wife was in tears and the couple related that their
4 honeymoon was back there nine years ago at Hot Brook and
5 that they had been coming back every year. They will not
6 return because the noise was so disturbing to the quiet
7 that they once knew and the strobing red lights reflecting
8 on the water overpowered the black and starlit sky they
9 came up to enjoy.

10 I have many friends and relatives who for years came to
11 the Danforth area, spent a lot of money on their annual
12 trips, but were angry recently of what was done to the
13 quiet and black sky they came for. They related they would
14 not be returning. I was recently told by one of the town
15 officials in Cushing -- they frequent Spruce Mountain Lodge
16 -- they said if they saw windmills on the horizon, they
17 would not return. And their comment, the Lincoln area
18 plight was enough for them and their friends.

19 Your commission has a great comprehensive plan and I
20 cannot find where this project fits or does not violate the
21 intent of this great plan to protect our valuable
22 resources. There are many unknowns with wind generation
23 and many unsubstantiated claims by wind farm developers.
24 New studies and models from --

25 MS. HILTON: Dan, can you just start to wrap up and --?

1 MR. REMIAN: Yeah, one paragraph. The new studies and
2 models from at least 23 universities, mainly MIT,
3 Princeton, Columbia, University of West Virginia,
4 University of Iowa, show that wind farms are creating
5 climate change and arid conditions in some parts of the
6 country. We need answers. What independent, scientific
7 proof do we have that wind energy does what the developers
8 claim? Our quality of life and place should not be for
9 sale.

10 You may -- you have many people in Maine who feel they
11 have been injured, you have Maine's number one industry,
12 tourism, that could be seriously damaged. You now have an
13 opportunity to help this state and its people by denying
14 application DP 4889. Thank you.

15 MS. MARCHUT: My name is Martha Marchut, I live in
16 Cushing, Maine, and I'm fortunate enough to own a camp on
17 Lower Lake Sysladobsis.

18 MS. HILTON: Can you just come a little closer to the
19 mic there?

20 MS. MARCHUT: Sorry. My name is Martha Marchut, I live
21 in Cushing, Maine and I'm fortunate enough to own a camp on
22 Lower Lake Sysladobsis. A number of questions have been
23 raised regarding the use of wind energy. They include the
24 following: What are the health implications connected with
25 residing in the vicinity of wind turbines? What is the

1 short and long-term environmental impact of the erection
2 and use of wind power sources? What are the costs of
3 erecting and maintaining wind turbines? At what rate of
4 efficiency will electricity be generated? What is the
5 potential impact on the tourism industry? How many current
6 jobs will be negatively impacted by the erection of wind
7 turbines? How many jobs, temporary and permanent, will
8 actually be created for the local residents by the wind
9 power industry? How adverse will be the visual impact of
10 multiple windmills seen from many lakes?

11 Given the importance of these questions and the wide
12 range of answers to these questions that we're hearing even
13 tonight, I am asking that you deny the application of the
14 -- for the Bowers Mountain wind project until an objective
15 independent, transparent and evidence-based assessment of
16 the impact of the Bowers Mountain wind project has been
17 completed and evaluated. Thank you.

18 MS. CARROLL: The next five names on my list are Donald
19 Moore, Milton -- you know your last name -- Dysart, Lillian
20 Caret, Lou Savlen, Mike Kerr, Clarence Thompson. Donald,
21 Milton, Lillian, Lou, Mike and Clarence, please.

22 MR. MOORE: My name is Donald Moore, I live in Orono.
23 I have a property -- a camp on Junior Lake. Most of the --
24 I'm opposed to the project for the reason that we have a
25 five star waterway that will be permanently affected

1 negatively. That's not just because I happen to be there,
2 it just happens to be that I see the beauty and I know that
3 it is a tourist attraction. The people are out there bass
4 fishing and so forth and the view of these towers is going
5 to -- all you do is look at that tower, you stop seeing the
6 scenery.

7 Now, one of the very important things is that this area
8 is one of two east of the Mississippi that has the night
9 sky, a true night sky. And with these strobe lights on 27
10 towers, you will not be looking at the stars because you
11 just can't help -- there's one red light up on Almanac
12 Mountain that I look at all the time. When you look at
13 that scenery, your eye goes right to that. It's just going
14 to take away from that scenic beauty that is so important
15 that money cannot buy. It's as simple as that.

16 So you find the facts about how it's goes to impact
17 Maine. We don't have -- we have passed a law that has
18 eliminated billboards and flashing lights in our towns for
19 the reason that it helps our environment be more peaceful.
20 Why can we have strobe lights and moving windmills in areas
21 that are so important to us environmentally? I mean,
22 there's a conflict there in our interest for the state of
23 Maine. Thank you.

24 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

25 MR. DYSART: My name is Milton Dysart, I live on Bottle

1 Lake at the boat landing. I have been around Bottle Lake
2 for quite a few number of years. My father built the third
3 camp on Bottle Lake in 1934. I have seen quite a lot of
4 changes. I am all for this wind project. These people
5 have done a lot of research opposing this and they've done
6 a lot of research for this.

7 I'm not the smartest guy in the world, I do have a
8 little practical knowledge. As we see it, a lot of people
9 in the state of Maine want this project. It's going to
10 lower our electricity bill eventually. If you people care
11 about your children, your grandchildren and your great
12 grandchildren, think about this. We have refrigerators, we
13 have stoves electric, we have coffee pots electric, people
14 that live on the lake have wells, power to the wells comes
15 from electric. What happens? Do we want nuclear power?
16 No.

17 You talk about spending millions of dollars for this
18 project, which is funded by the government. I'll bet you
19 if there's 100 people in this room, 85 percent of them
20 didn't oppose going to the moon spending billions and
21 billions of dollars for that, did you? No. Why do you
22 oppose this? I just can't see why people can't see the
23 future. Thank you very much.

24 MS. KERR: Good evening. My name is Lillian Caret, I'm
25 one of the three selectmen in Lakeville. The Lakeville

1 selectmen have chosen to remain neutral on this very
2 controversial subject. We have heard both sides for and
3 against and we represent all of you. I am here tonight to
4 say that should the windmills come to fruition, we are
5 pleased to be considered in the conservation fund by First
6 Wind. The tangible benefits will be distributed between
7 the three towns affected. The conservation fund will be
8 handled by Forest Society of Maine along with a committee
9 formed by one representative of each town that will decide
10 where this money will be wisely spent for conservation
11 improvements of the town. Glad to be considered.

12 MR. SAVLEN: My name is Lou Savlen and I have a
13 residence in Grand Lake Stream. I've been coming -- I
14 originally grew up in Massachusetts, was born and raised
15 there and I've been coming up to Maine for quite a few
16 years hunting, fishing and decided after discovering Grand
17 Lake Stream that it was a place I wanted to make my home.
18 I still have my home in Massachusetts with intentions of
19 selling it and moving up to Grand Lake Stream.

20 I have to tell you, the reasons for me loving Maine as
21 I do is because of its beautiful scenery, its pristine
22 waters and the lifestyle that that allows. With Grand Lake
23 Stream having many tourists come in there, many sportsmen
24 come in there and take advantage of the beauty, the
25 fishing, the hunting and, as one individual put it, the

1 beautiful night sky. I just wanted to say that I would
2 have to be opposed to any project which would have a
3 detrimental impact on these very important qualities that
4 you have here as a state.

5 I hope the board gives some very serious thought to the
6 scenic impacts that this is going to have. Thank you.

7 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

8 MR. KERR: Good evening. My name is Michael Kerr, I'm
9 a year-round resident of Lakeville, Maine, I reside on
10 Junior Lake. Everything in its place. We've all heard
11 that phrase, probably from our mothers. Come in and throw
12 your clothes off, that doesn't belong there. Throw
13 something on the counter, you know where that goes. Well,
14 that's how I feel about the Bowers Mountain wind project,
15 it doesn't belong there.

16 Where it's going to be overshadowing the West Grand
17 Chain of Lakes, there's no place in the world like that
18 region. And this will change that forever. There are very
19 few places left in this country or the world, for that
20 matter, that has such pristine wild wilderness, fisheries
21 and clear, clean, cold water lakes that there is there.

22 I have been a registered -- I have been registered with
23 the State of Maine as a master Maine guide since 1978. In
24 my time guiding I have guided people from all over the
25 world throughout this great state of Maine. I have seen

1 Maine through their eyes and their comments. And the thing
2 that echoes in my mind with their comments is they can't
3 believe that there's a place left in the world like the
4 West Grand Chain of Lakes with its remoteness and the
5 wilderness, wildlife, eagles, loons, waterfowl, land-locked
6 salmon, lake trout, white fish. Very few waters today
7 throughout the world can sustain such species as that, but
8 the West Grand Chain of Lakes does.

9 Tourism is Maine's number one industry. For years it
10 was pulp and paper, but we all know what happened with
11 that. So what I don't understand is why are we going to
12 start chipping away at the tourism dollar which is Maine's
13 number one industry? Because there's one thing that both
14 sides can agree on, it is going to affect tourism in some
15 shape or fashion. We can argue numbers all day long from
16 either side, percentages, but it's going to affect it to
17 some degree. And can we afford that in the state of Maine?
18 I don't think so. Maine's economy is fragile at best.

19 All one has to do right now is drive through the
20 Lincoln lakes region and you're seeing the new state of
21 Maine if we don't start implicating areas that should be
22 left untouched like the West Grand Chain of Lakes. The
23 last thing that we can sell is quality of place and that
24 would be gone forever. Please deny this application.
25 Thank you.

1 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

2 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Clarence Thompson and I'm a
3 resident of Carroll Plantation. I don't have a lot of
4 props to show you and I'm not, you know, the brightest guy
5 in the world either. And most of my colleagues have given
6 my speech, so I'm going to be very brief, which you're
7 going to enjoy.

8 But I would like to say that our town is -- consists of
9 about 160 people, a little tiny place. Some of you have
10 never been there, I'm sure; some of you have. We have
11 about 58 households -- permanent households. This means a
12 great deal to us. And I think that if you decide to vote
13 -- and I don't envy you a bit, any of you. I've served on
14 boards, many of them, it's not fun. But you've got a job
15 to do and you've got to do it.

16 However, if you do vote in favor of it, it will benefit
17 our town immensely. We have a lot of people that are on
18 fixed incomes and they're deciding each month whether to
19 buy drugs or whether they should buy food and this will
20 help.

21 I would like to say just one more thing. All of these
22 people that have spoken against it are on the lakes, if you
23 notice. I remember before they ever came to any of those
24 lakes, I was fishing down there as a young boy. And you
25 could fish all day long and you would never see a house or

1 a mansion or bright lights at night or you wouldn't meet
2 probably two people all day. That's pristine. I have
3 nothing against them. When they decided to move in there,
4 we all said, that's great.

5 However, Carroll Plantation needs this project, we need
6 it very badly. And we're looking at it from that reason.
7 And I thank you.

8 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

9 MS. CARROLL: The next five names on my list include
10 Wallace Lindahl, Lois Cook, William Daniels, Lee Whitely
11 and Dr. Steinberg -- oh, no. I strike that. That person
12 did not sign up to testify. My apologies. And lastly
13 Deanna -- yes, Deanna. Wallace, Lois, William, Lee and
14 Deanna. Thank you.

15 MR. LINDAHL: My name is Wallace Lindahl and I live in
16 Carroll Plantation. In fact, I live on Route 6 and my view
17 -- my house sits in the middle of 60-something acres and my
18 only view is Bowers Mountain. I bought my property 20
19 years ago after my wife and I searched throughout Maine to
20 find a place that we would fall in love with. We fell in
21 love with our house, we sit 600 feet off of Route 6. And
22 like I said, my view is Bowers Mountain. I have a neighbor
23 on either side of me, but they're hundreds of yards in
24 either direction, I don't see anything about beautiful
25 Bowers Mountain.

1 And it's interesting that Clarence, who just talked,
2 talked about the people on the lakes who don't want to see
3 it. I'm a person who lives in Carroll and have for the
4 last 20 years and I don't want to see it. I think it's a
5 shame.

6 I was born in Greenville -- Greenville Junction, in
7 fact, but I grew up when the war started, World War II that
8 is, and I grew up in Kittery. And I always enjoyed coming
9 to Maine further up into the state and seeing that sign:
10 Maine the way life should be. And 40 years ago when they
11 took away the billboards, I thought, that's wonderful, they
12 took away the billboards. For me to see them windmills is
13 much worse than seeing any billboard sitting on top of any
14 mountain.

15 As was mentioned before, the people who come down Route
16 6 now, everywhere you look now you're seeing windmills.
17 Totally unnatural. Are they paying for themselves? I
18 doubt it. Uncle Sam, which means they're taking money out
19 of our pocket to build these windmills. This windmill
20 company just had to sell half of their company because they
21 don't have the money, the banks weren't loaning them the
22 money.

23 So we have a foreign company, the same foreign company
24 that bought Bangor Hydro and Maine Public Service in the
25 county, now owns half of the windmill company. We have --

1 in fact, the -- Maine Central Power is run by a foreign
2 company now. It's amazing that the state of Maine isn't
3 the state of Maine any more as far as power is concerned.
4 So I am highly opposed to this.

5 I know -- my other part of this situation is -- deals
6 with your organization. Four years ago I wanted to build a
7 garage, a two-car garage attached to my house, and I went
8 to see Mr. Mark Russell who was up in the Millinocket area
9 which is about --

10 MS. HILTON: Does this relate to this project?

11 MR. LINDAHL: It deals with you because you guys are
12 dealing with it. I'll be very short with this. But it
13 deals with it because of who is going to make this okay or
14 not okay? And why I'm bringing this up is the fact that to
15 build my garage it cost me \$418. Who pays a bill like that
16 to build a -- a permit to build a garage? But this young
17 man up there decided it cost me \$418 because LURC didn't
18 have a record of a house being there and yet it had been
19 there since 1978.

20 And so I had to pay all of that and the outbuildings
21 plus a fine and I didn't even know there was a Carroll when
22 that building was built. I didn't know there was a Carroll
23 until I moved there 20 years ago. And, yet, I had to pay a
24 fine for something I didn't do. That being so, I don't
25 have a lot of trust in LURC disapproving this site. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. COOK: Good evening. My name is Lois Cook, I have
3 a camp on the south side of Bottle Lake. Our camp was
4 built in 1964 and I have been coming to Bottle Lake since
5 1951. My father was born and raised in Wytopotlock, Maine,
6 I live on Long Island in New York state and come to
7 Lakeville every summer. I love it here, my husband loves
8 it here, as do my children and my grandchildren.

9 I oppose the wind turbine project on Bowers Mountain
10 because they will not only ruin the scenic view from our
11 camp of the rolling hills, but most of all our nighttime
12 stargazing. This is a big part of our Maine life. We live
13 in a populated town in New York and we rarely look up at
14 the stars because you don't see many because of the light
15 pollution. Here the stars are crystal clear and we see
16 millions more. The shooting stars are amazing. My
17 grandchildren would never see such a sight at their home in
18 New York.

19 We have guests from Ireland, England, Germany,
20 Switzerland, Oregon, Florida to come to see the natural
21 beauty of Bottle Lake. They don't come to see flashing
22 blades in the daytime and flashing red lights at night.
23 Please preserve our natural beauty for generations to come.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. DANIELS: I have no notes, it might be to my

1 advantage, I might not get as nervous. I have a few
2 sketches here. My name is William Daniels, I'm from
3 Springfield, Maine, I'm also from Lakeville and Bottle
4 Lake. I came to Bottle Lake in my middle years, but I
5 won't tell you how old I am now. I've been there 40 years
6 and I want to just give you a few statistics of my 40
7 years.

8 I built a camp right at the head of Bottle Stream and
9 for 40 years at least ten weeks of every summer I'd see one
10 expedition of possibly three or four boats with youths in
11 it. This is something I'm saying here which I have hardly
12 heard at -- all I heard tonight was about finances and
13 environmental issues. These are youths of -- they may be
14 -- they're Boy Scouts, they're Girl Scouts, they're youths
15 from other camps, they're youths from all over the
16 northeast and possibly the south, who knows.

17 But I'd see at least three to five. And I'm going to
18 stay low on my statistics. I'm going to ask you all to
19 listen to my statistics and think about what I have to say
20 about it. So there would be at least four in each boat,
21 which would be 12, and then there -- these are all canoes,
22 mostly canoes. These are kids who wanted to get up into
23 the wilderness. And speaking of wilderness, you have one
24 wilderness in the west, that's Alaska. I heard you had two
25 wildernesses in the east, one is the swamps in Florida and

1 the other is the wilderness north, I'd say, of Orono, I
2 don't know.

3 So I'm going to stay on the low figure and say there
4 are ten kids a week -- and I'd be at the camp every week --
5 that I see go up Bottle Stream to at least eight or ten
6 campsites all the way to Grand Lake. At one time the State
7 had these -- had these campsites maintained. I don't know
8 what happened to them now, but they're still used.

9 So I was at my camp in 1969 when I built. And that
10 would put -- that would put it about 40 years right now.
11 If you take ten kids a week for an average of ten weeks a
12 summer, you'd have 100 kids. And that's low because I've
13 already seen six canoes go up the stream to go camping with
14 all their gear, their tents, their sacks and everything
15 else. So if you take that over my 40 years, in ten years
16 you would have 1,000 youths that I actually witnessed and
17 seen. And I know there's a lot of people in here from
18 Bottle Lake that have been right where I -- my camp is and
19 know exactly what I talk about. And I vouch for what I'm
20 saying. If you would take that for 40 years, you would
21 have 4,000 kids, youths that use that very access from
22 Bottle Lake all the way down this chain of lakes, at least
23 10, 12 lakes.

24 Now, I don't know how you compare that to 2 million --
25 to 2 and a half million dollars or in terms of megawatts,

1 but I'm asking you as a committee to keep in mind these
2 kids. Everyone here think about these statistics. I'm not
3 that good on numbers, but these are rough numbers and
4 they're very easy to figure if you figure 40 years -- if
5 you figure 10 weeks a summer times 40 and 10 kids, you'll
6 come up with roughly what I said.

7 I'm asking the committee, LURC, and everyone else to
8 think about what I've said. And my wife and myself are
9 against it for a reason this simple. And I thank you for
10 listening.

11 MR. WHITELEY: Hi. My name is Lee Whitely and I'm --
12 I'm a resident of Grand Lake Stream and I don't live on the
13 lake, but I -- I'm a member of the -- I'm a -- on the board
14 of the guides in Grand Lake Stream, I'm on the board of the
15 Downeast Lakes Land Trust, but I'm here tonight
16 representing myself.

17 You know, the -- this area where we live, central
18 Washington County, it's a -- our little area down there is
19 one of the few places that are still vibrant in Washington
20 County. Washington County has big financial problems. And
21 that area is more healthy than much of Washington County.
22 And what drives our little community and the surrounding
23 area is the tourist business. And we have, you know, the
24 guides, we have the lodges and that really drives our
25 business.

1 Now, our guests come from all over -- all over the
2 country. I mean, there's people from California, New
3 Mexico, you name it, and from overseas as well. And they
4 don't come to look at windmills. You know, we still have a
5 pretty rustic tradition of Grand Lake canoes that they fish
6 out of and that's the way we get -- the way the clients
7 like it. They want to have that experience. And they
8 don't want to see these windmills. They want to have the
9 -- they have this idea that where we are is pristine, it's
10 remote and it's special and it's got a very, very -- very,
11 very scenic views from all of the lakes. And our local
12 people use all these lakes, it's not just West Grand, we're
13 up into Bottle Lake we're up into Sysladobsis, we're up
14 into Junior we're up into Scraggly, you know, fishing and
15 that sort of thing.

16 I have a little story to relate that one of the -- one
17 of the fellows down there had a group out on Baskahegan and
18 they were fishing. And when they got done at the end of
19 the day, the client said, don't ever bring me back here
20 again; if you do, I just won't come. And that was because
21 of those windmills up there. And we're going to lose --
22 we're going to lose the kind of people that make us
23 financially viable in that community with this kind of a
24 project.

25 The other thing that happens is that -- I believe that

1 the real estate values on our lakes will be hurt and will
2 decrease as well. The -- when First Wind came down to our
3 little town and they gave a presentation, within, I don't
4 know, 15 minutes of the meeting they tried to bribe us.
5 They said, you know, we've got lots of money, we don't mind
6 giving you guys some money to do -- you know what kind of
7 projects do you have? We said, we don't want your money,
8 we want to keep things the way they are. We want to have
9 our pristine lakes and our scenic views and have our
10 tourism industry stay as it has been.

11 So I -- I am strongly opposed to this project and I
12 want to go on record as saying that.

13 The other comment I would make just to add to the NRCM
14 report, that project that she talked about, the new project
15 in our region, that was rated the number one project in the
16 country. And that's how we got that \$6 million in funding
17 for that project. So I think that's an important note as
18 well. And that was from the feds, so --. Okay.

19 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

20 MS. SAINATI: Good evening. My name is Deanna Sainati,
21 I'm a resident of Chicago, Illinois, actually, Glenview.
22 I'm familiar with windmills. You probably know that
23 Illinois has one of the most populated windmill sites in
24 the nation and we're also really windy, Chicago is really
25 windy. Of course, we've had many of our governors in jail

1 because -- I know how things do get greased and I'm hoping
2 that this is not a rubber stamp tonight and that you are
3 really listening to what people are saying because we've
4 had a lot of testimony.

5 I really do appreciate what -- the people who would
6 benefit from getting the sites, that's a true factor. And
7 it probably is really painful -- when you have a really
8 poor economy and someone comes in and offers you something,
9 it would be really hard not to be excited about it. And I
10 appreciate that because I know Washington County
11 economically does need stimulation.

12 I also know that when I look around and I see all of
13 those in Illinois, I drive down and pick my daughter up in
14 college, they're not even moving, our windmills aren't even
15 going right now because they aren't hooked to a grid and
16 they don't have any way to use them. And that's been like
17 that for over two or three years.

18 So I know there's a lot of details that I'm not aware
19 of, but I don't think that the homework has been done that
20 in good conscience you could rubber stamp and say that this
21 company is going to come in and put these gigantic things
22 in the ground and disturb the most beautiful place in the
23 world. I just hope that you really think about it before
24 you're able to do that.

25 And I also hope, as Lee said, that you will listen to

1 the fact that this is -- this was rated by the government
2 as the number one place, the -- that they want to preserve.
3 So I hope that you really think about this and I hope that
4 you are not being bribed. I have no idea how that works.
5 I don't know.

6 MR. LAVERTY: I have to say -- I mean, I'm really
7 sorry, but I resent that accusation, I really do.

8 MS. SAINATI: I said, I hope you are not. That's not
9 an accusation, that's a hope.

10 MR. LAVERTY: Let me assure you -- I mean, I've been on
11 this commission for a while, we make no salaries, I haven't
12 received a dime from anybody for doing this. And I can say
13 that of the seven members of this commission I don't know
14 anyone that has. And so I can appreciate your concerns
15 and --

16 MS. SAINATI: I am concerned.

17 MR. LAVERTY: -- and appreciate your perspective, but
18 please don't imply to people that we are somehow bribed
19 here.

20 MS. SAINATI: It is not an implication to say that you
21 are hoping --

22 MR. LAVERTY: We're citizens of the state of Maine,
23 that's what we are. We're appointed by the governor as
24 citizens of the state. We're not professionals, I mean, we
25 don't get salaries to do this. We all have our other

1 lives. And I think it -- you know, please don't leave the
2 idea in people's mind that we're somehow being bought and
3 sold up here because it just isn't the case.

4 MS. HILTON: You want to take a break, right? Let me
5 just -- we need to take -- give Angella a break here, but
6 Catherine is going to call the next five names so that when
7 we come back from the break you'll know who's next up to
8 testify. And -- so what do you want, 10 minutes? Ten
9 minutes is fine. So we'll be back. And, Catherine, go
10 ahead.

11 MS. CARROLL: Okay. So before folks get up and move
12 around, the next five names on my list include Susan Davis,
13 Margie Deschene, Bill Deschene, Brian Hoops, Gary Chard.
14 Thank you.

15 (Whereupon a recess was held at 8:14 p.m., and the
16 hearing was resumed at 8:33 p.m. this date.)

17 MS. HILTON: I would like to start up the hearing
18 again, please. I think we've got -- how many people do we
19 have to go? We have another 18 folks that would like to
20 testify. And I think you know who you are, at least the
21 first five of you. Okay. I guess, go ahead. Please,
22 quiet down, folks.

23 MS. DAVIS: Thank you for the opportunity to testify at
24 these hearings. My name is Susan Davis, I live in
25 Kingfield in Maine's western mountains. I represent the

1 Friends of Maine's Mountains, an environmental preservation
2 organization intent on preserving Maine's iconic mountain
3 and lake environment and landscape. At this critical
4 moment in history our focus is to bring sensible energy
5 policies to the state.

6 I am here to speak against the Bowers project.
7 Whenever I travel out of state and people ask where I'm
8 from in Maine, Kingfield rarely brings a response, but no
9 matter where I am, if I answer, near the Rangeley lakes,
10 that brings an immediate, oh, yeah. Even Europeans with a
11 vague sense of geography know that famous lake region.

12 Grand Lake Stream here in the Downeast lakes watershed
13 elicits virtually the same response. Commissioners, I
14 believe you've seen some reasons why today in your tour.
15 If any of you have enjoyed Leen's Lodge or any of the other
16 great lodges and sporting camps here or fished these lakes,
17 you know the magic of this place. For me, I spent part of
18 my honeymoon canoeing across Grand Lake and camping on an
19 island under this amazing dark sky.

20 We are so glad that you scheduled the meeting here at
21 this site. Allow me to use three sound bites to position
22 my comments. First, high cost, low benefit for technology
23 that may be obsolescent within ten years. The high cost
24 part of that, federal subsidies of the electricity produced
25 by wind is \$23.47 a megawatt hour compared to cents, not

1 dollars, for gas, oil, coal, hydro and geothermal; nuclear
2 is subsidized by all of \$1.59. And these figures are
3 available at the EIA website, as you probably know. As far
4 as low benefit is concerned, then the regional grid, ISO
5 New England, buys power -- wind power only because it's
6 legislated through renewable portfolio standards that end
7 up in expensive power purchase agreements with wind
8 companies. And what effect will that have on our electric
9 rates?

10 Then when wind is part of the grid mix, its
11 intermittency and unreliability require that oil, gas and
12 other electricity generation suppliers be kept on standby
13 should the wind not be producing the electricity required
14 but for the grid's reliability standard. And don't think
15 that doesn't produce CO2s. You know what it's like -- the
16 difference between idling in a car and driving.

17 On a recent tour of Stetson our First Wind guide told
18 us that only half of Stetson's output was being used at the
19 time by Harvard University, no less, not even by ISO New
20 England. This while First Wind was finishing up Rollins
21 and the linked project at the head of the Lincoln Lakes.
22 That's the one that's headed down here to link up with
23 Bowers, I might add.

24 My second sound bite is public expense for private
25 gain. This \$23.47 per megawatt hour subsidy comes out of

1 our personal pockets through our taxes, a little hard to
2 track. Easier to identify, however, will be the utility
3 rate increases all of Maine's citizens and small businesses
4 will bear when, by agreement between the governing parties,
5 CMP and Bangor Hydro are allowed to pass on a 12 percent
6 plus -- 12 percent plus of the cost of the \$1.4 billion
7 transmission upgrade to move the power from Maine to
8 southern New England. And we still don't know what part of
9 the rest of the \$25 billion upgrade in southern New England
10 will have to pay.

11 By the way, when Maine's big power users, our big
12 lumber companies and so forth, decide to generate their own
13 power, the small rate payer will have to absorb their share
14 as well.

15 And my final sound bite is this one. A multimillion
16 dollar industry destroys a multibillion dollar industry. A
17 few Maine companies like Reed & Reed have seen their bottom
18 line grow millions of dollars. But what about our \$10
19 billion tourism industry? And we've heard lots of
20 testimony today about the specifics of that here in this
21 area. One that produces -- our tourism industry produces
22 \$500 million in tax revenue -- compare that to the TIFs big
23 wind gets -- and employees 170,000 Mainers living where
24 they work. Compare that to imported workers living in
25 trailers and sending their daily and monthly checks home,

1 not even eating out in the local community.

2 All of this for a technology that will be outdated
3 before the turbines are even depreciated. Technology is
4 evolving so fast, the capacity to generate and use
5 electricity without transmission is evolving as we speak.
6 But Maine will be left with a failed technology, an
7 industrial wasteland dotted with 40-story towers with no
8 money to take them down -- note the decommissioning parts
9 of these permits -- with transmission lines that define the
10 word grid crisscrossing this incredibly beautiful and
11 endangered state. Our wildlife and environment will be
12 changed beyond recognition or restitution from the New
13 Hampshire to the New Brunswick borders in a perfect arch
14 through that part of Maine that put the word vacationland
15 on our license plate.

16 And I have one exhibit here. It's a picture -- a
17 picture of Katahdin seen, I believe, from the Rollins
18 project. And if we can see Katahdin that clearly, I hate
19 to think that when you climb Katahdin that eventually
20 you'll be able to see turbines in every direction if the
21 wind industry keeps going forward with its plan.

22 Please deny this project. And thank you so much for
23 allowing me to testify and for the very hard work that you
24 do. I know that it's a thankless job. Thank you.

25 MS. HILTON: Thank you very much.

1 MS. DESCHENE: My name is Margie Deschene, I live in
2 Grand Falls in a nonelectric house. It's wonderful. I
3 love the beauty of Maine, it hurts to see it destroyed for
4 money. The wind turbines already up are ugly eyesores and
5 for no good reason. Why do we need to desecrate more of
6 our mountains and lake areas here in Maine by putting up
7 even more huge 3 to 400 feet industrial wind turbines to
8 generate electricity when the average wind speed is less
9 than 5 miles per hour? Having gardened here in Maine for
10 11 years, we've listened to the weather band daily. Wind
11 is erratic. Either motors or CO2-producing coal-fired
12 plants would be necessary to keep the flow of power steady,
13 power that we don't even need here in Maine.

14 And why do so many want to believe that wind turbines
15 will reduce our dependence on foreign oil? Nothing at the
16 present moment is going to reduce our dependence on foreign
17 oil. Over 70 percent of remaining oil reserves lie under
18 the soil of Islamic nations of Asia from the Red Sea to
19 Indonesia. The U.S. is in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya for
20 the sake of oil, oil that is for the U.S. military
21 industrial complex, for the ruling corporations, for the
22 super rich, 1 percent of the American population, not for
23 the rest of us.

24 Why do we need to believe that the people are going to
25 benefit from these turbines when the money is going to go

1 to First Wind, a real economic scam, a scramble for federal
2 dollars, and to a few landowners who don't seem to care
3 about what they are doing to ruin the beauty of the earth
4 for the majority of the people, of the wildlife and of the
5 forests that are needed for CO2 absorption? If we listen
6 to the mantra that says industrial wind turbines are green,
7 we're buying into a lie reminiscent of Saddam Hussein's
8 WMDs, WMDs, WMDs, rapepae umwauh says the dominant business
9 culture.

10 Why can't we have smaller windmills at individual
11 homes, as some already do or at the local transfer station
12 whenever power is needed? Why can't we live more simply
13 and yet quite well with less rather than more, fewer
14 material goods rather than more? Do we really need to
15 desecrate the beauty of Maine so as to sell electricity out
16 of state to run the flat screen TVs of the rich in
17 Massachusetts or Connecticut?

18 So my question is, why do we need to keep approving of
19 First Wind's assault on our Maine mountains and lakes? Are
20 we crazy, are we just too stupid, are we too cowled by the
21 powers to be who could and would squish us if we don't do
22 their bidding? Please, let's say no to First Wind. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. DESCHENE: My name is Bill Deschene, I'm from Grand
25 Falls and I live with Margie. So a lot of what she said

1 I'm going to repeat, too, but in a slightly different way.
2 I would like to believe that the proponents of wind
3 turbines in rural Maine are right minded, that is, they
4 have the good of all of us as a goal. By all of us I mean
5 all transient beings including those sometimes referred to
6 as inanimates as if it's possible that something could not
7 have a spirit or a soul, that First Wind or its
8 subsidiaries are not just in it for the money, that Reed &
9 Reed workers are busy doing things that will benefit all of
10 us and not just picking up a paycheck and the devil with
11 whomever objects, that the politicians and ex-politicians
12 involved are not just helping out old buddies and new
13 employers, but are sincerely trying to reduce greenhouse
14 gases and our dependence on oil, that the landowners as
15 good stewards of the land feel good about contributing to
16 an energy secure future and not just salivating over the
17 steady flow of cash they will get for their generosity,
18 that those who feel that it's the people's right and in
19 their best interest to do whatever they want with their
20 land have given careful thought to what this could mean to
21 abutters, to tourists, to future generations, that oldsters
22 who will remember the pristine wilderness of Maine have not
23 ignored the time when today's youth, grown tired and bored
24 by Facebook and cell phones, might well appreciate the
25 experience of a walk in the pristine woods as they get

1 their act together.

2 Somehow I feel that all of the above, that is, all of
3 us, have been lulled into a non-questioning dullness and
4 have succumbed to the idea that they know what's best for
5 us and, therefore, have no time to see what the effects of
6 wind turbines already deployed on our mountaintops and
7 ridges have on the production of a truly needy green energy
8 and to reflect on the effect that these industrial wind
9 sites have on our psyches.

10 Is it possible to live without beauty? Ask anyone who
11 lives in an area degraded by industrial sites erected for
12 self-interest instead of the good of all. Those who can,
13 quickly move elsewhere, leaving the rest behind. I know, I
14 lived 20 years in the Bronx and I got out of there.

15 Besides not taking time to see what good will come out
16 of this sort of project, why have not other sites for
17 renewable energy been considered, town dumps or transfer
18 stations, for example, or as several people have done,
19 smaller wind turbines that could be erected on one's own
20 property? Companies could find ample work here without
21 degrading our mountains.

22 One last thought. Endless growth is not natural,
23 whether in our own bodies or in the general fabric of life
24 on our planet. Perhaps it is time to scale back, rid
25 ourselves of the idea that we are consumers and latch onto

1 the idea that we are members of a delicate web of life
2 endlessly revealing to each other the breathtaking beauty
3 and wonder of our planet. Francis of Assisi once described
4 the beauty of a scaled-back life. He fell in love with
5 Lady Poverty, not the wretchedness of being hungry, cold or
6 homeless, but the satisfaction of coming to a giant buffet
7 and taking only what you need so that others could have
8 their share.

9 So in considering this project, I would ask, why not
10 take lots of time to see what good, if any, has come out of
11 the industrial wind sites already erected; why not consider
12 alternative wind sites; why not reconsider the notion of
13 progress? Maybe we might be more satisfied, less bored and
14 contentious people if we had a simple lifestyle that we
15 could all share.

16 Lastly, is it possible that we still believe that these
17 turbines will free us from our dependence on middle eastern
18 oil when we are fighting several wars so that the likes of
19 Halliburton and the oil companies can get their hands on
20 that oil? Have we not committed ourselves to get the last
21 drop of that oil wind turbines or not? Thank you.

22 MR. HOOPS: Hi. My name is Brian Hoops, I'm a dentist
23 in Baileyville, I have a camp on West Grand Lake that I
24 built in 1994. I'm not here to be an antibusiness person
25 or an anticorporation, I'm a businessman myself, and I even

1 own a corporation.

2 Wind facilities that have been built in Maine have
3 shown about a 20-percent efficiency. They've cut vast
4 swarths of forests and been placed necessarily in highly
5 visible places atop mountains. The Maine State Legislature
6 seems to support this.

7 I've been a member of the Baileyville planning board
8 for over 15 years and sometimes a chairperson; I
9 participated in the drafting of the Baileyville
10 Comprehensive Plan. Zoning laws and comprehensive plans
11 are in place in order to avoid just this type of
12 development, in my opinion. I think that policies that
13 support this type of development, which are rushed through
14 the Legislature and other venues in areas which have little
15 or no political clout.

16 The Bowers Mountain facilities will be visible from
17 many previously secluded lakes. Sporting camps, guides,
18 camp and land values, other ancillary businesses will be
19 negatively impacted by this project. It is my belief that
20 fishermen and nature lovers will not travel here if they
21 must view sunsets through a maze of windmills. Many people
22 who come to this area come to escape the all night red
23 blinking lights of home. As a camp owner I'm not even
24 allowed to paint my camp a different color much less have a
25 blinking light fixed to my roof, a roof, by the way, which

1 could not exceed a height of 25 feet, quite a bit shorter
2 than the height of a wind turbine. The reason that these
3 color and height regulations have been put in place is to
4 keep the lake's character so that all can enjoy its natural
5 state.

6 I'm all for letting people do what they wish to with
7 their land as long as it does not negatively impact their
8 neighbors, especially economically. I am convinced that
9 these windmills will be dismantled or disused in 10 or 15
10 years when it's realized that they are just another
11 Potemkin Village, but in the meantime, this area will
12 suffer, not just residences and visitors, but wildlife as
13 well.

14 Please do not let this project continue. Thank you.

15 MR. CHARD: Good evening. My name is Gary Chard, I own
16 a home with my family on Junior Lake. I think everyone
17 here has been acquainted with the -- the concept, we're
18 here from the government and we're here to help you. The
19 first time I heard that I was 20 years old and I got a
20 draft notice in the mail. They didn't help me a bit. You
21 can believe that. I haven't shaved since I had people --
22 couldn't tell me I had to shave. It's been a long time.
23 I'm hoping that you folks will give me a different
24 experience about the government and that you are here to
25 help me.

1 I have just a brief thing to read here. The Downeast
2 lakes region is a spectacular natural area with minimal
3 observable human development and is cherished by those of
4 us who spend time here or live here for that reason. Many
5 of us have built camps or homes under the watchful eye of
6 LURC, carefully staying 100 feet from the shore,
7 selectively removing vegetation within that area and even
8 using building materials that don't clash with the natural
9 background. We can't enhance our beaches or add boat
10 launching facilities. If we want a path to the shore, it
11 must meander and can't be too wide.

12 All these conditions which can be damn irritating are
13 put forth with the purpose of protecting the vistas for
14 everyone. When these LURC wide restrictions are in place,
15 I believe the cumulative effect, yet positive, is sometimes
16 irritating to adhere to. Thousands of people have
17 submitted to these regulations and millions of dollars have
18 been spent to acquire easements on miles of shorefront in
19 this region in order to protect the visual integrity of
20 this splendid system of lakes in the Maine woods.

21 Now we have an abomination of industrial vandalism
22 being visited upon us in the false name of green energy.
23 The vistas and wilderness areas that have been guarded by
24 LURC for decades will be destroyed forever if approval is
25 forthcoming for this project.

1 My grandchildren caught their first fish in Junior Lake
2 last summer. Will this be the final summer of piece and
3 tranquility here? Will the suggestion of a corporate
4 mouthpiece that I face in a different direction when I fish
5 if I find windmill vandalized ridge lines offensive be
6 endorsed by LURC?

7 Please find this development inappropriate for this
8 location. Please take into consideration all of the stated
9 objectives that LURC has promoted and enforced for years
10 and find that the environmental degradation and visual
11 disaster that this industrial project brings to the region
12 is inappropriate and unacceptable. Thank you kindly.

13 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

14 MS. CARROLL: The next five names on my list include
15 Pat Defilipp -- I hope I did that right -- Collin.
16 Chard, Nancy Gray, Mike DiCenzo and Audi Arbo. Pat, Collin,
17 Nancy, Mike and Audi. Thank you.

18 MR. DEFILIPP: Hi. My name is Pat Defilipp, I'm a
19 resident of Auburn, Maine, I also work for Reed & Reed,
20 we're a construction firm in Woolwich. We have been
21 fortunate to have been able to work with First Wind on the
22 various projects in the northern part of the state, the
23 Mars Hill project, Stetson 1 and 2 and the Rollins project.

24 I feel that the Bowers project should be approved. We
25 feel that wind power is good for business, it's good for

1 the state of Maine and it's an economic shot in the arm for
2 the area, it lessens our dependence on foreign oil.

3 We just recently completed the construction of the
4 Rollins wind project just down the road from Bowers. On
5 this project we had approximately 23,000 work hours. If
6 you figure a person working 40 hours a week, 50 weeks a
7 year is about 2,000 hours per year. So that's equivalent
8 to about 115 working for a year. During the peak of the
9 project we had over 200 people on the site and the vast
10 majority of these people were Maine residents.

11 We have paid out approximately \$30 million to
12 subcontractors and suppliers working on the project. This
13 is not just Reed & Reed. They are mostly Maine companies
14 including Sargent Corporation in Stillwater, Maine Drilling
15 & Blasting in Gardiner, Stallion Rebar in North Waterboro,
16 S.G.C. Engineering in Orono, James Sewall Company in Old
17 Town, S.W. Cole in Bangor, Seaboard Security in Brewer,
18 A.R.C. in Kingfield, Goodwin Well Drilling in Turner,
19 Blaine Casey Building Company in South China, N.S. Giles
20 Foundations in Bangor, Ramsey Welling in Lincoln, Treeline,
21 Incorporated in Lincoln, H.C. Haynes in Winn, and Gardner &
22 Sons in Lincoln. Again, these are all Maine companies.

23 This project will also create tangible benefits, tax
24 revenues and permanent jobs which would benefit the area
25 for a long time to come.

1 I'd also like to comment briefly on the construction of
2 these projects having had some experience with them. These
3 projects are built responsibly, they're constructed to
4 minimize any effort on the environment during construction.
5 Before work is started on these projects we submit a storm
6 water and pollution prevention plan to the regulatory
7 agencies; it is reviewed and approved by our engineers and
8 the agencies themselves before we can start. As clearing
9 is started on the project, we install the erosion control
10 measures before any earth moving operations take place. As
11 construction progresses, daily inspections are done by our
12 staff.

13 On the Rollins project we had a full-time person just
14 dedicated to environmental controls and making sure
15 everything was -- was working correctly. If any issues are
16 found during these inspections, work is stopped on the site
17 until it's fixed. We're also obligated to hire third-party
18 inspectors on the project. And these people we have to pay
19 to build, but they don't work for us, they report to you
20 people. So any issues are picked up and you're notified
21 immediately.

22 Inspection is done by our design engineers. At the
23 completion of the construction the site is rehabilitated,
24 as you can see if you've been up and down the Stetson or
25 Rollins projects. And then once regrowth has been

1 established, we'll go in and take down the silt fences and
2 the final erosion control stuff.

3 So we really do make every effort we can to protect our
4 state. Thank you.

5 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

6 MR. CHARD: Hello. My name is Collin Chard, I came
7 here from Winterport today, which is where I reside. I
8 just want to thank you for considering our remarks this
9 evening. I just have a brief statement I would like to
10 share with you, if I could.

11 Everyone gathered in this hall has something in common,
12 we all have had the benefit of the historically wild,
13 natural beauty of the lakes in this region. For
14 generations nature lovers have come from the world over
15 seeking tranquility and recreation here. Pristine waters
16 rimmed with unblemished ridges and hills, truly this place
17 is marvelous and has been valued as such for generations.

18 As the beneficiary of these generations of forbearance,
19 I have trolled a lure through the waters of Junior Lake,
20 dived into those waters just today, feeling as though I
21 were the only person for miles around. This legacy is
22 imperil. Along with the privilege of having a world class
23 natural wonder comes a responsibility of stewardship, to
24 wit it is my responsibility to ensure that my daughter's
25 eyes meet nature unspoiled as mine have here. This is --

1 this place is not ours, but our children's, not theirs to
2 do as they please, but to safeguard for posterity. It is
3 for this reason that I've traveled here.

4 I call on LURC to stop this short-sited plan to
5 irrevocably alter what truly is our heritage. I ask that
6 what powers be prevent this plan to despoil forever that
7 which it is my duty to protect for future generations.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. GRAY: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm
10 Nancy Gray from the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport and
11 everybody there is talking about you and worried about you.
12 Most people in Maine realize that tourism is the largest
13 industry in Maine. It's been that way since the railroads
14 opened up in the 1860s and added on to the number of
15 wealthy folks who were already coming as passengers off
16 ships from Boston, New York and points south. Henry Ford
17 made it even better when he put his first cars on the road
18 in 1920.

19 Being surrounded by three sides on -- by Canada and the
20 Atlantic Ocean made Maine a beautiful, safe private place
21 for wealthy folks to bring their families and servants to
22 keep them safe during the hot summer months from both the
23 heat and the disease in the big cities. It's still Maine's
24 largest industry based on the fact that the beauty,
25 wildness and wilderness still exists. And that's where you

1 find the fishing, hunting lodges, the children's summer
2 camps, camping out areas and trails.

3 In 2009, which was the worst year we've had in the last
4 ten years in the tourism industry, you've already heard the
5 numbers, \$10 billion, \$535 million in taxes and have
6 provided 175,000 full-time jobs for Maine people, many of
7 them living and working in these small towns near the best
8 spots for fishing, hiking and just loving Maine. Some of
9 the best of it is right here in this area.

10 In spite of the fact that we're now selling 50 percent
11 of the electricity we generate here in Maine out of state
12 that we were once promised five or so years ago we could go
13 30 years before we ran low, suddenly there's a new
14 emergency requiring immediate action to create electricity
15 using 400-foot high mountaintop power wind generators. The
16 fight is on. Some are in progress now, many are lined up.
17 Keep in mind that Canada offered to sell us water-generated
18 power for 2 cents a kilowatt 20 years ago. Now they want 8
19 or 9 cents. All we have to do is say yes.

20 Of course, that would interfere with the profits
21 generated by the construction for a number of the people
22 who are building these projects. The battle will be
23 ongoing.

24 This area is one of the finest, most beautiful and
25 popular spots in Maine. You have something that is

1 irreplaceable with your trout, salmon, smallmouth bass
2 fishing and the sporting camps that have been in business
3 for these many years. It is a major draw for the state.
4 The state actually is working on and paying -- paying for a
5 smallmouth bass project in this area and they're very happy
6 with the progress that they've made with it so far. It
7 would be a crime to deface this beautiful area of Maine.

8 My family rented a sporting camp on another -- in
9 another county eight years ago where I grew up and my
10 father and my grandfather were both guides. And they used
11 to bring some of our customers over here because you had
12 the best small bass fishing in the -- in the whole state.
13 And it was -- it was really fun to hear it happen and see
14 it happen and we've always been very proud of you.

15 In 15 or 20 years these turbines will be abandoned and
16 falling down. California is a prime example of what the
17 area could look like, they have thousands of abandoned
18 turbines. The technology will have become archaic and
19 obsolete, the jobs will be gone and so will Maine's quality
20 of place. If we preserve Maine's wild and undisturbed --

21 MS. HILTON: Nancy, can you just slow down a little
22 bit? Just speak a little bit more slowly.

23 MS. GRAY: Okay. I'm sorry. If we preserve Maine's
24 wild and undisturbed landscapes, birds, bats, wild animals,
25 vernal pools, rare plants, a safe place for nesting eagles,

1 the best fishing for trout, salmon and smallmouth bass and
2 many other treasures that we now have will be able to
3 survive. We will be one of the only states in the nation
4 that doesn't spin and blink. This will make Maine an even
5 bigger tourists and sportsmen's destination.

6 We need to focus on the big picture here, we need to
7 protect Maine's most valuable assets now and forever. The
8 Brookings Institute report said this about Maine: The slow
9 degradation of Maine's vivid and distinctive quality and
10 place and the reputation it supports may be the greatest
11 threat of all. The state should continue to invest
12 urgently in protecting and enhancing its topnotch quality
13 of place, for that is the calling card, its brand and its
14 truest source of prosperity.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

17 MR. DICENZO: My name is Mike DiCenzo from Lincoln, I
18 live on Mattanawcook Lake. I appreciate the Downeast lakes
19 region because I like to go out there with the family
20 camping, but I have no -- I own no property out there.

21 Good evening, I would like to thank the commissioners
22 for this opportunity to testify and thank you for your
23 patience. I hope you find many reasons to deny this
24 industrial grid development proposed for the east woods or
25 the Downeast watershed as it is properly called. To me

1 it's like a chunk of the north woods placed over Downeast.
2 And the natural character of this area could be forever
3 diminished and Maine should be protective of these
4 remaining areas where life flows at a slower pace and
5 visitors may reconnect with the way life should be.

6 When we lost the Rollins Rocky Dundee area to wind
7 sprawl, I hoped it wouldn't be as bad as I'd feared, maybe
8 the turbines would fit in with the landscape. And my
9 worries would prove to be unfounded. Now that that
10 construction is over, I can see my original fears were
11 correct. The megaliths loam larger in real life than the
12 computer pictures generated -- predicted.

13 I no longer sit on my deck at night because of the 12
14 blinking lights and the 12 reflections on the water. I was
15 trying to get a good picture and I'd like to send that in
16 for the record, too, because it's even more so than the
17 Upper Pond pictures. It's just not the same as watching
18 the natural night skies and the treeline as a loon swims
19 by. There's a distracting quality about blinking lights
20 that commands one's attention.

21 I had an 90-degree view where I live of the north woods
22 before, living right in Lincoln. I mean, it's just the way
23 I was angled out toward the east. Maybe the rare plane
24 flying at night would appreciate the light show, but most
25 of the time that's just wasted energy.

1 The Lincoln area was set up carefully planting enough
2 pro-wind insiders on the boards and council to pass their
3 agenda abetted by the court system. It was wrong for
4 Lincoln lakes and even more wrong for the Downeast lakes.

5 If I was a wind developer, this would be the last place
6 in Maine I would pick to put a wind project. I think its
7 corporate predators don't care. The Downeast lakes have
8 many 1A and 1B rated lakes as well as more remote character
9 with state, national and world significance.

10 If you fish at Grand Lake Stream you will meet folks
11 from around the world. I met two Buddhist monks there
12 once. One was named Prabode, which means consciousness.
13 And I forget the other guy's name. They were both in the
14 process of being genuine Buddhist monks. They were both
15 enjoying themselves immensely learning to fish.

16 Another time I met a couple from Israel. And we were
17 talking, waiting, you know, to take our turns. And the
18 woman spoke excellent English and said, it's just so
19 peaceful over here. And she started telling me about how
20 it was living in Tel Aviv and how it is when you walk to
21 market and you see a car blow up in front of you. And I
22 said, wow, I couldn't imagine living like that. And these
23 people come all the way over here just for the piece and
24 quiet. And, I mean, I was amazed. Rather than go on, she
25 had a -- they both had some pretty good stories, but a lot

1 of people appreciate this area.

2 There are too many turbines now cluttering the
3 landscape between Lincoln and the Canadian border. I see
4 24 from my home. And if I go up to Folsom Pond to my
5 grandfather's old camp, you see several. And there will be
6 dozens where I like to go camping in the West Grand, Junior
7 and Scraggly region if this area is not protected.

8 Pro-wind crowds say to ignore the turbines if you don't
9 like them. I tried that two weeks ago on Upper Pond and it
10 just doesn't work. They're too imposing to ignore. Like
11 an 800-pound gorilla entering the room, you just cannot
12 ignore that. We fished for 20 minutes, pulled our boat
13 out. It wasn't fun with the intrusive monolith looming
14 from the hills. It feels strange, like someone is watching
15 you all the time. We went stream fishing instead.

16 The other assertion is that if people see the turbines,
17 they can fish in a cove or point their boat away. Fishing
18 doesn't always work like that. Most want to troll deeper
19 water, which puts one far from shore. What the pro-winders
20 don't understand is people do not go fishing just to
21 procure fish. It would be more economical and quicker just
22 to hit the supermarket if that were the case. Fishing is
23 about getting outdoors, enjoying a quiet paddle, the
24 scenery, watching loons or moose or the occasional eagle
25 swooping down in the water for a fish struggling to get

1 airborne again only to drop the fish and have to do it all
2 over, like we saw in Pocumcus one day. Fishing is about
3 sharing an activity with kids and instilling an
4 appreciation of nature.

5 Kings Landing and Leonard Mills are recreations of
6 villages and life as it was long ago. Grand Lake Stream
7 needs no recreation, it is much the same as it always was
8 in the old days. To paddle a locally built wooden canvas
9 canoe or ride in the Grand Lake is still possible. The old
10 lodges are there, the guides are readily available. A
11 relaxed pace and lack of crowds takes the visitor back in
12 time to an era less complicated.

13 MS. HILTON: Can you sort of wrap it up?

14 MR. DICENZO: Yes. One more paragraph. Industrial
15 intentions is neither needed nor wanted.

16 Last weekend we camped on West Musquash in the rain,
17 wind and cold and had a great time. My grandson Nick
18 caught his first salmon, which we released. On the way
19 back to the campsite and warm fire, Nick was quiet for a
20 few rare moments, deep in thought. Grampy, I liked it
21 here, he said. Me, too, I affirmed. Why, I asked?
22 Because it's wild, he stated matter-of-factly. Now, it's
23 obvious to a 5-year-old that wild character has value.
24 What Henry David Thoreau may have written in a chapter,
25 Nick summed up in three words.

1 I hope the Bowers project is the easy review for you
2 folks. We have to save some remote areas for our grandkids
3 and some day their kids and grand kids. Please deny this
4 project. The Downeast lakes watershed should be protected
5 forever, as Nick said, because it's wild.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

8 MS. ARBO: Hi. My name is Audi Arbo and I live in
9 Wyman, Maine. I need to say that I work for Stantec
10 Consulting, but I'm here on behalf of myself and my
11 parents. And we own a camp on the south shore of Junior
12 Lake. So we will have direct visual of the Bowers wind
13 project.

14 My parents bought the land in 1978 and I've been going
15 to camp since I was a baby, so that's 30 years. We have
16 kayaked, canoed, fished, picked blueberries, do all the
17 camp life activities. And upon discussion with my parents,
18 we've all decided that the wind farm will not adversely
19 affect our enjoyment of camp. It will take some getting
20 used to having blinking red lights, but we already have a
21 blinking red light in a road that -- Bottle Lake Road comes
22 down and every time a car comes down, we can see it from
23 our camp. So that was an adjustment and we think that the
24 red lights will just be an adjustment.

25 The other -- so in our discussion with -- in my

1 discussion with my parents about this, we were talking
2 about how it wouldn't change what we feel about camp. And
3 -- and we thought about last year we all went to Rangeley
4 Lake -- I'm sorry, not Rangeley Lake, Flagstaff Lake and
5 saw the Kibby wind project from the beach where we were --
6 where we had kayaked up. And it didn't affect us. Like,
7 we still enjoyed the lake, we still enjoyed the sky and the
8 mountains and we had visible wind turbines. So we really
9 think that that will just be how we enjoy camp, we will
10 have the wind turbines so we will just get used to it.

11 So we support the Bowers wind project. Thank you.

12 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

13 MS. CARROLL: Okay. The next five names on the list
14 include Sue Whitely -- somebody is going to have to help me
15 here. Alfred -- am I close -- is that you, sir, from --

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I withdraw.

17 MS. CARROLL: Okay. Victor Botting, Nan Sprague, Betsy
18 Fitzgerald -- I'm going to do the last two here, I'm going
19 over my five limit -- Dennis Mahar and Matt Dunlap. Sue,
20 Victor, Nan, Betsy, Dennis and Matt.

21 MS. WHITELY: Hello. I'm Sue Whitely and I'm from
22 Grand Lake Stream and I oppose the project. We are a small
23 town of 140 people, there are ten lodges in the area, there
24 are about 30 Maine guides who all attempt to make a living
25 there. And they make a living, as explained by everyone

1 else who's spoken, on the pristine nature of the area and
2 the fact that there are no lights on far off ridges, that
3 there is a beautiful night sky. And I just think that this
4 project would adversely affect the guides and the lodges in
5 Grand Lake Stream. And thank you.

6 MR. BOTTING: Hi. I'm Victor Botting from Sherman,
7 about 40 miles north. The research has been done around
8 the world and it's obvious that the wind farms will devalue
9 our homes, our land, be a health hazard and drive off
10 wildlife. And it's -- and we're using our government money
11 to do it and it just doesn't make sense to me.

12 And also I want to remind you they're shutting down
13 wood burning power plants around the state. And why are
14 they doing that? Because it was a bad idea. They're not
15 efficient and they've run out of funding, which I believe
16 will happen to the wind turbines.

17 That's all I have to say. Thank you. Thank you for
18 serving our state.

19 MS. SPRAGUE: Hi. My name is Nancy Hazelwood Sprague.
20 You may know my father Robert Hazelwood, he was a former
21 LURC commissioner for approximately 12 years. I believe
22 some of you know my father and have been to our location on
23 West Grand Lake. We're located at Kitchen Cove Point
24 Township 6 MD. I currently reside in Grand Lake Stream,
25 but will be moving up to the township soon when our home is

1 completed. We are expanding our business there, we have
2 cottage rentals, we face directly west. I will be able to
3 count all the turbines and they're 18 miles away.

4 I am opposed to this project on many, many levels, but
5 I'm going to keep my reasons brief. I moved back to Maine
6 in 1990 to assist with the family business, which was real
7 estate development and the cottage rentals, Hazelwood
8 Cottages at Kitchen Cove Point.

9 My father -- his philosophy when he was a LURC
10 commissioner was to look out for the little guy. We had
11 philosophical discussions about the intent of the law and
12 the letter of the law. So I believe you, as commissioners,
13 have that ability to interpret the law.

14 Now I'm a realtor, I'm held to a higher standard with
15 code of ethics, and as are you in your decision-making
16 process. I'm also a certified Maine assessor working for
17 the town of Princeton. Licensing, I have to take
18 continuing education, 21 hours every two years for real
19 estate, 16 hours every year for assessing. I have to go to
20 school in August for Maine Revenue Services and I've taken
21 some of their classes. They had a class on wind power and
22 tidal power.

23 I want you to take a look at Eastport, they are in
24 research and development for tidal turbines, a much more
25 reliable source of energy. The University of Maine has a

1 pilot project on Monhegan Island for wind power there.
2 Yes, they surveyed the fishermen and the fishermen helped
3 pick the location for the test site.

4 Also, through the Maine Revenue Service, tax increment
5 financing program, I had to take a TIF class. It's not
6 everything that everyone thinks it is. The Maine Revenue
7 instructor asked each assessor from the towns before they
8 considered a TIF to go to them so that they could do the
9 number crunching because sometimes a TIF can hurt a
10 community and not help it.

11 So, please, I ask that you consult with the Maine
12 Revenue on the TIF issue because it isn't a given, it is a
13 gift. The tax increment financing, if I -- in the town of
14 Princeton if I were to consider a TIF, it would be through
15 the Princeton Airport and bringing in some aviation
16 industry that would employ people.

17 First Wind, when they held their meeting in Grand Lake
18 Stream, I asked one of the speakers about the TIF. He
19 said, we won't be asking for that. I ask you, is this
20 true, are they getting a TIF or are they not? Did they ask
21 for it or do you just cart blanche give it to them?

22 Maine DOT, I was involved with a study where they're
23 looking for growth over the next 10 to 20 years, the
24 Canadian coastal corridor meeting, look to Eastport for
25 increased shipping, tidal power potential and better roads

1 to service Eastport, see this as coastal growth. We don't
2 need to take our mountains.

3 Baldacci wanted to increase green energy, intent of the
4 law here if you recognize ongoing research and development
5 as meeting some of your percentage goals. LURC, please
6 don't feel compelled to allow this dollar-wasting venture
7 proven that \$2 million turbines will never generate that
8 much power to pay for themselves to fill the need for
9 satisfying a bad law. Common sense should prevail.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

12 MS. FITZGERALD: Good evening. My name is Betsy
13 Fitzgerald and I represent the Washington County
14 commissioners as their county manager. On their behalf it
15 is my charge tonight to report to you their support for the
16 development of the wind energy facility on the Washington
17 County boundary in Kossuth Township of Washington County.

18 Three weeks ago in the Maine Sunday Telegram it
19 featured a commentary by former Governor Angus King titled
20 Energy Choices and the No Free Lunch Principle. He wrote
21 that the truth is that we face a stark reality in energy,
22 either we stay addicted to oil or go find alternatives,
23 which means changes and choices. Governor King went on to
24 say: The first part of the answer is to remember the
25 TANSTAAFL principle, there ain't no such thing as a free

1 lunch. What people have to realize, he said, is by saying
2 no to one form of power, we're saying yes to something
3 else. Whatever energy option we choose, it will have some
4 economic and/or environmental trade-offs.

5 Washington County is a vast area, all 2,500 square
6 miles of it. And we have the highest unemployment rate and
7 the lowest median incomes. But we do have a pretty premium
8 location when it comes to wind. It's a renewable resource
9 and it has the potential to provide a viable alternative
10 power source, especially when compared to fossil fuels.
11 Already the turbines generate power from the adjacent
12 projects of Stetson 1 and 2.

13 This new project to be located in part in Kossuth
14 Township is a logical expansion. The Washington County
15 commissioners are unanimous in their support for the new
16 turbines in Kossuth. But back to Governor King, wind
17 brings with it the first major investment in Maine in the
18 past 15 years, and with this investment comes hundreds of
19 construction, engineering and operation and maintenance
20 jobs, a huge increase in the local tax base and a much
21 needed economic stimulus to Maine's rural areas.

22 Now, First Wind reported in their informational packet
23 to the commissioners just this past month that of the
24 approximately \$165 million spent for construction,
25 engineering and development services, about 50 million of

1 it was spent in Maine. Those are real dollars for the
2 state and they're certainly real dollars in Washington
3 County.

4 Governor King went on, wind isn't the whole answer, but
5 it should be part of it because it's a resource we have
6 here in Maine. So much of the decision-making that we have
7 is weighing alternatives and sometimes choosing the least
8 obnoxious one. Wind can be costly to build, but
9 essentially free to operate.

10 Over time wind will be become viable and a good
11 alternative and that's why the commissioners support it.
12 Thanks.

13 MR. MAHAR: Okay. Thank you very much. There's
14 advantages and disadvantages of going last. One of the
15 advantages is that you hear all the other testimony, the
16 disadvantage is people say everything you were going to
17 say.

18 MS. HILTON: Can you state your name and -- and maybe
19 lift the mic up a little.

20 MR. MAHAR: Okay. My name is Dennis Mahar, I am a
21 part-time resident of Lincoln, I have a camp on Long Pond,
22 the rest of the year I spend in Gainesville, Florida. All
23 though I think I must have deep Maine roots, because I have
24 an unusual last name and there are only two places in the
25 United States where there are clusters of Mahars, one is

1 upstate New York where my grandparents are from, the other
2 place is Washington County, Maine. So maybe even some of
3 you know some Mahars in Washington County.

4 But anyway, during the winter months while I'm not
5 here, I teach economics at the University of Florida; I am
6 also a senior fellow at the Public Utility Research Center
7 at the same university. And although some of you may think
8 that I'm one of these ivory tower academics who really
9 hasn't had any real world experience, I should tell you
10 that before I started teaching for 25 years I worked at the
11 World Bank in Washington D.C., which is the largest
12 financier of development projects in the world, where I
13 served, among other things, as the chief of the
14 environmental analysis department for the western
15 hemisphere and later I was in charge of training on health
16 and natural resources worldwide. So I've had lots -- many
17 years of experience evaluating projects.

18 My gut feeling about the wind projects here in central
19 and northern Maine is it's just not the way to go. And
20 this gut feeling is based on experience, you know, it's not
21 just something I pulled out of the air. In the Lincoln
22 project specifically I feel that the developer has
23 consistently understated the costs of the projects and
24 greatly overstated the benefits.

25 I wanted to discuss these issues, actually, with my

1 students, the cost and benefits of wind power in Maine as a
2 case study. So I got a -- some University of Florida
3 stationary, sent a very courteous nice letter to First Wind
4 saying who I was and that I wouldn't ask for any
5 proprietary information or confidential information, I just
6 wanted to know how they calculated the cost and benefits of
7 their projects. What happened, I didn't -- I didn't get an
8 answer to my letter, I didn't even get an acknowledgement
9 of my letter.

10 And I felt, besides being very discourteous, I started
11 thinking maybe this company has got something to hide if
12 they're not willing to share this general information with
13 a professor who is honestly trying to open up a discussion
14 with his students.

15 All right. And speaking -- speaking as a landowner
16 here and -- I feel that there have been major costs to me
17 associated with this project in Lincoln and very few, if
18 any, benefits. I have -- I happen to have a very beautiful
19 view -- or at least I did have one -- from my property,
20 from my dock. In fact, if you go to the Lincoln, Maine
21 website -- town website and you look where it says, Lincoln
22 land of 13 lakes, there's a picture there, a beautiful
23 picture. That was taken from my dock before this project
24 came here.

25 I'm going to take a picture of what the scene looks

1 like now. The same picture, the same place, you can now
2 see 11 turbines, 11 turbines. I'm going to send this to
3 the town of Lincoln, have them put that on their website in
4 the name of truth and advertising to show people who are
5 looking at Lincoln what the views are really like here.

6 And I can only conclude that the -- the kind of erosion
7 or destruction of my views is going to have -- my economic
8 training tells me is going to have a negative effect on
9 property prices. First Wind argues that these turbines
10 have no effect on property values. No one really believes
11 that, do they? I certainly don't. And some of the people
12 that testified here can give some proof.

13 You know, I can -- I don't want to repeat what a lot of
14 people are saying, but just one -- another anecdote. I
15 happened to run into a friend of mine who is a fishing
16 guide here in Lincoln. He said the other day he took out
17 two sports from out of state, went to a pond for fishing,
18 fishing was not bad, they saw -- they counted 27 turbines
19 from this lake. And he asked these people, are you going
20 to come back here again? Well, the fishing is pretty good,
21 but I don't think we will. There's still places we can go
22 and fish and not have to look at these dam things.

23 Now, I have -- you know, rather than complain, I have a
24 -- what I consider to be a reasonable and practical
25 recommendation for you folks.

1 MS. HILTON: Are you going to summarize?

2 MR. MAHAR: I'm going to give you my recommendation
3 right at the end and I hope you take it seriously. I
4 suspect that it's absolutely necessary for LURC or whoever
5 to commission a study of the true costs and benefits of
6 projects that have already been under implementation. And
7 I would say Lincoln would be a good place to start, you
8 could use Lincoln as a -- as a guinea pig, so to speak.

9 When the project was introduced to me about, you know,
10 this is going to be this way, this is going to be that way
11 in the future, I say, you know, maybe so. The only true
12 way you can find out how the project turns out is an
13 ex-post evaluation. And the organization I worked for, the
14 World Bank, no project ever went forward without a thorough
15 evaluation of projects that preceded it so you could learn
16 from your mistakes and you can replicate your successes.

17 And I would suggest that you -- that some organization,
18 maybe the University of Maine, I don't know, undertake this
19 study of the -- and no further wind projects be approved
20 until this study is carried out and amply discussed with
21 the people in Maine -- people in Maine's society.

22 And as a parting word I would say, I would be happy to
23 donate my services to supervise any aspect of that study.
24 Thank you very much.

25 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

1 MR. DUNLAP: And then there was me, the last one. My
2 name is Matt Dunlap, I live in Old Town. And I'm the
3 executive director of the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine.
4 And thank you for your patience today. I have provided
5 written testimony, I -- I have read the summary
6 qualifications of the members of the Commission, but I --
7 it is mentioned there explicitly, but I assume that you
8 know how to read, so I will not read this to you verbatim.

9 I will give you some general summary thoughts about the
10 costs and benefits of this particular project. I'm not an
11 electrician and understanding energy generation is a little
12 bit of a challenge for me. I do know enough from
13 experience to not touch that copper coil unless you can see
14 both ends. So -- but I do know a lot about conservation.
15 And those of us at the Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine talk a
16 lot about this.

17 I've traveled all over the state this year and listened
18 to forums like this where people are talking about a
19 different aspect of the economy and that's the collapse of
20 the outdoor economy due to the complete degradation of the
21 whitetail deer population in northern, down east and
22 western Maine, a totally different topic.

23 Now, we've worked with First Wind on a couple of these
24 projects on conservation over the last few years. And it's
25 really -- we've seen a lot of success in several aspects of

1 it. What I'd like you to think about -- you know,
2 certainly the charge of the Commission is to review the
3 application against the backdrop of the applicable laws and
4 rules and the balance points of what you hear at forums
5 like this. And it's incredibly important to take all of
6 that into consideration. But all else being equal,
7 assuming that this applicant qualifies for the permits,
8 there's an awful lot of intended benefit to that that we
9 see as incredibly important to consider, especially given
10 the outdoor economy and the depressed nature of that
11 resource.

12 You know, the -- the fact of the matter is that Maine
13 has changed an awful lot in the last 3, 400 years and it's
14 continuing to change. And a lot of those changes are
15 causing a lot of worry and sleepless nights for people who
16 live here, work here, make their legacy in this part of the
17 state. And now we're talking about ramifications of
18 changes brought by adding wind power generation or new wind
19 power generation to the Maine landscape.

20 The proposal before you considers a vision for the
21 broader interest in Maine conservation. We should be as
22 concerned about the changes that will come if these
23 projects are not approved. What becomes of that vision?
24 The worrisome trends that have been consuming the north
25 woods literally really revolve around forest practices and

1 the rapid changes of ownership in Maine's working forests.
2 The practical problem has been a far tighter time line for
3 investment returns by those entities holding these working
4 forests and ownership.

5 Gone are the days when a working forest was considered
6 a multi-generational investment. Today the bottom line on
7 a corporate ledger demands attention at the end of every
8 fiscal quarter and investments are expected to produce.
9 So, you know, if a landowner has a choice between not
10 profiting from allowing access and conservation and habitat
11 enhancement in their property or by profiting by not
12 allowing access, by not considering habitat enhancements,
13 which path are they going to choose and who really benefits
14 from that choice?

15 We've developed some pretty strong partnerships with
16 many landowners who have demonstrated an affirmative
17 interest in supporting the conservation goals of the
18 broader community. Our primary concern is maintenance of
19 habitat, access and sustainable uses. If landowners are
20 able to maximize their return on their investments and they
21 can meet these goals or they don't meet these goals, we're
22 really concerned about land conservation and public access.
23 Folks will not be the winners in that case.

24 So, you know, I think far more preferable than -- than
25 what we've been seeing as an ongoing trend is the ultimate

1 plan, if this project is approved by First Wind and their
2 pledge to the greater community, including host landowners
3 and neighbors. For our folks some assurance that deer
4 wintering areas and food plots and investments in local
5 access will remain as cornerstones of the community
6 contribution that First Wind is making. And that answers a
7 great many questions about the future of wildlife in this
8 area.

9 We have to act in creative ways to keep rural Maine an
10 attractive investment in the rural economy while continuing
11 to support our sporting heritage and the treasury of
12 wildlife that's the birth right of ourselves and our
13 children. We trust our state agencies to hold this and
14 every development to the highest environmental and social
15 standards. The history has shown that the applicant has
16 been a worthy steward of such projects and we believe that
17 not only will they meet every condition of the permit that
18 they are asked to issue, but they will also provide a
19 premium to the general public at large and the sportsmen of
20 this state in particular in the maturation of this project.

21 Thank you for your attention.

22 MS. HILTON: I have a question.

23 MS. CARROLL: I have a question for you, Matt. It
24 probably has an obvious answer, but I would like to hear it
25 from you. Are you here to represent the Sportsmen's

1 Alliance of Maine.

2 MR. DUNLAP: I am representing the Sportsmen's Alliance
3 of Maine, yes.

4 MS. HILTON: Thank you. That is the end of the names
5 that we have on our list. Is there anyone else that wanted
6 to testify this evening? Have you been sworn in?

7 MS. BARNETT: No. So I can't do it?

8 MS. HILTON: Oh, no, we can do it right now.

9 MS. BARNETT: Okay.

10 MS. HILTON: Raise your right hand. And do you
11 solemnly swear to tell the truth and the whole truth?

12 MS. BARNETT: Yes, I do.

13 MS. HILTON: Okay. You're all set.

14 MS. BARNETT: My name is Alice Barnett, I'm from South
15 Carthage. And I'd just ask that -- I heard you didn't have
16 time to see the red strobing lights at Kibby -- that maybe
17 this weekend you can take a look. Thank you.

18 MS. HILTON: Good suggestion.

19 All right. Closing statement. This hearing will be
20 continued tomorrow morning, June 28th at 8:00 a.m. to hear
21 testimony from the applicant, the intervenors and
22 government agencies. A second session to hear testimony
23 from the public will be held tomorrow evening, June 28th at
24 6:00 p.m.

25 I wish to remind everyone that following tomorrow's

1 hearing session the record of this hearing will remain open
2 until Monday, July 18 to receive written statements from
3 the interested public and for an additional seven days
4 until Monday, July 25th for the purpose of receiving
5 rebuttal comments. No additional evidence or testimony
6 will be allowed into the record after the closing of the
7 record.

8 And I'm going to look and see if there's anything else.
9 I think we're all done. Thank you very much.

10 (Concluded this hearing at 9:36 p.m. this date.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Angella D. Clukey, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, hereby certify that on June 27, 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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