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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](http://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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**\$1.59** [1] - 81:2  
**\$10** [2] - 82:18, 97:5  
**\$10,000** [2] - 11:18, 11:21  
**\$165** [1] - 110:24  
**\$2,845,000** [1] - 12:7  
**\$20,000** [1] - 11:21  
**\$23.47** [2] - 80:25, 81:25  
**\$25** [1] - 82:9  
**\$30** [1] - 93:11  
**\$35** [1] - 51:21  
**\$378** [1] - 18:10  
**\$4,000** [1] - 11:11  
**\$418** [2] - 70:15, 70:17  
**\$498** [1] - 58:20  
**\$500** [1] - 82:22  
**\$535** [1] - 97:5  
**\$92,000** [1] - 11:17  
**\$946** [1] - 18:10

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**0.10** [1] - 9:19

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## 1

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**1** [5] - 24:21, 42:19, 84:22, 92:23, 110:12  
**1,000** [2] - 18:4, 73:16  
**1,100** [1] - 8:4  
**1.3** [1] - 58:22  
**1.4** [1] - 82:6  
**1.5** [1] - 30:14  
**10** [11] - 30:12, 47:25, 49:20, 52:22, 53:1, 73:23, 74:5, 79:8, 90:9, 108:23  
**100** [4] - 51:15, 63:19, 73:12, 91:6  
**108,000** [1] - 11:11  
**11** [4] - 55:17, 84:10, 114:2  
**110** [1] - 26:13  
**115** [2] - 4:13, 93:8  
**12** [9] - 3:24, 4:19, 72:21, 73:23, 82:5, 82:6, 100:13, 100:14, 106:21  
**12,000** [1] - 43:11  
**125th** [1] - 18:24  
**13** [1] - 113:22  
**14** [5] - 18:25, 30:16, 34:22, 55:15, 58:1  
**140** [1] - 105:23  
**143** [1] - 26:20  
**15** [6] - 20:4, 76:4, 89:8, 90:9, 98:15,

110:18  
**15,000** [1] - 14:14  
**16** [1] - 107:19  
**160** [1] - 67:9  
**16th** [1] - 52:23  
**17** [4] - 30:11, 46:4, 55:15, 122:22  
**170,000** [1] - 82:23  
**175,000** [1] - 97:6  
**18** [5] - 5:18, 49:20, 79:19, 107:3, 121:2  
**1800** [1] - 23:10  
**185** [1] - 58:21  
**1860s** [1] - 96:14  
**18th** [1] - 122:14  
**19** [1] - 31:15  
**1920** [1] - 96:18  
**1934** [1] - 63:3  
**1951** [1] - 71:5  
**1964** [1] - 71:4  
**1969** [1] - 73:9  
**1978** [3] - 65:23, 70:19, 104:14  
**1990** [1] - 107:6  
**1994** [1] - 88:24  
**1997** [1] - 23:21  
**1A** [1] - 101:8  
**1B** [1] - 101:8

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## 2

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**2** [15] - 8:23, 29:22, 29:23, 30:1, 30:16, 31:25, 40:20, 42:19, 56:24, 73:24, 73:25, 92:23, 97:18, 109:7, 110:12  
**2,000** [2] - 45:16, 93:7  
**2,500** [2] - 10:9, 110:5  
**2,635** [2] - 51:11, 51:15  
**2.3** [2] - 8:18, 30:11  
**2.8** [1] - 18:5  
**20** [11] - 16:9, 32:23, 68:18, 69:4, 70:23, 87:14, 90:19, 97:18, 98:15, 102:12, 108:23  
**20-percent** [1] - 89:3  
**20-year** [2] - 12:7, 26:14  
**200** [1] - 93:9  
**2001** [1] - 24:4  
**2002** [1] - 45:23  
**2003** [1] - 18:9  
**2007** [2] - 16:16, 56:22  
**2008** [1] - 18:3  
**2009** [3] - 31:11, 31:12, 97:3  
**2010** [1] - 32:25

**2011** [5] - 1:14, 2:3, 5:18, 122:5, 122:14  
**2017** [1] - 122:22  
**2030** [1] - 46:5  
**21** [3] - 52:22, 58:12, 107:18  
**23** [1] - 60:2  
**23,000** [1] - 93:5  
**24** [2] - 53:1, 102:4  
**240** [1] - 18:16  
**25** [5] - 26:21, 27:2, 42:9, 90:1, 112:10  
**25th** [2] - 5:20, 121:4  
**26** [1] - 52:21  
**268** [1] - 47:13  
**27** [12] - 1:14, 2:3, 4:8, 8:10, 8:16, 40:18, 41:1, 41:11, 51:13, 62:9, 114:18, 122:5  
**27,000** [1] - 31:14  
**270** [1] - 28:6  
**28th** [2] - 120:20, 120:23

---

## 3

---

**3** [8] - 10:13, 47:22, 47:24, 48:1, 49:6, 49:8, 84:7, 117:13  
**3-megawatt** [1] - 31:13  
**3.0** [2] - 8:17, 30:12  
**3.79** [1] - 9:20  
**30** [7] - 42:9, 47:23, 55:11, 55:14, 97:13, 104:15, 105:24  
**300** [2] - 18:17, 58:20  
**34.5** [1] - 4:10

---

## 4

---

**4** [2] - 24:11, 58:19  
**4,000** [1] - 73:21  
**4-B** [1] - 4:20  
**40** [14] - 12:23, 33:22, 53:2, 69:10, 72:5, 72:6, 72:9, 73:10, 73:15, 73:20, 74:4, 74:5, 93:6, 106:7  
**40,000** [1] - 31:15  
**40-story** [1] - 83:7  
**400** [3] - 28:8, 84:7, 117:13  
**400-foot** [1] - 97:15  
**428** [1] - 8:19  
**4889** [6] - 1:7, 2:24, 4:4, 14:15, 60:14, 122:6

---

## 5

---

**5** [4] - 4:1, 15:21, 46:4, 84:9  
**5-year-old** [1] - 103:23  
**5.2** [1] - 4:11  
**50** [4] - 52:20, 93:6, 97:10, 110:25  
**500-foot** [1] - 24:11  
**52** [2] - 47:22, 53:18  
**53** [1] - 42:22  
**56** [2] - 4:12, 9:3  
**58** [1] - 67:11

---

## 6

---

**6** [12] - 8:11, 8:12, 8:15, 9:1, 9:5, 20:25, 51:24, 68:16, 68:21, 69:16, 76:16, 106:24  
**6,000** [1] - 31:14  
**60-something** [1] - 68:17  
**600** [3] - 18:15, 58:12, 68:21  
**685-B** [1] - 3:24  
**685-B(4)** [1] - 4:19  
**69** [1] - 58:9  
**69.1** [1] - 4:5  
**6:00** [1] - 120:24  
**6:05** [1] - 2:14  
**6:10** [1] - 2:15  
**6:11** [1] - 2:4  
**6th** [2] - 36:24, 37:22

---

## 7

---

**7** [2] - 8:5, 8:7  
**7.5** [1] - 9:9  
**70** [5] - 47:18, 47:19, 47:22, 48:1, 84:17  
**73** [1] - 51:11  
**750** [1] - 8:3

---

## 8

---

**8** [8] - 10:12, 10:15, 10:18, 34:4, 48:3, 49:9, 49:10, 97:18  
**80** [3] - 19:18, 56:16, 56:21  
**800-pound** [1] - 102:11  
**81** [1] - 31:15  
**84** [1] - 56:24  
**85** [1] - 63:19  
**898-acre** [1] - 49:13  
**8:00** [1] - 120:20  
**8:14** [1] - 79:15  
**8:33** [1] - 79:16

---

## 9

---

**9** [2] - 12:19, 97:19  
**90-degree** [1] - 100:21  
**92-page** [1] - 26:17  
**992** [1] - 26:18  
**9:36** [1] - 121:10

---

## A

---

**a.m** [1] - 120:20  
**A.R.C** [1] - 93:18  
**abandoned** [2] - 98:15, 98:17  
**abandonment** [1] - 58:9  
**abatements** [1] - 19:3  
**abetted** [1] - 101:3  
**ability** [2] - 107:13, 122:8  
**able** [13] - 12:22, 28:13, 29:14, 37:17, 37:18, 42:7, 55:11, 77:24, 83:20, 92:21, 99:2, 107:2, 118:20  
**abomination** [1] - 91:21  
**above-named** [1] - 122:12  
**absolutely** [1] - 115:4  
**absorb** [2] - 30:25, 82:13  
**absorption** [1] - 85:5  
**abundant** [1] - 46:20  
**abutters** [1] - 86:21  
**academics** [1] - 112:8  
**accept** [1] - 52:24  
**access** [10] - 4:9, 8:20, 12:1, 50:13, 73:21, 118:10, 118:12, 118:19, 118:22, 119:5  
**accompanying** [1] - 19:6  
**accordance** [1] - 3:25  
**according** [2] - 49:19  
**accumulation** [1] - 41:9  
**accurately** [1] - 5:10  
**accusation** [2] - 78:7, 78:9  
**acknowledgement** [1] - 113:8  
**acquainted** [1] - 90:17  
**acquire** [2] - 28:12, 91:18  
**acre** [2] - 17:13, 29:21  
**acres** [5] - 9:20, 28:20, 58:12, 68:17  
**Act** [2] - 19:6, 19:12

**act** [3] - 4:1, 87:1, 119:9  
**action** [3] - 5:25, 97:14, 122:12  
**actively** [1] - 16:15  
**activities** [2] - 18:24, 104:17  
**activity** [2] - 11:13, 103:3  
**ad** [2] - 58:4, 58:13  
**adaptable** [1] - 35:5  
**add** [5] - 7:4, 48:19, 76:13, 81:23, 91:9  
**added** [3] - 7:6, 48:7, 96:14  
**adding** [1] - 109:22  
**addict** [1] - 117:18  
**addition** [7] - 5:7, 9:17, 9:24, 10:2, 10:10, 11:6, 11:12  
**additional** [9] - 5:19, 5:21, 10:14, 10:18, 46:8, 48:23, 49:2, 121:3, 121:5  
**additionally** [1] - 18:17  
**addresses** [1] - 6:1  
**addressing** [1] - 52:7  
**adhere** [1] - 91:16  
**adjacent** [2] - 4:12, 110:11  
**adjustment** [2] - 104:23, 104:24  
**Administrative** [1] - 3:25  
**ads** [1] - 54:20  
**advantage** [3] - 17:10, 64:24, 72:1  
**advantages** [2] - 111:14, 111:15  
**adventure** [4] - 33:4, 33:5, 33:14, 34:10  
**adverse** [12] - 11:4, 14:25, 16:11, 35:4, 44:9, 44:11, 44:13, 44:16, 44:22, 47:20, 47:21, 61:9  
**adversely** [2] - 104:18, 106:4  
**advertising** [1] - 114:4  
**advocated** [1] - 16:10  
**affect** [6] - 23:5, 66:14, 66:16, 104:19, 105:6, 106:4  
**affected** [3] - 51:6, 61:25, 64:7  
**affiliation** [2] - 5:3, 13:20  
**affirmed** [1] - 103:21  
**affix** [1] - 122:13  
**afford** [2] - 58:10, 66:17  
**affordable** [1] - 46:6  
**Afghanistan** [1] - 84:19  
**AG's** [1] - 3:10  
**age** [2] - 23:6, 32:24  
**agencies** [5] - 6:19, 94:7, 94:8, 119:13, 120:22  
**agency** [1] - 19:8  
**agenda** [2] - 37:22, 101:3  
**ago** [14] - 20:6, 27:6, 32:12, 59:4, 68:19, 69:10, 70:6, 70:23, 97:12, 97:18, 98:9, 102:9, 103:6, 109:18  
**agree** [5] - 15:24, 33:8, 44:7, 54:2, 66:14  
**agreeing** [1] - 40:23  
**agreement** [4] - 11:16, 11:18, 52:25, 82:4  
**agreements** [2] - 52:24, 81:7  
**ahead** [6] - 13:22, 26:5, 38:7, 39:2, 79:10, 79:21  
**aid** [1] - 122:9  
**aided** [1] - 122:9  
**ain't** [1] - 109:25  
**air** [1] - 112:21  
**airborne** [1] - 103:1  
**airport** [1] - 108:15  
**Alaska** [1] - 72:24  
**Alfred** [1] - 105:15  
**Alice** [1] - 120:14  
**alive** [1] - 31:4  
**alliance** [4] - 116:3, 116:15, 120:1, 120:2  
**allow** [6] - 4:16, 24:18, 25:14, 48:6, 80:21, 109:6  
**allowances** [1] - 28:11  
**allowed** [7] - 5:22, 22:24, 24:19, 55:6, 82:5, 89:24, 121:6  
**allowing** [6] - 24:11, 25:23, 25:25, 83:23, 118:10, 118:12  
**allows** [1] - 64:22  
**almanac** [1] - 62:11  
**almost** [1] - 16:9  
**alone** [2] - 27:2, 56:7  
**alter** [1] - 96:5  
**alternative** [4] - 55:9, 88:12, 110:9, 111:11  
**alternatives** [2] - 109:22, 111:7  
**altogether** [1] - 16:5  
**aluminum** [1] - 56:3  
**amazed** [1] - 101:24  
**amazing** [3] - 70:2, 71:16, 80:19  
**American** [1] - 84:22  
**amount** [1] - 46:16  
**amounts** [1] - 54:11  
**ample** [1] - 87:20  
**amply** [1] - 115:20  
**Amy** [1] - 3:10  
**analysis** [3] - 47:12, 55:4, 112:14  
**ancestry** [1] - 23:11  
**ancillary** [1] - 89:18  
**anecdote** [1] - 114:14  
**ANGELLA** [1] - 122:18  
**Angella** [4] - 2:1, 3:20, 79:5, 122:4  
**angled** [1] - 100:23  
**angry** [1] - 59:12  
**Angus** [1] - 109:19  
**animal** [2] - 21:3, 35:12  
**animals** [2] - 42:18, 98:24  
**Anita** [3] - 41:17, 41:21, 52:18  
**annual** [2] - 52:22, 59:11  
**annually** [3] - 11:11, 18:5, 18:16  
**answer** [6] - 19:23, 80:9, 109:24, 111:4, 113:8, 119:24  
**answers** [3] - 60:6, 61:12, 119:6  
**antibusiness** [1] - 88:24  
**anticorporation** [1] - 88:25  
**anyway** [1] - 112:4  
**apologies** [1] - 68:12  
**apologize** [2] - 14:6, 41:18  
**Appalachian** [2] - 47:11, 50:7  
**applaud** [1] - 55:18  
**applause** [2] - 26:5, 26:6  
**applicable** [1] - 117:3  
**applicant** [14] - 6:13, 6:18, 7:9, 27:18, 49:20, 49:23, 50:1, 51:5, 51:8, 52:4, 52:8, 117:7, 119:15, 120:21  
**applicant's** [2] - 48:22, 49:3  
**application** [8] - 7:17, 15:10, 18:22, 50:3, 60:14, 61:13, 66:24, 117:3  
**applications** [2] - 19:13, 28:7  
**appointed** [2] - 38:19, 78:23  
**appraisers** [1] - 58:8  
**appreciate** [14] - 2:18, 14:8, 23:4, 43:15, 43:19, 53:13, 77:5, 77:10, 78:14, 78:17, 86:24, 99:18, 100:24, 102:1  
**appreciation** [1] - 103:4  
**approach** [1] - 16:7  
**approached** [1] - 59:1  
**appropriate** [4] - 16:5, 37:11, 37:20, 48:16  
**appropriately** [1] - 17:11  
**approval** [4] - 4:19, 5:14, 44:19, 91:24  
**approve** [2] - 28:25, 56:17  
**approved** [5] - 92:24, 94:7, 115:19, 117:23, 119:1  
**approving** [2] - 56:21, 85:18  
**ARBO** [1] - 104:8  
**Arbo** [2] - 92:16, 104:8  
**arch** [1] - 83:13  
**archaic** [1] - 98:18  
**archeological** [1] - 10:3  
**architectural** [1] - 10:3  
**area** [55] - 9:7, 9:18, 9:25, 10:14, 10:15, 10:25, 12:4, 13:22, 20:17, 20:21, 21:4, 24:16, 25:22, 33:22, 34:3, 35:3, 36:1, 40:17, 47:10, 48:6, 48:19, 48:24, 49:17, 51:4, 52:5, 59:11, 59:17, 62:7, 70:8, 74:17, 74:18, 74:21, 74:23, 82:21, 87:11, 89:22, 90:11, 91:2, 91:7, 93:2, 93:24, 97:9, 97:24, 98:5, 98:7, 98:17, 100:2, 100:6, 101:1, 102:1, 102:7, 105:23, 106:1, 110:5, 119:8  
**areas** [18] - 14:22, 18:19, 21:20, 28:22, 47:4, 47:13, 50:18, 51:4, 62:20, 66:21, 84:6, 89:14, 91:23, 97:2, 100:4, 104:2, 110:21, 119:4  
**argue** [1] - 66:15  
**argues** [1] - 114:9  
**arid** [1] - 60:5  
**arises** [1] - 30:7  
**arm** [1] - 93:1  
**article** [3] - 27:11, 29:16, 29:18  
**Asia** [1] - 84:18  
**aside** [1] - 15:12  
**aspect** [2] - 115:23, 116:19  
**aspects** [1] - 116:25  
**assault** [1] - 85:19  
**assertion** [1] - 102:16  
**assessing** [2] - 15:2, 107:19  
**assessment** [5] - 10:20, 46:14, 54:6, 55:8, 61:15  
**assessor** [4] - 52:18, 53:22, 107:16, 108:7  
**assessors** [1] - 52:25  
**asset** [1] - 58:2  
**assets** [1] - 99:7  
**assign** [1] - 52:25  
**Assisi** [1] - 88:3  
**assist** [1] - 107:6  
**assistance** [1] - 16:2  
**associated** [4] - 11:5, 24:24, 56:13, 113:17  
**Associates** [1] - 1:23  
**association** [2] - 16:25, 17:1  
**assume** [1] - 116:7  
**assuming** [2] - 51:1, 117:7  
**assurance** [1] - 119:3  
**assure** [1] - 78:10  
**Atlantic** [2] - 45:15, 96:20  
**atop** [1] - 89:5  
**atrocities** [1] - 39:11  
**attached** [1] - 70:7  
**attempt** [1] - 105:24  
**attempted** [1] - 58:15  
**attendance** [1] - 53:2  
**attending** [1] - 5:24  
**attention** [3] - 100:20, 118:7, 119:21  
**attracting** [1] - 25:1  
**attraction** [1] - 62:3  
**attractive** [1] - 119:10  
**ATV** [1] - 35:6  
**Auburn** [1] - 92:19  
**Audi** [3] - 92:16,

92:17, 104:8  
**AUDIENCE** [1] - 105:16  
**Audubon** [3] - 14:13, 14:18, 14:20  
**Audubon's** [1] - 15:3  
**August** [1] - 107:20  
**Australia** [2] - 28:19, 57:2  
**authorities** [1] - 47:8  
**available** [4] - 27:1, 44:8, 81:3, 103:10  
**average** [3] - 18:15, 73:11, 84:8  
**aviation** [1] - 108:15  
**Aviv** [1] - 101:20  
**avoid** [1] - 89:11  
**avoided** [1] - 12:8  
**avoids** [1] - 10:1  
**awake** [1] - 21:5  
**aware** [1] - 77:18  
**awe** [1] - 22:6  
**awe-inspiring** [1] - 22:6  
**awful** [2] - 117:8, 117:13

---

## B

---

**baby** [1] - 104:15  
**backdrop** [1] - 117:3  
**backed** [1] - 52:6  
**background** [1] - 91:9  
**bad** [5] - 33:20, 100:7, 106:14, 109:9, 114:18  
**badly** [1] - 68:6  
**Baileyville** [3] - 88:23, 89:7, 89:9  
**balance** [1] - 117:4  
**balancing** [1] - 47:1  
**Baldacci** [1] - 109:3  
**band** [1] - 84:10  
**Bangor** [6] - 23:10, 24:3, 69:24, 82:5, 93:17, 93:20  
**bank** [2] - 112:11, 115:14  
**banks** [1] - 69:21  
**banning** [1] - 28:21  
**Bar** [2] - 23:11, 24:3  
**barely** [1] - 51:9  
**BARNETT** [4] - 120:7, 120:9, 120:12, 120:14  
**Barnett** [1] - 120:14  
**base** [2] - 54:15, 110:20  
**based** [11] - 12:2, 14:18, 24:1, 44:8,

46:1, 54:6, 56:24, 56:25, 61:15, 96:24, 112:20  
**basis** [3] - 6:20, 39:20, 39:25  
**Baskahegan** [1] - 75:17  
**bass** [5] - 62:3, 98:1, 98:5, 98:12, 99:1  
**bat** [5] - 9:12, 15:9, 15:13, 15:15, 15:23  
**bats** [4] - 15:12, 15:18, 16:6, 98:24  
**battle** [1] - 97:22  
**Bay** [1] - 48:25  
**beach** [2] - 29:21, 105:5  
**beaches** [1] - 91:9  
**bear** [1] - 82:4  
**beautiful** [15] - 21:2, 21:15, 30:24, 32:18, 64:21, 65:1, 68:24, 77:22, 83:10, 96:20, 97:24, 98:7, 106:3, 113:18, 113:22  
**beauty** [16] - 20:18, 25:8, 57:11, 62:2, 62:14, 64:24, 71:21, 71:23, 84:3, 85:3, 85:15, 87:10, 88:2, 88:4, 95:13, 96:24  
**beaver** [1] - 3:11  
**became** [2] - 23:17, 33:10  
**become** [2] - 98:18, 111:10  
**becomes** [1] - 117:23  
**becoming** [1] - 24:6  
**beg** [1] - 21:8  
**begin** [5] - 2:8, 2:12, 13:18, 23:21, 30:10  
**beginning** [2] - 2:3, 32:13  
**begun** [1] - 32:7  
**behalf** [5] - 14:13, 43:10, 53:1, 104:10, 109:14  
**behemoth** [1] - 30:5  
**behind** [2] - 14:4, 87:13  
**beings** [1] - 86:5  
**belief** [1] - 89:19  
**believes** [1] - 114:10  
**belong** [2] - 65:12, 65:15  
**beloved** [1] - 21:7  
**beneficiary** [1] - 95:18  
**benefit** [14] - 11:9, 11:17, 18:11, 43:7, 55:4, 67:16, 77:6,

80:22, 81:4, 84:25, 86:9, 93:24, 95:12, 117:8  
**benefits** [22] - 11:15, 11:16, 12:6, 12:13, 29:6, 44:15, 44:17, 44:22, 44:25, 52:24, 53:5, 53:11, 57:5, 64:6, 93:23, 112:24, 113:1, 113:6, 113:18, 115:5, 116:10, 118:13  
**benefitted** [1] - 18:17  
**benign** [1] - 55:22  
**Berkley** [1] - 58:7  
**best** [11] - 17:20, 42:9, 50:9, 66:18, 86:19, 87:4, 97:7, 97:9, 98:12, 99:1, 122:8  
**bet** [1] - 63:18  
**Betsy** [3] - 105:17, 105:20, 109:12  
**better** [6] - 8:5, 20:8, 35:17, 42:7, 96:17, 108:25  
**between** [10] - 26:10, 27:12, 29:2, 45:17, 49:20, 64:6, 81:16, 82:4, 102:3, 118:9  
**beyond** [3] - 39:13, 41:6, 83:12  
**bidding** [1] - 85:22  
**big** [12] - 23:9, 42:2, 42:3, 43:1, 43:4, 71:12, 74:20, 82:11, 82:22, 96:23, 99:6  
**bigger** [2] - 41:2, 99:5  
**bike** [1] - 33:20  
**biking** [1] - 33:18  
**bill** [7] - 19:7, 28:24, 34:1, 63:10, 70:15, 79:13, 85:24  
**billboard** [1] - 69:13  
**billboards** [3] - 62:18, 69:11, 69:12  
**billion** [6] - 55:2, 58:22, 82:6, 82:9, 82:19, 97:5  
**billions** [2] - 63:20, 63:21  
**bills** [2] - 19:4, 43:4  
**biomass** [2] - 17:4, 46:18  
**bird** [2] - 9:12, 15:9  
**birds** [2] - 35:11, 98:24  
**birth** [1] - 119:12  
**bit** [10] - 6:13, 36:5, 48:2, 56:19, 67:13, 90:1, 90:20, 98:22,

116:12  
**bite** [2] - 81:24, 82:15  
**bites** [1] - 80:21  
**black** [3] - 55:1, 59:8, 59:13  
**blade** [1] - 8:19  
**blades** [2] - 31:7, 71:22  
**Blaine** [1] - 93:19  
**blanche** [1] - 108:21  
**blast** [1] - 41:1  
**blasting** [3] - 40:20, 41:1, 93:15  
**blastings** [1] - 40:22  
**blink** [1] - 99:4  
**blinking** [8] - 24:13, 30:18, 89:23, 89:25, 100:14, 100:19, 104:20, 104:21  
**block** [1] - 51:23  
**blocks** [1] - 15:6  
**blow** [2] - 54:23, 101:21  
**blows** [1] - 25:6  
**blueberries** [1] - 104:16  
**board** [5] - 53:22, 65:5, 74:13, 74:14, 89:7  
**boarders** [1] - 83:13  
**boards** [3] - 53:19, 67:14, 101:2  
**boat** [9] - 20:15, 36:1, 36:6, 49:18, 63:1, 72:20, 91:9, 102:12, 102:17  
**boaters** [1] - 50:13  
**boating** [1] - 20:11  
**boats** [1] - 72:10  
**bodies** [1] - 87:23  
**book** [1] - 50:15  
**border** [1] - 102:3  
**bored** [2] - 86:23, 88:13  
**born** [5] - 23:7, 42:21, 64:14, 69:6, 71:5  
**Boston** [2] - 40:24, 96:16  
**bothers** [1] - 39:6  
**Botting** [2] - 105:17, 106:6  
**BOTTING** [1] - 106:6  
**bottle** [1] - 72:8  
**Bottle** [17] - 20:2, 20:3, 21:12, 50:19, 62:25, 63:1, 63:3, 71:3, 71:4, 71:21, 72:3, 72:4, 73:5, 73:18, 73:22, 75:13, 104:21

**bottom** [3] - 38:22, 82:17, 118:6  
**bought** [5] - 20:5, 68:18, 69:24, 79:2, 104:14  
**boundary** [1] - 109:17  
**bowers** [1] - 1:9  
**Bowers** [37] - 2:24, 7:22, 8:1, 10:7, 12:8, 14:14, 14:20, 14:21, 15:10, 16:18, 19:13, 21:6, 21:10, 22:3, 24:19, 30:6, 42:20, 43:18, 44:3, 47:13, 48:3, 61:14, 61:16, 65:14, 68:18, 68:22, 68:25, 71:9, 80:6, 81:23, 89:16, 92:24, 93:4, 104:1, 104:12, 105:11, 122:6  
**box** [1] - 55:1  
**boy** [2] - 67:24, 72:14  
**BPL's** [1] - 49:19  
**brand** [1] - 99:13  
**break** [3] - 79:4, 79:5, 79:7  
**breathtaking** [1] - 88:2  
**breeding** [1] - 15:17  
**Brewer** [2] - 23:11, 93:17  
**Brian** [2] - 79:13, 88:22  
**bribe** [1] - 76:4  
**bribed** [2] - 78:4, 78:18  
**brief** [4] - 67:6, 91:1, 95:9, 107:5  
**briefly** [4] - 2:7, 48:5, 51:17, 94:1  
**bright** [1] - 68:1  
**brightest** [1] - 67:4  
**bring** [8] - 37:17, 37:18, 37:25, 42:3, 75:19, 80:4, 96:21, 98:11  
**bringing** [2] - 70:14, 108:15  
**brings** [4] - 80:8, 80:10, 92:11, 110:17  
**broader** [2] - 117:21, 118:18  
**broke** [1] - 39:17  
**broker** [1] - 57:25  
**Bronx** [1] - 87:14  
**Brook** [3] - 29:22, 29:25, 30:1  
**brook** [2] - 59:2, 59:4  
**brookings** [1] - 99:8  
**Brooks** [2] - 22:17,

34:19  
**BROOKS** [8] - 34:19,  
35:20, 35:22, 35:24,  
36:4, 36:10, 36:16,  
36:18  
**brother** [1] - 33:11  
**brought** [3] - 33:22,  
37:23, 117:18  
**Brunswick** [1] - 83:13  
**Buddhist** [2] - 101:11,  
101:14  
**buddies** [1] - 86:12  
**buffet** [1] - 88:6  
**build** [8] - 23:25,  
69:19, 70:6, 70:15,  
70:16, 94:19, 111:8  
**building** [7] - 4:14,  
21:23, 24:7, 70:22,  
91:8, 93:19, 97:22  
**buildings** [1] - 42:11  
**built** [11] - 17:24, 63:2,  
70:22, 71:4, 72:8,  
73:9, 88:24, 89:2,  
91:5, 94:3, 103:8  
**bulldozers** [1] - 28:18  
**bureau** [1] - 49:16  
**Burlington** [2] - 40:21,  
40:25  
**burning** [1] - 106:13  
**Burr** [2] - 1:19, 2:2  
**bushwhack** [1] -  
33:15  
**bushwhacking** [1] -  
33:16  
**business** [12] - 5:3,  
13:21, 23:15, 45:21,  
58:17, 74:23, 74:25,  
85:8, 92:25, 98:2,  
107:1, 107:6  
**businesses** [5] -  
18:17, 25:1, 57:10,  
82:3, 89:18  
**businessman** [1] -  
88:25  
**busy** [1] - 86:9  
**buy** [2] - 67:19  
**buying** [1] - 85:7  
**buys** [1] - 81:5

---

## C

---

**Caithness** [1] - 26:12  
**calculated** [1] - 113:6  
**California** [4] - 27:2,  
28:13, 75:2, 98:16  
**camp** [33] - 10:9, 20:2,  
20:3, 20:10, 21:12,  
21:13, 30:3, 52:11,  
60:16, 60:21, 61:23,  
63:3, 71:3, 71:11,

72:8, 73:4, 73:9,  
73:18, 88:23, 89:18,  
89:23, 89:24, 98:8,  
102:5, 104:11,  
104:15, 104:17,  
104:19, 104:23,  
105:2, 105:9, 111:21  
**campaigning** [1] -  
54:19  
**camped** [1] - 103:16  
**campers** [1] - 35:1  
**campground** [2] -  
36:6, 36:9  
**camping** [7] - 20:14,  
51:3, 73:13, 80:18,  
97:2, 99:20, 102:6  
**Camps** [2] - 34:20,  
34:22  
**campus** [9] - 35:21,  
36:3, 50:3, 72:15,  
80:16, 89:17, 91:5,  
97:2, 98:2  
**campsite** [1] - 103:19  
**campsites** [4] - 20:15,  
49:18, 73:6, 73:7  
**Canada** [2] - 96:19,  
97:17  
**Canadian** [2] - 102:3,  
108:24  
**cannot** [3] - 59:20,  
62:15, 102:11  
**canoe** [3] - 30:3, 50:6,  
103:9  
**canoed** [1] - 104:16  
**canoing** [3] - 33:18,  
50:8, 80:18  
**canoes** [4] - 72:21,  
72:22, 73:13, 75:5  
**canvas** [1] - 103:8  
**capability** [1] - 12:11  
**capacity** [2] - 30:16,  
83:4  
**capitalistic** [1] - 39:7  
**car** [4] - 70:7, 81:16,  
101:21, 104:22  
**carbon** [7] - 30:19,  
31:14, 31:15, 56:1,  
56:6, 56:7, 57:16  
**card** [1] - 99:13  
**care** [6] - 21:24, 22:1,  
42:11, 63:10, 85:2,  
101:7  
**careful** [2] - 16:7,  
86:20  
**carefully** [3] - 15:10,  
91:6, 101:1  
**Caret** [1] - 63:24  
**caret** [1] - 61:20  
**carried** [1] - 115:20  
**Carroll** [26] - 1:10,

2:25, 3:7, 4:6, 7:18,  
8:2, 8:13, 11:16,  
12:5, 14:16, 41:23,  
42:2, 42:25, 43:2,  
43:3, 52:19, 53:3,  
53:7, 53:17, 67:3,  
68:5, 68:16, 69:3,  
70:21, 70:22  
**CARROLL** [20] - 3:7,  
13:23, 22:13, 22:16,  
35:19, 35:21, 35:23,  
35:25, 36:5, 36:15,  
36:17, 36:22, 41:16,  
61:18, 68:9, 79:11,  
92:14, 105:13,  
105:17, 119:23  
**carrying** [1] - 28:17  
**cars** [2] - 32:2, 96:17  
**cart** [1] - 108:21  
**Carthage** [1] - 120:15  
**case** [6] - 10:13,  
11:10, 79:3, 102:22,  
113:2, 118:23  
**Casey** [1] - 93:19  
**cash** [1] - 86:17  
**catch** [3] - 27:21,  
27:25, 28:1  
**Catherine** [4] - 3:7,  
13:10, 79:6, 79:9  
**Cathy** [5] - 41:17,  
41:20, 43:8, 50:25,  
52:13  
**caught** [2] - 92:1,  
103:18  
**caused** [6] - 26:15,  
26:21, 28:3, 28:6,  
28:14, 31:3  
**causing** [1] - 117:15  
**cell** [1] - 86:24  
**cement** [1] - 56:3  
**center** [2] - 40:21,  
112:6  
**central** [4] - 24:2,  
70:1, 74:17, 112:18  
**cents** [3] - 80:25,  
97:18, 97:19  
**century** [1] - 45:21  
**certain** [2] - 17:7, 47:4  
**certainly** [3] - 111:2,  
114:11, 117:2  
**CERTIFICATE** [1] -  
122:2  
**certified** [1] - 107:16  
**certify** [2] - 122:5,  
122:11  
**cetera** [1] - 6:19  
**chain** [6] - 24:4, 65:17,  
66:4, 66:8, 66:22,  
73:22  
**chair** [5] - 2:22, 14:18,

53:19, 53:22, 53:23  
**Chair** [1] - 6:15  
**chairperson** [1] - 89:8  
**challenge** [1] - 116:12  
**Champlain** [8] - 1:8,  
2:24, 4:5, 7:22, 9:8,  
9:10, 14:15, 22:24  
**chance** [9] - 8:21,  
17:17, 17:25, 19:14,  
22:1, 29:1, 36:20,  
36:24, 40:7  
**change** [8] - 19:16,  
43:24, 45:9, 46:3,  
60:5, 65:18, 105:2,  
117:14  
**changed** [3] - 35:12,  
83:12, 117:13  
**changes** [8] - 19:1,  
45:17, 63:4, 109:23,  
117:14, 117:18,  
117:22, 118:1  
**changing** [1] - 16:6  
**channel** [1] - 34:4  
**chapter** [2] - 4:1,  
103:24  
**character** [7] - 10:22,  
44:6, 49:2, 90:4,  
100:2, 101:8, 103:23  
**chard** [4] - 79:13,  
90:15, 92:16, 95:6  
**CHARD** [2] - 90:15,  
95:6  
**charge** [3] - 109:15,  
112:15, 117:2  
**Charlie** [1] - 18:13  
**Charlotte** [4] - 22:17,  
22:18, 34:19, 35:19  
**chase** [1] - 23:8  
**cheating** [1] - 26:6  
**check** [1] - 35:8  
**checks** [1] - 82:25  
**cherished** [1] - 91:3  
**Chicago** [2] - 76:21,  
76:24  
**chief** [1] - 112:13  
**children** [4] - 35:16,  
63:11, 71:8, 119:13  
**children's** [2] - 96:1,  
97:1  
**China** [1] - 93:19  
**chipping** [1] - 66:12  
**choice** [3] - 40:2,  
118:9, 118:14  
**choices** [3] - 19:20,  
109:20, 109:23  
**choose** [2] - 110:3,  
118:13  
**choosing** [1] - 111:7  
**chose** [1] - 24:3  
**chosen** [1] - 64:1

**Christmas** [1] - 41:12  
**chunk** [1] - 100:1  
**cite** [1] - 27:2  
**cited** [3] - 16:11,  
17:11, 19:9  
**cities** [1] - 96:23  
**citizens** [3] - 78:22,  
78:24, 82:3  
**claim** [6] - 22:1, 55:1,  
55:14, 57:13, 58:7,  
60:8  
**claims** [4] - 31:16,  
31:23, 57:5, 59:23  
**Clarence** [4] - 61:20,  
61:21, 67:2, 69:1  
**clarify** [1] - 48:14  
**clash** [1] - 91:8  
**class** [4] - 32:25,  
95:22, 107:21, 108:5  
**classes** [1] - 107:21  
**clean** [2] - 46:24,  
65:21  
**cleaner** [3] - 35:10,  
35:17, 46:6  
**clear** [3] - 19:11,  
65:21, 71:15  
**clearing** [2] - 9:20,  
94:8  
**clearly** [3] - 5:9, 45:7,  
83:18  
**client** [1] - 75:19  
**clients** [1] - 75:6  
**climate** [8] - 43:24,  
44:15, 44:17, 44:24,  
45:9, 46:3, 46:15,  
60:5  
**climb** [1] - 83:19  
**close** [4] - 14:1, 20:17,  
44:4, 105:15  
**closer** [1] - 60:18  
**closing** [3] - 5:22,  
120:19, 121:6  
**clothes** [1] - 65:12  
**Clough** [2] - 41:17,  
41:22  
**CLOUGH** [1] - 41:22  
**clout** [1] - 89:15  
**club** [1] - 47:11  
**club's** [1] - 50:7  
**CLUKEY** [1] - 122:18  
**Clukey** [3] - 2:1, 3:20,  
122:4  
**clusters** [1] - 111:25  
**cluttering** [1] - 102:2  
**Clyde** [3] - 22:16,  
22:18, 26:7  
**CMP** [1] - 82:5  
**CO2** [6] - 18:4, 30:25,  
31:3, 31:9, 31:24,  
85:5

**CO2-producing** [1] - 84:11  
**CO2s** [1] - 81:15  
**coal** [4] - 19:22, 45:6, 81:1, 84:11  
**coal-fired** [1] - 84:11  
**coast** [2] - 45:15  
**coastal** [3] - 17:13, 108:24, 109:1  
**coasts** [1] - 45:11  
**code** [1] - 107:15  
**coffee** [1] - 63:13  
**coil** [1] - 116:13  
**cold** [3] - 65:21, 88:5, 103:17  
**cole** [1] - 93:17  
**Colgan** [1] - 18:13  
**collapse** [1] - 116:19  
**collapses** [1] - 26:20  
**colleagues** [1] - 67:5  
**collection** [2] - 8:24, 9:21  
**collectively** [1] - 46:23  
**collector** [4] - 4:10, 4:11, 9:22, 41:23  
**collects** [1] - 8:25  
**college** [5] - 17:19, 23:18, 34:11, 34:12, 77:14  
**Collin** [3] - 92:15, 92:16, 95:6  
**color** [2] - 89:24, 90:3  
**Columbia** [1] - 60:3  
**combination** [1] - 43:25  
**combine** [1] - 31:1  
**combined** [1] - 31:2  
**combustion** [1] - 18:2  
**coming** [11] - 2:18, 41:25, 42:4, 42:6, 59:5, 64:13, 64:15, 69:8, 71:4, 88:6, 96:15  
**commands** [1] - 100:20  
**comment** [4] - 38:6, 59:17, 76:13, 94:1  
**commentary** [1] - 109:19  
**commentators** [1] - 28:1  
**comments** [11] - 5:21, 6:12, 7:21, 12:15, 13:2, 43:13, 66:1, 66:2, 80:22, 121:5  
**commission** [9] - 2:22, 3:8, 52:25, 53:16, 59:19, 78:11, 78:13, 115:5, 122:22  
**Commission** [10] - 1:2, 3:2, 5:25, 6:16, 6:25, 28:25, 29:12, 30:8, 116:6, 117:2  
**commission's** [5] - 4:1, 4:20, 4:21, 5:14, 6:21  
**commissioner** [3] - 41:24, 106:21, 107:10  
**commissioners** [11] - 12:18, 14:12, 16:21, 32:7, 80:13, 99:21, 107:12, 109:14, 110:15, 110:23, 111:11  
**commissions** [3] - 53:20, 53:21  
**commit** [1] - 54:8  
**commitments** [1] - 40:17  
**committed** [2] - 44:2, 88:20  
**committee** [9] - 14:19, 19:5, 19:7, 22:23, 29:17, 55:5, 64:8, 74:1, 74:7  
**common** [3] - 25:19, 95:11, 109:9  
**communities** [4] - 11:10, 15:6, 28:12, 58:10  
**community** [11] - 11:16, 11:17, 34:11, 41:7, 74:22, 75:23, 83:1, 108:10, 118:18, 119:2, 119:5  
**commutes** [1] - 57:19  
**compact** [1] - 54:13  
**companies** [11] - 27:25, 33:6, 33:13, 54:8, 81:8, 82:12, 82:17, 87:20, 88:19, 93:13, 93:22  
**company** [11] - 54:20, 69:20, 69:23, 69:25, 70:2, 77:21, 93:16, 93:19, 113:11  
**compare** [3] - 73:24, 82:22, 82:24  
**compared** [2] - 80:25, 110:10  
**compass** [2] - 33:17, 33:18  
**compelled** [1] - 109:6  
**compete** [1] - 46:22  
**compilation** [1] - 26:17  
**complain** [1] - 114:23  
**complete** [1] - 116:20  
**completed** [4] - 56:15, 61:17, 93:3, 107:1  
**completion** [1] - 94:23  
**complex** [2] - 30:7, 84:21  
**complexes** [6] - 30:9, 30:23, 31:8, 31:20, 32:9, 32:16  
**complicated** [1] - 103:12  
**complies** [1] - 10:7  
**comply** [1] - 11:7  
**components** [1] - 55:23  
**comprehensive** [5] - 46:14, 54:5, 59:19, 89:10  
**compromise** [1] - 25:11  
**computer** [2] - 100:12, 122:9  
**computer-aided** [1] - 122:9  
**con** [2] - 32:4, 32:5  
**CONANT** [2] - 20:1, 21:11  
**Conant** [4] - 14:9, 20:1, 21:11  
**concept** [1] - 90:17  
**concern** [4] - 15:8, 15:13, 118:18  
**concerned** [6] - 35:3, 70:3, 78:16, 81:4, 117:22, 118:22  
**Concerning** [1] - 1:4  
**concerns** [2] - 28:11, 78:14  
**conclude** [1] - 114:6  
**concluded** [3] - 15:11, 44:4, 121:10  
**concludes** [1] - 7:8  
**conclusion** [3] - 11:4, 45:25, 46:11  
**condition** [1] - 119:17  
**conditions** [3] - 16:4, 60:5, 91:12  
**conduct** [2] - 4:2, 10:4  
**conducted** [7] - 3:25, 9:8, 9:10, 9:17, 10:4, 10:20, 18:13  
**confidential** [1] - 113:5  
**conflict** [1] - 62:22  
**conflicts** [2] - 47:15, 47:19  
**Conley** [1] - 34:6  
**connect** [5] - 4:12, 8:8, 8:22, 8:23, 9:1  
**connected** [1] - 60:24  
**Connecticut** [1] - 85:17  
**connecting** [1] - 4:10  
**connection** [1] - 26:9  
**conscience** [1] - 77:20  
**consciousness** [1] - 101:12  
**conservation** [20] - 11:22, 11:25, 15:7, 47:1, 51:17, 51:19, 51:20, 51:22, 52:1, 53:14, 53:20, 64:5, 64:7, 64:10, 116:14, 116:24, 117:21, 118:10, 118:17, 118:22  
**conserved** [1] - 52:1  
**consider** [11] - 15:25, 18:22, 21:8, 28:23, 41:10, 43:14, 44:14, 88:11, 108:14, 114:24, 117:9  
**consideration** [4] - 23:24, 25:8, 92:8, 117:6  
**considerations** [2] - 15:5, 16:18  
**considered** [8] - 24:10, 25:11, 49:1, 64:5, 64:11, 87:17, 108:8, 118:5  
**considering** [5] - 30:5, 31:6, 88:9, 95:8, 118:12  
**considers** [1] - 117:20  
**consist** [1] - 4:8  
**consistent** [2] - 9:14, 45:17  
**consistently** [2] - 16:10, 112:23  
**consists** [1] - 67:8  
**constant** [1] - 31:3  
**constitutional** [6] - 39:19, 39:20, 39:21, 39:23, 39:24, 40:10  
**constraint** [1] - 22:5  
**construct** [1] - 4:5  
**constructed** [5] - 7:24, 8:9, 9:2, 24:8, 94:3  
**construction** [19] - 9:15, 11:12, 14:16, 16:3, 16:13, 18:14, 31:8, 32:9, 92:20, 93:3, 94:1, 94:4, 94:11, 94:23, 97:21, 100:10, 110:19, 110:24  
**consult** [1] - 108:11  
**consultant** [1] - 3:22  
**consulting** [1] - 104:10  
**consumers** [1] - 87:25  
**consuming** [1] - 117:24  
**contains** [1] - 26:18  
**contentious** [1] - 88:14  
**context** [3] - 19:20, 44:25, 51:18  
**continue** [9] - 18:7, 38:5, 39:18, 42:17, 45:21, 50:23, 55:12, 90:14, 99:11  
**continued** [4] - 19:5, 19:19, 45:10, 120:20  
**continues** [1] - 45:3  
**continuing** [3] - 107:18, 117:14, 119:10  
**contrary** [1] - 52:4  
**contribute** [1] - 56:1  
**contributing** [1] - 86:15  
**contribution** [2] - 56:6, 119:6  
**contributor** [1] - 53:10  
**control** [3] - 36:14, 94:9, 95:2  
**controls** [1] - 94:14  
**controversial** [1] - 64:2  
**convened** [1] - 16:16  
**conventional** [1] - 54:4  
**conversations** [1] - 35:2  
**convinced** [1] - 90:8  
**COOK** [1] - 71:2  
**cook** [2] - 68:10, 71:2  
**cooperation** [1] - 11:23  
**cope** [1] - 27:17  
**copies** [2] - 7:1, 29:17  
**copper** [2] - 56:3, 116:13  
**copy** [5] - 7:5, 27:13, 29:16, 29:24, 52:15  
**corn** [2] - 32:4, 32:5  
**cornerstones** [1] - 119:5  
**corporate** [3] - 92:3, 101:7, 118:7  
**corporation** [3] - 26:12, 89:1  
**Corporation** [1] - 93:14  
**corporations** [1] - 84:21  
**correct** [2] - 14:7, 100:11

**correctly** [2] - 14:7, 94:15  
**corridor** [2] - 21:1, 108:24  
**corridors** [1] - 16:13  
**corrupted** [1] - 41:6  
**cost** [11] - 31:14, 46:19, 54:21, 55:4, 70:15, 70:17, 80:22, 80:23, 82:6, 113:1, 113:6  
**costly** [2] - 57:4, 111:8  
**costs** [6] - 17:24, 61:2, 112:23, 113:16, 115:5, 116:10  
**cottage** [3] - 13:21, 107:2, 107:7  
**cottages** [1] - 107:8  
**council** [2] - 43:10, 101:2  
**count** [1] - 107:3  
**counted** [1] - 114:18  
**counter** [1] - 65:13  
**countries** [3] - 26:22, 30:9, 55:24  
**country** [6] - 26:8, 39:17, 60:6, 65:19, 75:2, 76:16  
**county** [5] - 34:21, 53:18, 69:25, 98:9, 109:14  
**County** [22] - 1:10, 1:11, 2:25, 3:1, 4:6, 4:7, 11:18, 30:15, 34:11, 74:18, 74:20, 74:21, 77:10, 109:13, 109:17, 110:5, 110:14, 111:3, 112:2, 112:3  
**couple** [6] - 7:14, 47:2, 59:1, 59:3, 101:16, 116:23  
**course** [3] - 27:22, 76:25, 97:20  
**coursing** [1] - 33:17  
**court** [2] - 3:21, 101:3  
**Court** [2] - 1:24, 122:19  
**courteous** [1] - 113:3  
**cove** [4] - 3:12, 102:17, 106:23, 107:8  
**cover** [1] - 34:3  
**covered** [1] - 21:20  
**cowled** [1] - 85:20  
**crazy** [1] - 85:20  
**create** [4] - 17:18, 25:1, 93:23, 97:14  
**created** [4] - 11:14, 18:15, 57:23, 61:8

**creating** [2] - 55:21, 60:4  
**creation** [1] - 24:25  
**creative** [1] - 119:9  
**crime** [1] - 98:7  
**crisscrossing** [1] - 83:10  
**criteria** [4] - 4:18, 5:14, 44:5, 44:19  
**critical** [1] - 80:3  
**crowds** [3] - 32:21, 102:8, 103:11  
**crucial** [1] - 15:16  
**crunching** [1] - 108:9  
**crystal** [1] - 71:15  
**culture** [1] - 85:9  
**cumulative** [4] - 41:9, 53:19, 56:6, 91:15  
**cure** [1] - 55:19  
**current** [3] - 24:21, 45:20, 61:5  
**curtailment** [4] - 15:24, 15:25, 16:4, 16:5  
**Cushing** [3] - 53:18, 60:16, 60:21  
**cushing** [2] - 53:23, 59:15  
**customers** [3] - 34:22, 34:24, 98:11  
**cut** [4] - 15:21, 31:1, 39:3, 89:3

---

## D

---

**D.C** [1] - 112:11  
**daily** [3] - 82:25, 84:10, 94:11  
**dam** [1] - 114:22  
**damage** [3] - 26:19, 32:8, 56:13  
**damaged** [1] - 60:12  
**damn** [1] - 91:12  
**Dan** [4] - 41:20, 41:21, 53:17, 59:25  
**Danforth** [2] - 32:23, 59:11  
**danger** [2] - 27:18, 28:3  
**DANIELS** [1] - 71:25  
**Daniels** [2] - 68:10, 72:2  
**dark** [2] - 51:20, 80:19  
**Darrow** [1] - 30:3  
**data** [3] - 30:8, 55:14, 58:23  
**date** [4] - 2:15, 39:5, 79:16, 121:10  
**daughter** [1] - 77:13  
**daughter's** [1] - 95:24

**Dave** [1] - 34:6  
**David** [1] - 103:24  
**Davis** [2] - 79:12, 79:24  
**DAVIS** [1] - 79:23  
**days** [5] - 5:19, 50:10, 103:8, 118:5, 121:3  
**daytime** [1] - 71:22  
**dead** [1] - 35:11  
**deal** [2] - 34:5, 67:12  
**dealing** [1] - 70:12  
**deals** [3] - 70:5, 70:11, 70:13  
**Deanna** [4] - 68:13, 68:14, 76:20  
**deaths** [1] - 26:19  
**debate** [1] - 55:6  
**decade** [2] - 51:23, 52:1  
**decades** [1] - 91:24  
**December** [1] - 24:10  
**decide** [3] - 64:9, 67:12, 82:12  
**decided** [5] - 23:21, 64:16, 68:3, 70:17, 104:18  
**deciding** [1] - 67:18  
**decision** [14] - 6:21, 15:3, 23:4, 23:24, 24:1, 24:16, 25:14, 25:17, 25:18, 25:23, 25:25, 44:18, 107:15, 111:6  
**decision-making** [2] - 107:15, 111:6  
**decisions** [2] - 17:20, 43:17  
**deck** [1] - 100:13  
**declines** [1] - 15:13  
**decommissioning** [2] - 56:14, 83:8  
**decrease** [2] - 32:15, 76:2  
**dedicated** [1] - 94:14  
**deep** [3] - 29:2, 103:20, 111:23  
**deeper** [4] - 26:16, 40:19, 41:1, 102:18  
**deeply** [1] - 29:1  
**deer** [2] - 116:21, 119:3  
**deface** [1] - 98:7  
**defeated** [1] - 19:4  
**defilipp** [1] - 92:15  
**DEFILIPP** [1] - 92:18  
**Defilipp** [1] - 92:18  
**define** [1] - 83:9  
**degradation** [3] - 92:10, 99:9, 116:20  
**degraded** [1] - 87:11

**degrading** [1] - 87:21  
**degree** [2] - 27:24, 66:17  
**deliberate** [1] - 43:14  
**deliberation** [1] - 40:4  
**delicate** [1] - 88:1  
**delineation** [1] - 9:17  
**demand** [2] - 54:12, 54:15  
**demands** [1] - 118:7  
**demonstrate** [3] - 11:8, 16:3, 22:4  
**demonstrated** [2] - 20:24, 118:16  
**Dennis** [3] - 105:19, 105:20, 111:20  
**dentist** [1] - 88:22  
**deny** [5] - 61:13, 66:24, 83:22, 99:23, 104:3  
**denying** [1] - 60:13  
**DEP** [3] - 27:16, 28:25  
**Department** [1] - 18:3  
**department** [3] - 40:19, 58:22, 112:14  
**dependence** [9] - 31:24, 45:5, 55:20, 57:15, 84:15, 84:16, 86:14, 88:17, 93:2  
**deployed** [1] - 87:6  
**depreciated** [1] - 83:3  
**depressed** [1] - 117:10  
**derives** [1] - 23:11  
**Deschene** [4] - 79:13, 84:1, 85:24  
**DESCHENE** [2] - 84:1, 85:24  
**describe** [1] - 36:8  
**described** [2] - 50:11, 88:3  
**describes** [1] - 50:8  
**describing** [1] - 50:15  
**desecrate** [2] - 84:5, 85:15  
**design** [3] - 10:1, 16:1, 94:22  
**designated** [4] - 10:16, 47:5, 49:16, 51:12  
**designed** [2] - 12:10, 12:11  
**desire** [1] - 19:11  
**desperately** [1] - 39:17  
**despoil** [1] - 96:6  
**destination** [2] - 55:13, 99:5  
**destroyed** [3] - 57:11, 84:3, 91:24

**destroying** [1] - 21:3  
**destroys** [2] - 56:7, 82:16  
**destruction** [4] - 21:9, 24:17, 25:15, 114:7  
**details** [2] - 27:1, 77:18  
**determination** [1] - 44:21  
**determining** [1] - 44:13  
**detour** [1] - 50:21  
**detours** [1] - 50:10  
**detrimental** [1] - 65:3  
**devalue** [2] - 58:5, 106:8  
**devastation** [1] - 55:24  
**develop** [1] - 46:24  
**developed** [1] - 118:15  
**developer** [6] - 15:24, 27:17, 54:24, 57:13, 101:5, 112:22  
**developers** [6] - 31:17, 31:23, 55:13, 57:16, 59:23, 60:7  
**developers'** [1] - 57:5  
**developing** [1] - 43:23  
**development** [30] - 1:7, 2:23, 4:4, 4:6, 4:8, 4:18, 14:15, 14:22, 15:3, 16:11, 16:16, 17:22, 18:22, 19:13, 19:19, 49:18, 56:2, 56:7, 89:12, 89:13, 91:3, 92:7, 99:24, 107:7, 107:24, 109:4, 109:16, 110:25, 112:12, 119:14  
**Development** [1] - 122:6  
**devil** [1] - 86:10  
**DiCenzo** [2] - 92:16, 99:17  
**DICENZO** [2] - 99:17, 103:14  
**difference** [4] - 43:1, 43:3, 43:4, 81:16  
**different** [9] - 16:4, 40:13, 50:18, 86:1, 89:24, 90:23, 92:4, 116:19, 116:22  
**difficult** [3] - 26:11, 43:15, 43:20  
**digging** [1] - 40:19  
**dill** [1] - 21:14  
**dime** [1] - 78:12  
**diminished** [1] - 100:3

**direct** [4] - 4:17, 12:13, 30:4, 104:12  
**direction** [4] - 23:2, 68:24, 83:20, 92:4  
**directly** [3] - 24:21, 36:2, 107:2  
**director** [6] - 3:8, 14:17, 16:24, 43:9, 53:17, 116:3  
**disadvantage** [1] - 111:16  
**disadvantages** [1] - 111:14  
**disappear** [1] - 56:10  
**disapproving** [1] - 70:25  
**disaster** [1] - 92:11  
**discipline** [1] - 39:6  
**discourage** [1] - 21:3  
**discourteous** [1] - 113:10  
**discovering** [1] - 64:16  
**discovery** [1] - 15:19  
**discuss** [2] - 50:1, 112:25  
**discussed** [1] - 115:20  
**discussion** [5] - 12:16, 104:17, 104:25, 105:1, 113:13  
**discussions** [1] - 107:11  
**disease** [1] - 96:23  
**dishonest** [1] - 57:15  
**dishonesty** [1] - 57:4  
**disinterested** [1] - 122:11  
**dismantled** [1] - 90:9  
**dispatchable** [1] - 54:12  
**displacing** [2] - 46:10, 46:12  
**displeasure** [1] - 57:20  
**distinctive** [1] - 99:9  
**distracting** [1] - 100:19  
**distributed** [1] - 64:6  
**district** [4] - 24:15, 24:17, 25:17, 25:20  
**Districts** [1] - 4:21  
**disturb** [1] - 77:22  
**disturbing** [1] - 59:6  
**disused** [1] - 90:9  
**dived** [1] - 95:20  
**diversify** [1] - 17:21  
**division** [1] - 3:17  
**Dixfield** [1] - 27:16

**dock** [3] - 30:3, 113:20, 113:23  
**document** [3] - 28:5, 31:12, 41:7  
**dollar** [4] - 66:12, 82:16, 109:6  
**dollar-wasting** [1] - 109:6  
**dollars** [13] - 52:6, 55:2, 57:8, 58:18, 63:17, 63:21, 73:25, 81:1, 82:18, 85:2, 91:17, 111:1, 111:2  
**dominant** [1] - 85:8  
**Don** [1] - 1:23  
**Donald** [3] - 61:18, 61:20, 61:22  
**donate** [1] - 115:23  
**done** [19] - 9:14, 9:24, 30:21, 32:8, 42:8, 42:9, 42:13, 48:18, 54:7, 59:12, 63:5, 75:18, 77:19, 87:18, 94:11, 94:22, 106:7, 121:9  
**door** [1] - 4:23  
**DOT** [1] - 108:22  
**dotted** [1] - 83:7  
**doubt** [2] - 55:4, 69:18  
**down** [34] - 5:11, 5:12, 13:6, 20:25, 22:25, 31:1, 31:4, 33:20, 40:24, 48:24, 50:20, 50:23, 52:14, 56:19, 67:24, 69:15, 73:22, 74:18, 75:17, 76:2, 77:13, 79:22, 81:22, 83:8, 93:4, 94:24, 95:1, 98:16, 98:21, 102:25, 104:22, 106:12, 116:21  
**Downeast** [10] - 32:18, 74:15, 80:12, 91:1, 99:18, 99:25, 100:1, 101:4, 101:7, 104:4  
**dozens** [2] - 28:18, 102:6  
**DP** [5] - 1:7, 2:24, 4:4, 60:14, 122:6  
**Dr** [4] - 18:13, 31:11, 31:12, 68:11  
**draft** [1] - 90:20  
**drafted** [1] - 39:22  
**drafting** [1] - 89:9  
**dramatic** [1] - 45:9  
**draw** [2] - 25:15, 98:3  
**dream** [2] - 24:6, 24:9  
**drilling** [2] - 93:14, 93:18  
**drive** [5] - 20:22,

55:11, 66:19, 77:13, 106:9  
**drives** [2] - 74:22, 74:24  
**driving** [3] - 20:25, 23:22, 81:16  
**drop** [3] - 13:5, 88:21, 103:1  
**drugs** [1] - 67:19  
**Duck** [4] - 22:22, 24:5, 49:14, 49:22  
**due** [1] - 116:20  
**duerr** [2] - 41:18, 52:18  
**DUERR** [1] - 52:18  
**dullness** [1] - 87:3  
**dumps** [1] - 87:17  
**Dundee** [1] - 100:6  
**DUNLAP** [2] - 116:1, 120:2  
**Dunlap** [2] - 105:19, 116:2  
**during** [12] - 13:15, 18:14, 18:21, 18:24, 20:12, 31:13, 37:14, 93:8, 94:4, 94:16, 96:22, 112:4  
**duty** [2] - 38:14, 96:7  
**dwindling** [1] - 22:10  
**DYSART** [1] - 62:25  
**Dysart** [2] - 61:19, 62:25

---

**E**

---

**eagle** [1] - 102:24  
**eagles** [3] - 20:19, 66:5, 98:25  
**earth** [3] - 56:4, 85:3, 94:10  
**earthquake** [2] - 40:21, 40:24  
**earthquakes** [1] - 40:24  
**easement** [1] - 51:19  
**easements** [2] - 10:8, 91:18  
**easier** [2] - 5:9, 82:2  
**east** [8] - 23:22, 32:24, 50:5, 62:8, 72:25, 99:24, 100:23, 116:21  
**eastern** [2] - 22:5, 88:17  
**Eastport** [3] - 107:23, 108:24, 109:1  
**easy** [2] - 74:4, 104:1  
**eating** [1] - 83:1  
**echoes** [1] - 66:2  
**economic** [8] - 18:21,

54:13, 55:8, 85:1, 93:1, 110:4, 110:21, 114:7  
**economical** [1] - 102:21  
**economically** [3] - 45:4, 77:11, 90:8  
**economics** [1] - 112:5  
**economies** [1] - 18:11  
**economy** [8] - 12:14, 19:15, 66:18, 77:8, 116:19, 116:20, 117:10, 119:10  
**Ed** [2] - 3:4, 3:5  
**education** [3] - 33:24, 53:8, 107:18  
**effect** [10] - 11:5, 35:4, 40:22, 41:10, 44:5, 81:8, 87:8, 91:15, 114:8, 114:10  
**effective** [2] - 46:19, 55:4  
**effectively** [1] - 17:23  
**effects** [6] - 24:14, 25:8, 45:10, 45:23, 46:1, 87:5  
**efficiency** [3] - 46:8, 61:4, 89:3  
**efficient** [1] - 106:15  
**effort** [2] - 94:4, 95:3  
**EIA** [1] - 81:3  
**eight** [8] - 27:2, 48:22, 51:5, 51:7, 51:8, 73:5, 98:9  
**either** [14] - 7:17, 7:18, 10:16, 31:25, 35:13, 50:2, 50:20, 53:24, 66:16, 67:5, 68:23, 68:24, 84:11, 109:22  
**electric** [6] - 27:19, 32:2, 63:13, 63:15, 81:8  
**Electric** [1] - 27:20  
**electrical** [2] - 8:24, 9:21  
**electrician** [1] - 116:11  
**electricity** [22] - 17:4, 25:3, 25:4, 25:5, 30:17, 32:1, 46:17, 54:11, 54:12, 54:13, 61:4, 63:10, 80:24, 81:12, 81:13, 83:5, 84:8, 85:15, 97:11, 97:14  
**Elementary** [2] - 1:19, 2:2  
**elements** [1] - 54:15  
**elevation** [1] - 8:2  
**elevations** [2] - 8:3,

8:11  
**elicits** [1] - 80:13  
**eliminated** [3] - 31:1, 56:9, 62:18  
**elimination** [1] - 16:4  
**Ella** [2] - 1:19, 2:2  
**elsewhere** [1] - 87:13  
**embrace** [1] - 17:22  
**emergency** [2] - 56:16, 97:14  
**emerging** [1] - 16:10  
**emissions** [3] - 18:1, 18:5, 46:2  
**emitting** [1] - 46:16  
**emphasis** [1] - 11:9  
**emphasize** [1] - 51:4  
**empirical** [1] - 54:6  
**empirical-based** [1] - 54:6  
**employ** [1] - 108:16  
**employees** [1] - 82:23  
**employers** [1] - 86:13  
**employment** [3] - 11:13, 23:14, 25:1  
**enable** [1] - 53:6  
**enacted** [2] - 28:21, 43:25  
**encourage** [2] - 51:7, 56:13  
**encouraged** [1] - 27:15  
**end** [9] - 21:9, 21:18, 22:2, 45:21, 75:18, 81:6, 115:3, 118:7, 120:4  
**endangered** [3] - 15:8, 15:15, 83:11  
**ending** [1] - 14:1  
**endless** [2] - 21:25, 87:22  
**endlessly** [1] - 88:2  
**endorsed** [1] - 92:6  
**endorsement** [1] - 19:5  
**ends** [1] - 116:14  
**energy** [49] - 4:6, 4:8, 11:19, 16:25, 17:5, 17:15, 17:16, 17:21, 19:16, 19:20, 26:7, 30:7, 31:5, 35:14, 35:16, 43:23, 44:15, 44:17, 44:24, 45:2, 46:7, 46:8, 46:10, 46:20, 46:22, 46:24, 53:25, 54:4, 54:22, 54:25, 55:9, 55:21, 56:22, 60:7, 60:23, 80:4, 86:16, 87:7, 87:17, 91:22, 100:25, 107:25,

109:3, 109:16, 109:20, 109:21, 110:3, 116:11  
**Energy** [3] - 18:3, 19:6, 19:12  
**enforced** [1] - 92:9  
**engineer** [1] - 53:18  
**engineering** [3] - 93:16, 110:19, 110:25  
**engineers** [2] - 94:7, 94:22  
**England** [7] - 9:16, 53:21, 71:19, 81:5, 81:20, 82:8, 82:9  
**English** [1] - 101:18  
**enhance** [1] - 91:9  
**enhancement** [1] - 118:11  
**enhancements** [1] - 118:12  
**enhancing** [1] - 99:12  
**enjoy** [7] - 20:8, 20:17, 34:24, 59:9, 67:7, 90:4, 105:9  
**enjoyed** [4] - 69:8, 80:15, 105:7  
**enjoying** [3] - 20:4, 101:15, 102:23  
**enjoyment** [1] - 104:19  
**ensure** [2] - 12:11, 95:24  
**entail** [1] - 40:6  
**enter** [1] - 6:22  
**entered** [1] - 2:10  
**entering** [2] - 29:23, 102:11  
**entire** [1] - 14:22  
**entities** [1] - 118:3  
**entitled** [1] - 45:23  
**entity** [1] - 5:5  
**environment** [8] - 18:8, 19:15, 21:24, 50:7, 62:19, 80:3, 83:11, 94:4  
**environmental** [19] - 9:11, 11:6, 12:9, 15:2, 17:16, 31:19, 32:8, 53:25, 54:25, 55:8, 56:13, 61:1, 72:13, 80:1, 92:10, 94:14, 110:4, 112:14, 119:14  
**environmentally** [4] - 12:12, 18:1, 45:5, 62:21  
**envy** [2] - 53:23, 67:13  
**equal** [2] - 12:6, 117:6  
**equipment** [4] - 28:13, 28:15, 28:16, 29:7  
**equivalent** [2] - 54:4, 93:7  
**era** [1] - 103:12  
**erected** [3] - 87:11, 87:19, 88:11  
**erecting** [1] - 61:3  
**erection** [2] - 61:1, 61:6  
**eroded** [1] - 39:25  
**erosion** [3] - 94:9, 95:2, 114:6  
**erratic** [1] - 84:11  
**escape** [1] - 89:22  
**especially** [9] - 15:19, 31:23, 42:12, 50:10, 55:9, 58:6, 90:8, 110:10, 117:9  
**essential** [1] - 55:6  
**essentially** [1] - 111:9  
**established** [3] - 11:23, 20:21, 95:1  
**estate** [5] - 57:25, 58:4, 76:1, 107:7, 107:19  
**estimate** [1] - 46:3  
**et** [1] - 6:19  
**ethanal** [1] - 32:4  
**ethics** [1] - 107:15  
**Europe** [2] - 56:10, 57:2  
**European** [2] - 26:22, 30:9  
**Europeans** [1] - 80:10  
**evaluated** [2] - 10:21, 61:17  
**evaluating** [1] - 112:17  
**evaluation** [2] - 115:13, 115:15  
**evening** [23] - 2:17, 3:7, 3:11, 6:5, 7:11, 16:23, 22:20, 22:25, 37:9, 37:20, 41:22, 43:8, 63:24, 65:8, 71:2, 76:20, 90:15, 95:9, 96:9, 99:21, 109:12, 120:6, 120:23  
**evening's** [1] - 3:23  
**event** [1] - 122:12  
**eventually** [2] - 63:10, 83:19  
**ever-blinking** [1] - 30:18  
**everywhere** [1] - 69:16  
**evidence** [4] - 4:17, 5:21, 61:15, 121:5  
**evidence-based** [1] - 61:15  
**evident** [1] - 57:6  
**evolving** [2] - 83:4, 83:5  
**ex** [2] - 86:11, 115:13  
**ex-politicians** [1] - 86:11  
**ex-post** [1] - 115:13  
**exactly** [1] - 73:19  
**examined** [1] - 46:9  
**example** [3] - 25:22, 87:18, 98:16  
**examples** [1] - 45:13  
**exceed** [1] - 90:1  
**exceeds** [1] - 11:10  
**excellent** [1] - 101:18  
**excited** [1] - 77:9  
**excluded** [1] - 5:16  
**executive** [3] - 14:17, 16:24, 116:3  
**exhibit** [1] - 83:16  
**exhibits** [3] - 6:22, 6:24, 7:1  
**existence** [1] - 19:9  
**existing** [6] - 4:9, 4:13, 8:7, 10:22, 44:7, 46:5  
**exists** [1] - 96:25  
**expanding** [1] - 107:1  
**expansion** [1] - 110:14  
**expectations** [1] - 52:7  
**expected** [2] - 35:11, 118:8  
**expedited** [5] - 14:22, 32:11, 47:6, 47:10, 48:18  
**expedition** [1] - 72:10  
**expense** [1] - 81:24  
**expensive** [3] - 40:16, 54:22, 81:7  
**experience** [10] - 18:2, 34:12, 75:7, 86:25, 90:24, 94:2, 112:9, 112:17, 112:20, 116:13  
**experienced** [1] - 26:13  
**expert** [1] - 16:2  
**experts** [1] - 12:10  
**expires** [1] - 122:22  
**explain** [3] - 6:13, 27:11, 40:7  
**explained** [1] - 105:25  
**explicitly** [1] - 116:7  
**exploited** [1] - 57:9  
**explore** [1] - 29:1  
**explored** [1] - 28:10  
**exposed** [1] - 57:13  
**exposes** [1] - 33:1  
**express** [2] - 4:11, 9:22  
**extended** [2] - 8:19, 50:9  
**extending** [1] - 27:10  
**extensive** [1] - 9:11  
**extra** [1] - 7:1  
**extracting** [1] - 56:5  
**eye** [2] - 62:13, 91:5  
**eyes** [3] - 30:19, 66:1, 95:25  
**eyesores** [1] - 84:4

---

**F**

---

**fabric** [1] - 87:23  
**fabricating** [1] - 56:5  
**face** [4] - 43:16, 92:4, 107:2, 109:21  
**Facebook** [1] - 86:24  
**facilities** [3] - 89:2, 89:16, 91:10  
**facility** [3] - 9:5, 54:13, 109:16  
**fact** [15] - 35:14, 48:11, 48:13, 51:8, 52:3, 68:16, 69:7, 70:1, 70:14, 78:1, 96:24, 97:10, 106:2, 113:20, 117:12  
**factly** [1] - 103:22  
**factor** [1] - 77:6  
**facts** [3] - 39:13, 57:9, 62:16  
**failed** [1] - 83:6  
**fair** [1] - 13:9  
**fall** [1] - 68:20  
**falling** [1] - 98:16  
**falls** [2] - 84:2, 85:25  
**Falmouth** [1] - 14:18  
**false** [1] - 91:22  
**familiar** [3] - 33:10, 36:1, 76:22  
**families** [3] - 53:5, 58:14, 96:21  
**family** [7] - 23:17, 50:2, 58:11, 90:16, 98:8, 99:19, 107:6  
**famous** [1] - 80:11  
**far** [11] - 27:7, 29:13, 42:14, 50:13, 70:3, 81:3, 98:6, 102:19, 106:2, 118:2, 118:24  
**farce** [1] - 39:18  
**farm** [10] - 29:23, 32:11, 33:10, 33:15, 34:13, 52:23, 53:6, 53:10, 59:23, 104:18  
**farms** [7] - 21:24, 26:13, 54:19, 56:24, 58:4, 60:4, 106:8  
**FARRAND** [1] - 3:11  
**Farrand** [1] - 3:11  
**fashion** [1] - 66:15  
**fast** [2] - 5:11, 83:4  
**faster** [1] - 26:4  
**father** [7] - 23:14, 63:2, 71:5, 98:10, 106:20, 106:22, 107:9  
**favor** [4] - 14:21, 52:22, 53:1, 67:16  
**favoring** [1] - 56:24  
**favorite** [1] - 20:13  
**feared** [1] - 21:6  
**feared** [1] - 100:7  
**fears** [1] - 100:10  
**featured** [1] - 109:19  
**federal** [9] - 15:15, 30:7, 51:21, 51:25, 52:3, 52:5, 52:6, 80:24, 85:1  
**feds** [2] - 40:12, 76:18  
**feet** [10] - 8:4, 8:19, 10:9, 28:6, 28:8, 58:12, 68:21, 84:7, 90:1, 91:6  
**fell** [2] - 68:20, 88:4  
**fellow** [1] - 112:6  
**fellows** [1] - 75:17  
**felt** [4] - 22:7, 48:9, 48:17, 113:10  
**fences** [1] - 95:1  
**FERC** [2] - 30:8, 55:14  
**few** [22] - 6:12, 7:1, 7:19, 19:8, 20:20, 26:3, 32:12, 41:24, 50:10, 57:9, 63:2, 64:15, 65:19, 66:6, 72:1, 72:6, 74:19, 82:17, 85:2, 103:20, 113:17, 116:24  
**fewer** [1] - 85:13  
**fewest** [1] - 47:19  
**field** [1] - 7:13  
**fields** [2] - 26:25, 58:3  
**fight** [1] - 97:16  
**fighting** [1] - 88:18  
**figure** [5] - 73:3, 74:4, 74:5, 93:6  
**figures** [1] - 81:2  
**filed** [1] - 37:6  
**fill** [2] - 9:20, 109:8  
**final** [4] - 5:25, 82:15, 92:2, 95:2  
**finally** [1] - 11:22  
**finances** [1] - 72:12  
**financial** [3] - 39:16, 53:12, 74:20

**financially** [2] - 40:11, 75:23  
**financier** [1] - 112:12  
**financing** [2] - 108:5, 108:13  
**fine** [3] - 70:21, 70:24, 79:9  
**finest** [1] - 97:24  
**finishing** [1] - 81:20  
**fire** [4] - 27:21, 27:25, 28:1, 103:19  
**fired** [1] - 84:11  
**firefighters** [1] - 29:7  
**firefighting** [2] - 28:13, 29:10  
**fires** [16] - 26:10, 26:14, 26:15, 26:20, 26:21, 26:24, 27:2, 27:12, 27:18, 28:3, 28:5, 28:14, 28:16, 28:20, 29:2  
**firm** [4] - 5:5, 27:17, 27:19, 92:20  
**first** [22] - 13:25, 14:2, 14:8, 18:24, 23:3, 23:9, 24:22, 26:8, 26:10, 30:23, 33:15, 38:11, 44:24, 54:20, 79:21, 80:22, 90:19, 92:1, 96:17, 103:18, 109:24, 110:17  
**First** [27] - 7:23, 24:22, 25:2, 25:6, 25:10, 30:10, 32:17, 33:6, 41:25, 52:24, 64:5, 76:2, 81:17, 81:20, 85:1, 85:19, 85:22, 86:7, 92:21, 108:17, 110:22, 113:3, 114:9, 116:23, 119:1, 119:6  
**fiscal** [1] - 118:8  
**fish** [13] - 20:13, 66:6, 67:25, 75:5, 92:1, 92:4, 101:10, 101:15, 102:17, 102:21, 102:25, 103:1, 114:22  
**fished** [3] - 80:16, 102:12, 104:16  
**fisheries** [3] - 45:11, 58:23, 65:20  
**fishermen** [3] - 89:20, 108:2  
**fishing** [22] - 20:11, 58:19, 62:4, 64:16, 64:25, 67:24, 75:14, 75:18, 97:1, 97:8, 98:2, 98:12, 99:1, 102:15, 102:17,

102:20, 102:22, 103:2, 114:15, 114:17, 114:18, 114:20  
**fit** [3] - 25:19, 27:7, 100:8  
**fits** [1] - 59:20  
**Fitzgerald** [2] - 105:18, 109:13  
**FITZGERALD** [1] - 109:12  
**five** [24] - 10:17, 12:24, 13:7, 13:25, 14:2, 14:3, 15:4, 22:13, 29:11, 40:6, 41:17, 42:9, 49:9, 61:18, 61:25, 68:9, 72:17, 79:6, 79:12, 79:21, 92:14, 97:12, 105:13, 105:19  
**fix** [1] - 42:7  
**fixed** [4] - 53:4, 67:18, 89:25, 94:17  
**Flagstaff** [1] - 105:4  
**flashing** [3] - 62:18, 71:21, 71:22  
**flat** [1] - 85:16  
**Florida** [5] - 71:20, 72:25, 111:22, 112:5, 113:2  
**flow** [3] - 6:18, 84:12, 86:17  
**flows** [1] - 100:4  
**flying** [1] - 100:24  
**focus** [2] - 80:4, 99:6  
**folks** [20] - 2:6, 6:2, 7:4, 13:17, 13:25, 26:2, 32:5, 38:13, 40:3, 79:11, 79:19, 79:22, 90:23, 96:15, 96:21, 101:10, 104:2, 114:25, 118:23, 119:3  
**follow** [1] - 18:23  
**following** [5] - 20:12, 38:22, 54:15, 60:24, 120:25  
**Folsom** [1] - 102:4  
**food** [2] - 67:19, 119:4  
**foolishly** [1] - 32:11  
**footprint** [5] - 30:19, 54:14, 56:1, 56:6, 57:16  
**forbearance** [1] - 95:18  
**force** [2] - 16:15, 47:7  
**forced** [1] - 54:9  
**forces** [1] - 16:17  
**ford** [1] - 96:16  
**foregoing** [1] - 122:9

**foreign** [8] - 55:20, 55:24, 69:23, 70:1, 84:15, 84:16, 93:2  
**forest** [12] - 26:10, 26:15, 26:20, 26:21, 27:12, 27:18, 28:14, 28:20, 29:2, 29:3, 117:25, 118:5  
**Forest** [2] - 11:23, 64:8  
**forested** [1] - 28:22  
**forests** [9] - 26:25, 27:5, 45:11, 56:8, 58:3, 85:5, 89:4, 118:1, 118:4  
**forever** [8] - 57:12, 65:18, 66:24, 91:24, 96:6, 99:7, 100:2, 104:5  
**forget** [1] - 101:13  
**form** [3] - 21:22, 110:2, 122:8  
**formed** [1] - 64:9  
**former** [3] - 14:18, 106:20, 109:19  
**forth** [3] - 62:4, 82:12, 91:13  
**forthcoming** [2] - 19:9, 91:25  
**fortunate** [5] - 28:19, 42:4, 60:16, 60:21, 92:21  
**forums** [2] - 116:18, 117:4  
**forward** [7] - 2:17, 12:15, 37:17, 37:19, 37:23, 83:21, 115:14  
**fossil** [7] - 18:2, 45:3, 45:10, 45:22, 46:10, 57:15, 110:10  
**foundation** [1] - 45:14  
**foundations** [1] - 93:20  
**four** [13] - 4:14, 6:25, 9:6, 10:13, 10:14, 20:6, 40:14, 48:1, 49:5, 49:7, 70:6, 72:10, 72:20  
**fragile** [1] - 66:18  
**Francis** [1] - 88:3  
**Fred** [6] - 3:15, 6:11, 6:16, 31:12, 37:5, 38:9  
**free** [6] - 36:11, 55:20, 88:17, 109:20, 109:25, 111:9  
**freedom** [2] - 40:2, 40:5  
**freedoms** [1] - 40:4  
**Freeport** [1] - 96:10

**Fremont** [1] - 22:21  
**frequent** [1] - 59:15  
**friend** [1] - 114:15  
**friend's** [1] - 20:3  
**friendly** [1] - 31:19  
**friends** [5] - 14:14, 50:2, 59:10, 59:18, 80:1  
**front** [5] - 17:9, 32:21, 58:8, 58:12, 101:21  
**frontage** [1] - 49:13  
**fruition** [1] - 64:4  
**fuel** [4] - 17:23, 17:24, 45:10, 46:10  
**fuels** [6] - 18:2, 45:3, 45:22, 46:13, 57:15, 110:10  
**full** [3] - 94:13, 97:6, 122:10  
**full-time** [2] - 94:13, 97:6  
**fully** [3] - 8:19, 27:11, 48:9  
**fun** [3] - 67:14, 98:13, 102:13  
**fund** [6] - 11:19, 11:22, 33:7, 53:14, 64:5, 64:7  
**funded** [2] - 11:20, 63:18  
**funding** [2] - 76:16, 106:15  
**funny** [1] - 8:6  
**future** [15] - 12:16, 17:15, 19:16, 19:21, 22:10, 28:9, 35:16, 42:24, 46:6, 63:23, 86:16, 86:21, 96:7, 115:11, 119:7

---

## G

---

**gain** [1] - 81:25  
**Gainesville** [1] - 111:22  
**garage** [6] - 24:7, 24:8, 70:7, 70:15, 70:16  
**gardened** [1] - 84:9  
**gardiner** [1] - 93:15  
**Gardner** [1] - 93:21  
**Gary** [5] - 14:9, 14:10, 21:11, 79:13, 90:15  
**gas** [8] - 19:22, 31:4, 41:3, 45:5, 46:11, 46:23, 81:1, 81:11  
**gases** [1] - 86:14  
**gathered** [1] - 95:11  
**GE** [2] - 27:24, 30:14  
**gear** [1] - 73:14

**General** [1] - 27:20  
**general** [6] - 26:2, 27:19, 87:23, 113:12, 116:9, 119:19  
**generate** [8] - 58:19, 58:24, 82:12, 83:4, 84:8, 97:11, 109:7, 110:11  
**generated** [4] - 61:4, 97:17, 97:21, 100:12  
**generates** [3] - 58:17, 58:21  
**generating** [1] - 54:8  
**generation** [9] - 17:17, 46:17, 46:24, 55:23, 59:22, 81:12, 116:11, 117:18, 117:19  
**generational** [1] - 118:6  
**generations** [8] - 22:10, 53:5, 71:23, 86:21, 95:14, 95:17, 95:18, 96:7  
**generator** [1] - 56:4  
**generators** [5] - 40:14, 40:18, 41:1, 41:11, 97:15  
**generosity** [1] - 86:17  
**gentlemen** [1] - 96:9  
**genuine** [2] - 55:7, 101:14  
**geography** [1] - 80:11  
**geology** [1] - 40:19  
**geothermal** [1] - 81:1  
**Germany** [1] - 71:19  
**Getchell** [1] - 24:20  
**giant** [1] - 88:6  
**giants** [1] - 30:18  
**gift** [1] - 108:13  
**gifts** [1] - 22:11  
**gigantic** [2] - 30:11, 77:21  
**Giles** [1] - 93:19  
**GILMAN** [2] - 32:20, 34:16  
**Gilman** [4] - 22:17, 32:22, 34:16, 34:17  
**girl** [1] - 72:14  
**given** [11] - 7:1, 15:4, 16:6, 16:18, 31:22, 61:11, 67:5, 86:20, 108:12, 117:9, 122:10  
**glad** [2] - 64:11, 80:20  
**Glenview** [1] - 76:21  
**global** [5] - 30:20, 45:17, 45:24, 46:1, 55:22

**goal** [1] - 86:4  
**goals** [10] - 16:20,  
17:7, 17:8, 19:6,  
44:2, 47:1, 109:5,  
118:17, 118:21  
**God** [3] - 24:13, 39:8,  
40:1  
**gold** [3] - 21:21, 26:17  
**goods** [2] - 17:2,  
85:14  
**Goodwin** [1] - 93:18  
**gorilla** [1] - 102:11  
**governing** [1] - 82:4  
**government** [8] -  
51:25, 52:6, 63:18,  
78:1, 90:18, 90:24,  
106:10, 120:22  
**governor** [6] - 56:16,  
78:23, 109:19,  
109:23, 110:16,  
111:4  
**governor's** [2] - 16:15,  
47:7  
**governors** [1] - 76:25  
**graduated** [1] - 32:24  
**graduation** [1] - 17:19  
**grampy** [1] - 103:20  
**grand** [10] - 32:24,  
65:16, 66:4, 66:8,  
66:22, 75:12, 84:2,  
85:24, 102:6, 104:3  
**Grand** [27] - 20:4,  
24:4, 24:14, 25:16,  
25:20, 30:3, 48:25,  
50:24, 64:13, 64:16,  
64:19, 64:22, 73:6,  
74:12, 74:14, 75:5,  
80:12, 80:18, 88:23,  
101:10, 103:6,  
103:9, 105:22,  
106:5, 106:23,  
106:24, 108:17  
**grandchildren** [5] -  
63:11, 63:12, 71:8,  
71:17, 92:1  
**grandfather** [1] -  
98:10  
**grandfather's** [1] -  
102:5  
**grandkids** [1] - 104:2  
**grandparents** [1] -  
112:1  
**grandson** [1] - 103:17  
**grant** [1] - 32:17  
**granted** [1] - 24:6  
**grants** [3] - 11:24,  
12:2, 12:4  
**GRAY** [2] - 96:9, 98:23  
**gray** [2] - 92:16, 96:10  
**greased** [1] - 77:1

**great** [11] - 19:14,  
46:11, 59:19, 59:21,  
63:11, 65:25, 67:12,  
68:4, 80:16, 103:17,  
119:7  
**greater** [3] - 28:2,  
45:16, 119:2  
**greatest** [1] - 99:10  
**greatly** [2] - 18:1,  
112:24  
**greed** [1] - 20:24  
**green** [10] - 25:2, 25:4,  
49:14, 51:19, 51:20,  
85:6, 87:7, 91:22,  
109:3  
**green's** [1] - 34:1  
**greenhouse** [1] -  
86:13  
**Greenville** [2] - 69:6  
**grew** [5] - 20:5, 64:14,  
69:7, 69:8, 98:9  
**grid** [11] - 7:24, 30:9,  
31:5, 31:22, 35:15,  
54:14, 77:15, 81:4,  
81:10, 83:10, 99:24  
**grid's** [1] - 81:14  
**grid-scale** [1] - 31:22  
**ground** [3] - 28:18,  
35:12, 77:22  
**group** [3] - 32:25,  
36:25, 75:17  
**grow** [2] - 17:17,  
82:18  
**grown** [3] - 32:22,  
33:1, 86:23  
**growth** [4] - 24:23,  
87:22, 108:23, 109:1  
**guarded** [1] - 91:23  
**guess** [6] - 6:2, 7:8,  
29:11, 39:3, 39:6,  
79:21  
**guests** [2] - 71:19,  
75:1  
**guide** [5] - 47:3, 50:8,  
65:23, 81:17, 114:16  
**guided** [2] - 15:4,  
65:24  
**guides** [10] - 34:2,  
52:9, 52:11, 74:14,  
74:24, 89:17, 98:10,  
103:10, 105:24,  
106:4  
**guiding** [2] - 44:1,  
65:24  
**guinea** [1] - 115:8  
**gut** [2] - 112:18,  
112:20  
**guy** [3] - 63:7, 67:4,  
107:10  
**guys** [2] - 70:11, 76:6

**Gwen** [2] - 2:21, 3:9

---

## H

---

**H.C** [1] - 93:21

**habitat** [11] - 15:1,  
15:6, 15:7, 15:17,  
16:12, 32:14, 45:25,  
46:5, 118:10,  
118:12, 118:19

**habitats** [1] - 21:3

**half** [10] - 12:25,  
15:22, 40:15, 42:19,  
47:23, 69:20, 69:25,  
73:25, 81:18

**hall** [3] - 4:24, 7:18,  
95:11

**Halliburton** [1] - 88:19

**halt** [1] - 19:10

**HAMMOND** [1] - 3:6

**Hammond** [1] - 3:6

**Hampden** [1] - 26:7

**Hampshire** [3] -  
22:21, 57:21, 83:13

**hand** [5] - 6:6, 38:24,  
47:25, 120:10,  
122:13

**handled** [1] - 64:8

**hands** [1] - 88:19

**happiness** [1] - 40:1

**happy** [3] - 19:23,  
98:5, 115:22

**Harbor** [2] - 23:12,  
24:3

**hard** [3] - 77:9, 82:1,  
83:23

**hardest** [1] - 18:20

**hardly** [1] - 72:11

**harm** [3] - 32:14,  
39:16, 45:11

**harmful** [2] - 18:1,  
45:7

**harraseeket** [1] -  
96:10

**Harvard** [1] - 81:19

**harvester** [1] - 27:10

**hate** [2] - 20:7, 83:18

**Haynes** [1] - 93:21

**hazard** [1] - 106:9

**hazelwood** [3] -  
106:19, 106:20,  
107:7

**head** [3] - 34:6, 72:8,  
81:21

**headed** [2] - 8:12,  
81:22

**heading** [1] - 8:12

**heads** [1] - 39:9

**health** [5] - 17:16,  
45:12, 60:24, 106:9,

112:15

**healthy** [1] - 74:21

**hear** [12] - 3:23, 6:13,  
7:20, 13:1, 13:17,  
38:23, 98:13,  
111:15, 117:4,  
119:24, 120:20,  
120:22

**heard** [9] - 64:2,  
65:10, 72:12, 72:24,  
82:19, 90:19, 97:4,  
120:15

**Hearing** [1] - 1:4

**hearing** [28] - 2:1, 2:6,  
2:8, 2:12, 2:15, 2:17,  
2:23, 3:24, 4:3, 4:16,  
5:4, 5:6, 5:17, 5:24,  
6:1, 12:15, 13:16,  
27:16, 61:12, 79:16,  
79:17, 120:19,  
121:1, 121:10,  
122:5, 122:7

**hearings** [2] - 4:2,  
79:24

**heat** [1] - 96:23

**heavier** [1] - 28:2

**heavily** [1] - 18:6

**Hebron** [1] - 23:10

**height** [4] - 8:18, 90:1,  
90:2, 90:3

**held** [8] - 1:19, 3:23,  
4:3, 79:15, 107:14,  
108:17, 120:23,  
122:6

**helicopters** [1] - 28:17

**hello** [2] - 95:6, 105:21

**help** [9] - 30:19, 60:13,  
62:11, 67:20, 90:18,  
90:20, 90:25,  
105:14, 108:10

**helped** [3] - 33:6,  
33:11, 108:2

**helpful** [3] - 12:22,  
13:1, 13:4

**helping** [1] - 86:12

**helps** [1] - 62:19

**hemisphere** [1] -  
112:15

**hence** [1] - 46:25

**Henry** [2] - 96:16,  
103:24

**hereby** [1] - 122:5

**heritage** [2] - 96:5,  
119:11

**herself** [1] - 41:18

**hi** [8] - 21:11, 34:19,  
74:11, 88:22, 92:18,  
104:8, 106:6, 106:19

**hide** [1] - 113:11

**high** [6] - 17:19,

32:24, 33:3, 80:22,  
80:23, 97:15

**higher** [2] - 28:8,  
107:14

**highest** [2] - 110:6,  
119:14

**highly** [2] - 70:4, 89:4

**hiking** [1] - 97:8

**Hill** [3] - 18:12, 58:16,  
92:23

**hills** [7] - 20:9, 20:16,  
21:21, 25:15, 71:11,  
95:16, 102:14

**HILTON** [49] - 2:6,  
2:16, 3:9, 3:15, 6:10,  
12:17, 16:21, 19:25,  
22:12, 26:1, 34:15,  
34:17, 38:16, 38:18,  
38:23, 39:2, 41:15,  
50:25, 52:13, 52:17,  
53:15, 59:25, 60:18,  
62:24, 65:7, 67:1,  
68:8, 70:10, 76:19,  
79:4, 79:17, 83:25,  
92:13, 95:5, 98:21,  
99:16, 103:13,  
104:7, 105:12,  
109:11, 111:18,  
115:1, 115:25,  
119:22, 120:4,  
120:8, 120:10,  
120:13, 120:18  
**Hilton** [3] - 2:21, 3:9,  
53:16

**hire** [1] - 94:17

**historic** [3] - 10:2,  
10:3, 10:4

**historically** [1] - 95:12

**history** [3] - 30:10,  
80:4, 119:15

**hit** [2] - 18:20, 102:22

**hold** [4] - 8:5, 24:9,  
33:4, 119:13

**holding** [1] - 118:3

**home** [9] - 24:7,  
64:17, 64:18, 71:17,  
82:25, 89:23, 90:16,  
102:4, 106:25

**homeless** [1] - 88:6

**homes** [4] - 26:25,  
85:11, 91:5, 106:9

**homework** [2] - 30:21,  
77:19

**honestly** [1] - 113:13

**honeymoon** [2] - 59:4,  
80:18

**hooked** [1] - 77:15

**HOOPS** [1] - 88:22

**hoops** [2] - 79:13,

88:22

**hope** [14] - 28:24, 43:14, 44:20, 65:5, 77:23, 77:25, 78:3, 78:8, 78:9, 92:15, 99:23, 104:1, 115:3  
**hoped** [1] - 100:7  
**hopefully** [2] - 38:20, 43:6  
**hoping** [3] - 77:1, 78:21, 90:23  
**horizon** [1] - 59:16  
**Horn** [1] - 3:17  
**Horn-Olsen** [1] - 3:17  
**host** [4] - 11:10, 17:7, 17:10, 119:2  
**hosts** [1] - 9:9  
**hot** [3] - 59:2, 59:4, 96:22  
**Hot** [3] - 29:22, 29:25, 30:1  
**Houlton** [2] - 25:12, 29:21  
**hour** [5] - 15:22, 80:25, 81:25, 84:9  
**hours** [6] - 12:25, 93:5, 93:6, 93:7, 107:18, 107:19  
**house** [9] - 14:18, 23:8, 23:9, 67:25, 68:17, 68:21, 70:7, 70:18, 84:2  
**households** [3] - 57:5, 67:11  
**huge** [3] - 32:9, 84:7, 110:20  
**human** [1] - 91:3  
**hundred** [1] - 57:23  
**hundreds** [4] - 57:7, 57:17, 68:23, 110:18  
**hungry** [1] - 88:5  
**hunt** [1] - 20:13  
**hunted** [1] - 42:20  
**hunting** [5] - 35:12, 58:19, 64:16, 64:25, 97:1  
**hurt** [2] - 76:1, 108:9  
**hurts** [1] - 84:3  
**husband** [1] - 71:7  
**husband's** [1] - 29:25  
**Hussein's** [1] - 85:7  
**hydro** [4] - 17:4, 69:24, 81:1, 82:5  
**hypothesis** [1] - 54:3

---

**I**

---

**I-95** [1] - 25:12  
**ice** [3] - 20:13, 23:6, 26:20  
**iconic** [1] - 80:2

**Idaho** [2] - 54:20, 54:21  
**idea** [8] - 26:2, 75:9, 78:4, 79:2, 87:4, 87:25, 88:1, 106:14  
**ideal** [1] - 50:12  
**identified** [1] - 10:1  
**identify** [1] - 82:2  
**idling** [1] - 81:16  
**ignore** [3] - 102:8, 102:10, 102:12  
**ignored** [1] - 86:23  
**II** [1] - 69:7  
**III** [1] - 1:16  
**Illinois** [3] - 76:21, 76:23, 77:13  
**imagine** [1] - 101:22  
**immediate** [3] - 12:13, 80:10, 97:14  
**immediately** [1] - 94:21  
**immensely** [2] - 67:17, 101:15  
**impact** [17] - 9:19, 10:20, 10:23, 11:1, 42:2, 42:14, 44:11, 46:9, 48:15, 53:12, 61:1, 61:5, 61:9, 61:16, 62:16, 65:3, 90:7  
**impacted** [2] - 61:6, 89:19  
**impacts** [24] - 10:2, 10:5, 10:11, 11:2, 12:8, 14:25, 15:2, 15:5, 15:12, 16:12, 17:16, 19:2, 32:15, 44:9, 44:13, 44:16, 44:22, 45:5, 45:13, 47:20, 47:21, 48:9, 65:6  
**imperial** [1] - 95:22  
**implementation** [1] - 115:6  
**implicating** [1] - 66:21  
**implication** [1] - 78:20  
**implications** [1] - 60:24  
**imply** [1] - 78:18  
**implying** [1] - 27:21  
**importance** [1] - 61:11  
**important** [19] - 15:19, 17:9, 18:23, 19:19, 43:16, 44:14, 45:1, 46:12, 46:25, 47:3, 51:10, 51:19, 62:7, 62:14, 62:21, 65:3, 76:17, 117:5, 117:9  
**importantly** [1] - 17:17  
**imported** [1] - 82:24

**imposed** [1] - 39:12  
**imposing** [2] - 39:15, 102:10  
**impossible** [1] - 27:3  
**improve** [2] - 17:20, 19:15  
**improvements** [1] - 64:11  
**IN** [1] - 122:13  
**inanimates** [1] - 86:6  
**inappropriate** [2] - 92:7, 92:12  
**incentives** [1] - 56:9  
**include** [13] - 8:20, 9:11, 11:15, 15:5, 16:2, 29:5, 46:16, 48:21, 60:23, 68:9, 79:12, 92:14, 105:14  
**included** [5] - 8:22, 23:25, 26:20, 28:16, 48:23  
**includes** [3] - 8:24, 9:4, 48:22  
**including** [6] - 46:7, 49:5, 49:7, 86:5, 93:14, 119:2  
**income** [2] - 42:3, 53:4  
**incomes** [2] - 67:18, 110:7  
**incorporated** [1] - 33:21  
**Incorporated** [1] - 93:21  
**incorporating** [1] - 14:21  
**increase** [3] - 31:10, 109:3, 110:20  
**increased** [2] - 45:11, 108:25  
**increases** [1] - 82:3  
**incredibly** [3] - 83:10, 117:5, 117:9  
**increment** [2] - 108:4, 108:13  
**indeed** [1] - 45:25  
**independent** [3] - 54:6, 60:6, 61:15  
**indicate** [3] - 9:9, 44:1, 48:12  
**indicated** [2] - 37:7, 56:16  
**individual** [6] - 5:5, 37:1, 37:3, 46:3, 64:25, 85:10  
**Indonesia** [1] - 84:19  
**industrial** [18] - 21:22, 30:23, 31:16, 31:20, 32:9, 32:12, 58:5, 83:7, 84:7, 84:21, 85:6, 87:8, 87:11, 88:11, 91:21, 92:11, 99:24, 103:14  
**industry** [21] - 16:10, 17:3, 18:6, 54:7, 56:12, 58:6, 60:11, 61:5, 61:9, 66:9, 66:13, 76:10, 82:16, 82:19, 82:21, 83:21, 96:13, 96:24, 97:4, 108:16  
**inefficient** [1] - 57:4  
**inflation** [1] - 17:23  
**inflation-proof** [1] - 17:23  
**info** [1] - 33:23  
**information** [10] - 5:10, 6:18, 31:22, 43:13, 44:8, 44:20, 49:20, 113:5, 113:12  
**informational** [1] - 110:22  
**informed** [1] - 57:14  
**informing** [1] - 38:5  
**infrastructure** [3] - 19:3, 45:12, 55:25  
**initiates** [1] - 56:2  
**injured** [1] - 60:11  
**injuries** [1] - 26:19  
**inland** [2] - 31:6, 58:23  
**inn** [1] - 96:10  
**inner** [1] - 28:4  
**input** [1] - 53:13  
**inside** [1] - 4:23  
**insiders** [1] - 101:2  
**inspection** [1] - 94:22  
**inspections** [2] - 94:11, 94:16  
**inspectors** [1] - 94:18  
**inspiring** [1] - 22:6  
**install** [1] - 94:9  
**installation** [1] - 55:25  
**installed** [1] - 30:16  
**instances** [1] - 26:18  
**instead** [2] - 87:12, 102:15  
**instilling** [1] - 103:3  
**institute** [1] - 99:8  
**instructor** [3] - 34:6, 34:13, 108:7  
**intact** [1] - 38:21  
**integrity** [1] - 91:19  
**intended** [1] - 117:8  
**intent** [4] - 59:21, 80:2, 107:11, 109:3  
**intention** [1] - 47:7  
**intentions** [2] - 64:18, 103:15  
**interconnected** [1] - 50:5

**interest** [7] - 5:4, 30:2, 62:22, 86:19, 87:12, 117:21, 118:17  
**interested** [6] - 5:19, 24:25, 26:7, 37:7, 37:8, 121:3  
**interesting** [1] - 69:1  
**interfere** [1] - 97:20  
**intergovernmental** [1] - 46:2  
**intermittency** [1] - 81:11  
**intermittent** [1] - 31:5  
**interpreted** [1] - 107:13  
**intervened** [1] - 39:8  
**intervenor** [3] - 36:20, 36:22, 37:2  
**intervenor** [2] - 6:19, 120:21  
**intimate** [1] - 26:9  
**introduce** [3] - 2:21, 3:3, 24:14  
**introduced** [3] - 19:1, 41:18, 115:9  
**intrusive** [1] - 102:13  
**invest** [1] - 99:11  
**invested** [2] - 18:6, 46:23  
**investment** [6] - 18:9, 110:17, 110:18, 118:3, 118:6, 119:10  
**investments** [3] - 118:8, 118:20, 119:4  
**involved** [3] - 11:5, 86:12, 108:22  
**involvement** [1] - 16:9  
**Iowa** [1] - 60:4  
**Iraq** [1] - 84:19  
**Ireland** [1] - 71:19  
**iron** [1] - 56:3  
**irrelevant** [1] - 5:15  
**irreplaceable** [1] - 98:1  
**irrevocably** [1] - 96:5  
**irritating** [2] - 91:12, 91:16  
**Islamic** [1] - 84:18  
**island** [3] - 71:6, 80:19, 108:1  
**islands** [2] - 20:12, 20:16  
**Isle** [1] - 55:16  
**ISO** [2] - 81:4, 81:19  
**Israel** [1] - 101:16  
**issue** [7] - 39:17, 39:19, 40:9, 40:10, 53:25, 108:12, 119:18  
**issued** [1] - 45:14

**issues** [9] - 15:11,  
19:8, 44:21, 54:1,  
54:25, 72:13, 94:15,  
94:20, 112:25  
**ivory** [1] - 112:8

---

## J

---

**jail** [1] - 76:25  
**James** [1] - 93:16  
**Jeremy** [3] - 14:9,  
14:10, 16:23  
**Jim** [4] - 3:13, 3:21,  
44:8, 49:23  
**Jimmy** [1] - 30:14  
**job** [4] - 24:23, 24:25,  
67:14, 83:24  
**jobs** [21] - 17:18,  
18:15, 18:16, 18:19,  
21:25, 24:23, 29:3,  
39:25, 41:24, 55:21,  
57:7, 57:10, 57:17,  
57:23, 58:18, 61:6,  
61:7, 93:24, 97:6,  
98:19, 110:20  
**John** [1] - 31:18  
**Johnson** [2] - 41:17,  
43:8  
**JOHNSON** [3] - 43:8,  
51:3, 52:16  
**journal** [1] - 54:18  
**journey** [1] - 20:6  
**joy** [1] - 7:11  
**Jr** [1] - 37:2  
**July** [5] - 5:18, 5:20,  
121:2, 121:4, 122:14  
**jump** [1] - 19:14  
**junction** [1] - 69:6  
**June** [5] - 1:14, 2:3,  
120:20, 120:23,  
122:5  
**junior** [1] - 75:14  
**Junior** [9] - 48:25,  
50:20, 61:23, 65:10,  
90:16, 92:1, 95:19,  
102:6, 104:11  
**jurisdiction** [4] -  
43:17, 47:5, 51:11,  
51:16  
**justification** [1] -  
19:10

---

## K

---

**Katahdin** [5] - 41:11,  
41:13, 83:17, 83:18,  
83:19  
**kayak** [1] - 50:6  
**kayaked** [2] - 104:16,  
105:6

**kayaking** [1] - 20:11  
**kayaks** [1] - 20:14  
**keep** [13] - 13:9, 38:5,  
38:21, 53:8, 74:1,  
76:8, 84:12, 85:18,  
90:4, 96:22, 97:17,  
107:5, 119:9  
**keeping** [1] - 17:18  
**keeps** [1] - 83:21  
**Keg** [3] - 49:13, 50:20  
**kept** [3] - 31:4, 58:14,  
81:12  
**Kerr** [2] - 61:20, 65:8  
**KERR** [2] - 63:24, 65:8  
**key** [1] - 15:4  
**Kibby** [3] - 18:13,  
105:5, 120:16  
**kids** [11] - 41:5, 72:22,  
73:4, 73:11, 73:12,  
73:21, 74:2, 74:5,  
103:3, 104:3  
**killed** [1] - 19:7  
**kilowatt** [2] - 4:10,  
97:18  
**kind** [10] - 32:20,  
33:21, 34:7, 34:9,  
36:21, 39:8, 75:22,  
75:23, 76:6, 114:6  
**kindly** [1] - 92:12  
**King** [1] - 109:19  
**king** [3] - 109:23,  
110:16, 111:4  
**Kingfield** [3] - 79:25,  
80:8, 93:18  
**Kings** [1] - 103:5  
**kitchen** [2] - 106:23,  
107:8  
**Kittery** [1] - 69:8  
**knowledge** [1] - 63:8  
**known** [2] - 9:3, 23:8  
**knows** [3] - 22:3,  
24:13, 72:16  
**Knox** [1] - 53:18  
**Koffman** [2] - 14:9,  
14:17  
**KOFFMAN** [1] - 14:12  
**Kossuth** [15] - 1:11,  
3:1, 4:7, 8:2, 8:13,  
11:20, 12:5, 14:16,  
30:6, 34:21, 48:6,  
109:17, 110:13,  
110:16  
**kV** [1] - 4:13

---

## L

---

**lack** [2] - 39:6, 103:11  
**ladies** [1] - 96:9  
**lady** [1] - 88:5  
**laid** [1] - 21:5

**Lake** [66] - 20:2, 20:3,  
20:4, 21:12, 22:22,  
24:4, 24:5, 24:14,  
25:16, 25:20, 29:22,  
29:25, 30:1, 30:3,  
35:21, 35:23, 48:24,  
48:25, 49:13, 49:14,  
49:22, 50:19, 50:20,  
50:22, 50:24, 51:9,  
61:23, 63:1, 63:3,  
64:13, 64:17, 64:19,  
64:22, 65:10, 71:3,  
71:4, 71:21, 72:4,  
73:6, 73:18, 73:22,  
74:12, 74:14, 75:5,  
75:13, 80:12, 80:18,  
88:23, 90:16, 92:1,  
95:19, 101:10,  
103:6, 103:9,  
104:12, 104:21,  
105:22, 106:5,  
106:23, 106:24,  
108:17  
**lake** [27] - 21:13, 23:1,  
24:12, 36:2, 50:5,  
50:7, 50:11, 50:12,  
50:17, 50:19, 51:10,  
58:6, 58:8, 60:17,  
60:22, 63:14, 66:6,  
74:13, 80:3, 80:11,  
84:6, 99:18, 105:4,  
105:7, 114:19  
**lake's** [2] - 20:15, 90:4  
**Lakes** [2] - 74:15,  
81:21  
**lakes** [53] - 10:13,  
10:14, 10:15, 10:18,  
10:24, 11:1, 12:21,  
20:9, 20:12, 20:16,  
20:18, 22:8, 22:23,  
24:4, 32:18, 48:21,  
49:5, 49:24, 50:4,  
51:11, 51:16, 61:10,  
65:17, 65:21, 66:4,  
66:8, 66:20, 66:22,  
67:22, 67:24, 69:2,  
73:22, 73:23, 75:11,  
75:12, 76:1, 76:9,  
80:9, 80:12, 80:16,  
85:19, 89:17, 91:2,  
91:20, 95:13, 99:18,  
101:4, 101:7, 101:8,  
104:4, 113:22  
**Lakeville** [12] - 7:18,  
12:6, 20:2, 20:22,  
21:13, 24:5, 49:11,  
63:25, 65:9, 71:7,  
72:3  
**land** [19] - 4:21, 28:20,  
49:15, 49:16, 51:25,

53:4, 53:7, 53:9,  
56:24, 56:25, 66:5,  
86:15, 86:20, 89:18,  
90:7, 104:14, 106:9,  
113:22, 118:22  
**Land** [3] - 1:2, 3:2,  
74:15  
**land-based** [2] -  
56:24, 56:25  
**land-locked** [1] - 66:5  
**landing** [2] - 63:1,  
103:5  
**landowner** [2] -  
113:15, 118:9  
**landowners** [5] - 85:2,  
86:14, 118:16,  
118:19, 119:2  
**lands** [1] - 49:17  
**landscape** [4] - 80:3,  
100:8, 102:3, 117:19  
**landscapes** [1] -  
98:24  
**LandWorks** [2] -  
10:20, 11:3  
**large** [6] - 15:6, 21:24,  
47:22, 53:10, 54:10,  
119:19  
**larger** [1] - 100:11  
**largest** [4] - 50:4,  
96:12, 96:24, 112:11  
**last** [29] - 18:7, 20:20,  
32:23, 32:24, 34:15,  
38:6, 41:19, 42:8,  
42:18, 45:16, 51:23,  
52:1, 57:20, 61:19,  
66:23, 69:4, 87:22,  
88:20, 92:2, 97:3,  
101:5, 103:16,  
105:3, 105:18,  
111:14, 111:24,  
116:1, 116:24,  
117:13  
**lastly** [2] - 68:12,  
88:16  
**latch** [1] - 87:25  
**latest** [1] - 57:6  
**launch** [6] - 36:2,  
36:6, 36:8, 36:10,  
36:15  
**launches** [1] - 49:18  
**launching** [1] - 91:10  
**LAVERTY** [5] - 3:5,  
78:6, 78:10, 78:17,  
78:22  
**Laverty** [1] - 3:5  
**law** [9] - 28:21, 32:11,  
43:25, 62:17,  
107:11, 107:12,  
107:13, 109:4, 109:9  
**laws** [2] - 89:10, 117:3

**LD-1366** [1] - 19:7  
**lead** [3] - 6:16, 41:2,  
44:18  
**learn** [1] - 115:15  
**learned** [1] - 22:24  
**learning** [2] - 41:4,  
101:15  
**lease** [3] - 36:12,  
36:13  
**least** [12] - 2:7, 28:20,  
28:22, 60:2, 72:9,  
72:17, 72:20, 73:5,  
73:22, 79:20, 111:7,  
113:19  
**leave** [8] - 6:1, 6:2,  
13:6, 19:11, 20:7,  
29:16, 51:1, 79:1  
**leaving** [3] - 17:19,  
44:21, 87:13  
**ledger** [1] - 118:7  
**lee** [1] - 8:12  
**Lee** [4] - 68:10, 68:13,  
74:11, 77:25  
**leen's** [1] - 80:15  
**left** [5] - 3:4, 65:19,  
66:3, 66:22, 83:6  
**legacy** [2] - 95:21,  
117:16  
**legal** [3] - 2:10, 5:5,  
44:5  
**legally** [1] - 41:10  
**legislated** [1] - 81:6  
**legislation** [2] - 18:25,  
54:10  
**Legislature** [8] -  
18:25, 19:11, 28:23,  
32:12, 47:8, 55:5,  
89:5, 89:14  
**Legislature's** [1] -  
14:19  
**length** [1] - 46:11  
**Lenny** [5] - 22:16,  
22:18, 36:19, 37:1,  
37:6  
**Leonard** [2] - 37:1,  
103:5  
**less** [8] - 31:25, 54:22,  
81:19, 84:8, 85:13,  
88:13, 89:24, 103:12  
**lessens** [1] - 93:2  
**letter** [4] - 107:12,  
113:3, 113:8, 113:9  
**letting** [1] - 90:6  
**level** [3] - 45:15,  
45:18, 45:19  
**levels** [2] - 46:13,  
107:4  
**Libya** [1] - 84:19  
**license** [1] - 83:15  
**licensed** [1] - 57:25

**licensing** [1] - 107:17  
**lie** [2] - 84:17, 85:7  
**life** [21] - 11:17, 11:18, 11:21, 23:13, 23:18, 23:19, 24:10, 35:17, 42:16, 42:21, 60:8, 69:10, 71:12, 87:23, 88:1, 88:4, 100:4, 100:5, 100:11, 103:6, 104:17  
**lifestyle** [2] - 64:22, 88:14  
**lifetime** [1] - 31:13  
**lift** [1] - 111:19  
**light** [6] - 51:20, 62:11, 71:14, 89:25, 100:24, 104:21  
**Light** [1] - 54:20  
**lightening** [3] - 28:3, 28:6, 28:8  
**lights** [14] - 24:13, 59:7, 62:9, 62:18, 62:20, 68:1, 71:22, 89:23, 100:14, 100:19, 104:20, 104:24, 106:2, 120:16  
**likely** [1] - 28:9  
**likewise** [1] - 31:18  
**Lillian** [3] - 61:19, 61:21, 63:24  
**limit** [3] - 28:14, 43:24, 105:19  
**limited** [1] - 9:19  
**Lincoln** [27] - 1:20, 2:3, 8:12, 20:22, 29:4, 40:2, 59:17, 66:20, 81:21, 93:20, 93:21, 93:22, 99:17, 100:22, 101:1, 101:4, 102:3, 111:21, 112:21, 113:17, 113:20, 113:21, 114:3, 114:5, 114:16, 115:7, 115:8  
**Lindahl** [2] - 68:10, 68:15  
**LINDAHL** [2] - 68:15, 70:11  
**Line** [1] - 9:3  
**line** [11] - 4:11, 4:12, 4:13, 8:8, 9:2, 14:4, 17:13, 38:22, 82:18, 118:2, 118:6  
**lined** [1] - 97:16  
**lines** [7] - 4:10, 21:2, 22:6, 31:9, 50:16, 83:9, 92:5  
**link** [2] - 45:17, 81:22

**linked** [1] - 81:21  
**list** [10] - 6:24, 7:1, 13:11, 41:17, 61:18, 68:9, 79:12, 92:14, 105:13, 120:5  
**listed** [1] - 37:16  
**listen** [3] - 72:19, 77:25, 85:5  
**listened** [2] - 84:10, 116:17  
**listening** [2] - 74:10, 77:3  
**listing** [2] - 15:15, 25:24  
**listings** [1] - 24:18  
**literally** [1] - 117:25  
**live** [32] - 13:20, 16:24, 20:1, 21:11, 25:21, 29:20, 35:1, 35:14, 35:15, 42:18, 60:15, 60:20, 61:22, 62:25, 63:14, 68:15, 68:16, 71:6, 71:12, 74:12, 74:17, 79:24, 84:1, 85:12, 85:25, 87:10, 91:4, 99:18, 100:21, 104:8, 116:2, 117:16  
**lived** [4] - 23:13, 42:21, 52:19, 87:14  
**lives** [3] - 69:3, 79:1, 87:11  
**living** [11] - 45:7, 53:3, 53:4, 82:23, 82:24, 97:7, 100:22, 101:20, 101:22, 105:24, 105:25  
**Liz** [3] - 22:17, 22:18, 32:22  
**LLC** [4] - 1:8, 2:24, 4:5, 14:16  
**LLCs** [1] - 56:10  
**load** [3] - 54:15, 54:16  
**loam** [1] - 100:11  
**loaning** [1] - 69:21  
**local** [13] - 12:3, 12:14, 18:11, 29:6, 51:22, 57:20, 57:24, 61:8, 75:11, 83:1, 85:11, 110:20, 119:4  
**locally** [1] - 103:8  
**located** [14] - 8:1, 8:4, 8:6, 8:11, 8:14, 9:4, 9:5, 9:6, 10:12, 28:15, 29:10, 106:23, 110:13  
**location** [8] - 22:4, 23:23, 24:2, 24:21, 92:8, 106:22, 108:3, 110:8  
**locked** [1] - 66:5

**lodge** [2] - 59:15, 80:15  
**lodges** [6] - 74:24, 80:16, 97:1, 103:10, 105:23, 106:4  
**log** [1] - 24:7  
**logger** [1] - 27:9  
**logical** [1] - 110:14  
**Lois** [3] - 68:10, 68:13, 71:2  
**lone** [1] - 19:7  
**long-term** [1] - 61:1  
**look** [25] - 2:17, 8:6, 8:21, 12:15, 21:17, 23:1, 26:16, 40:10, 57:17, 58:3, 62:5, 62:12, 69:16, 71:13, 75:4, 77:12, 98:17, 107:10, 107:23, 108:24, 113:21, 114:22, 120:17, 121:8  
**looked** [1] - 47:12  
**looking** [5] - 36:2, 62:10, 68:6, 108:23, 114:5  
**looks** [1] - 113:25  
**looming** [1] - 102:13  
**loon** [1] - 100:18  
**loons** [2] - 66:5, 102:24  
**loop** [5] - 50:6, 50:8, 50:9, 50:15, 50:24  
**lose** [4] - 32:19, 46:4, 75:21, 75:22  
**loss** [3] - 31:2, 32:14  
**losses** [2] - 58:9, 58:10  
**lost** [4] - 18:19, 28:19, 36:12, 100:6  
**Lou** [3] - 61:20, 61:21, 64:12  
**loud** [1] - 35:10  
**louder** [1] - 32:10  
**love** [6] - 20:5, 68:20, 68:21, 71:7, 84:3, 88:4  
**lovers** [2] - 89:20, 95:14  
**loves** [1] - 71:7  
**loving** [2] - 64:20, 97:8  
**low** [8] - 8:1, 11:2, 72:18, 73:3, 73:12, 80:22, 81:4, 97:13  
**lower** [4] - 30:1, 60:17, 60:22, 63:10  
**lowest** [1] - 110:7  
**lulled** [1] - 87:3  
**lumber** [1] - 82:12

**lunch** [2] - 109:20, 110:1  
**LURC** [25] - 2:22, 7:17, 10:10, 10:16, 12:16, 14:21, 22:23, 24:6, 32:7, 47:5, 51:11, 51:16, 70:17, 70:25, 74:7, 91:6, 91:14, 91:24, 92:6, 92:9, 96:4, 106:21, 107:9, 109:5, 115:4  
**LURC's** [2] - 3:22, 44:1  
**lure** [1] - 95:19

---

## M

---

**M.R.S** [1] - 4:19  
**M.R.S.A** [1] - 3:24  
**MacDonald** [2] - 22:17, 26:7  
**MACDONALD** [1] - 26:6  
**machine** [2] - 24:20, 25:12  
**machines** [5] - 8:17, 8:18, 24:11, 25:9, 25:19  
**madam** [1] - 6:15  
**magazine** [3] - 27:9, 29:15, 29:17  
**magic** [1] - 80:17  
**magnets** [1] - 56:4  
**MAHAR** [3] - 111:13, 111:20, 115:2  
**Mahar** [2] - 105:19, 111:20  
**Mahars** [2] - 111:25, 112:3  
**mail** [1] - 90:20  
**Maine** [179] - 1:2, 1:20, 2:3, 3:5, 3:6, 7:25, 9:16, 11:23, 14:13, 14:17, 14:20, 15:3, 15:15, 15:19, 15:20, 16:16, 16:24, 16:25, 17:7, 17:19, 17:25, 18:4, 18:6, 18:10, 18:17, 18:20, 18:25, 19:14, 19:19, 19:21, 20:2, 21:12, 22:9, 23:6, 23:8, 23:9, 23:13, 23:14, 23:17, 23:20, 23:23, 24:11, 24:25, 25:3, 25:7, 25:10, 25:13, 27:3, 27:7, 27:11, 28:7, 28:22, 29:3, 29:21, 30:21, 31:6, 31:20, 31:24, 32:3, 32:6, 32:8, 32:11, 34:1, 34:20, 34:22, 34:23, 41:4, 43:10, 45:2, 46:9, 46:14, 46:20, 47:2, 47:3, 47:11, 47:12, 47:13, 54:24, 56:7, 56:21, 57:5, 57:8, 57:11, 58:4, 58:10, 58:19, 60:10, 60:16, 60:21, 62:17, 62:23, 63:9, 64:8, 64:15, 64:20, 65:9, 65:23, 65:25, 66:1, 66:17, 66:21, 68:19, 69:9, 69:10, 69:24, 70:1, 70:2, 70:3, 71:5, 71:12, 72:3, 78:22, 80:8, 82:7, 82:17, 83:6, 83:14, 84:3, 84:6, 84:9, 84:13, 85:15, 85:19, 86:3, 86:22, 89:2, 89:5, 91:20, 92:19, 93:1, 93:10, 93:13, 93:14, 93:22, 96:12, 96:13, 96:20, 97:6, 97:8, 97:11, 97:25, 98:7, 99:4, 99:8, 100:3, 101:6, 104:9, 105:24, 107:5, 107:16, 107:20, 107:25, 108:4, 108:6, 108:11, 108:22, 109:18, 110:17, 111:1, 111:6, 111:23, 112:2, 112:19, 113:1, 113:20, 115:18, 115:21, 116:3, 116:15, 116:22, 117:12, 117:19, 117:21, 119:9, 120:1, 120:3, 122:5  
**Maine's** [23] - 22:5, 25:9, 25:15, 45:11, 57:15, 60:11, 66:9, 66:12, 66:18, 79:25, 80:1, 80:2, 82:3, 82:11, 96:23, 98:19, 98:20, 98:23, 99:7, 99:9, 110:21, 115:21, 118:1  
**Mainers** [3] - 19:17, 56:17, 82:23  
**maintained** [1] - 73:7  
**maintaining** [2] - 43:17, 61:3  
**maintenance** [5] - 4:14, 29:8, 55:25,

110:19, 118:18  
**major** [3] - 98:3, 110:17, 113:16  
**majority** [4] - 25:17, 47:22, 85:4, 93:10  
**mammoth** [1] - 30:12  
**man** [1] - 70:17  
**manage** [1] - 6:17  
**management** [1] - 49:19  
**manager** [3] - 3:17, 7:12, 109:14  
**manages** [1] - 36:16  
**manner** [1] - 12:12  
**mansion** [1] - 68:1  
**mantra** [1] - 85:6  
**manufacture** [1] - 17:4  
**manufacturer** [1] - 31:7  
**manufacturers** [1] - 55:23  
**map** [5] - 33:17, 33:18, 50:16, 50:17, 51:3  
**March** [3] - 27:15, 52:21, 122:22  
**Marchut** [3] - 41:20, 60:15, 60:20  
**MARCHUT** [2] - 60:15, 60:20  
**Margaret** [1] - 23:7  
**Margie** [3] - 79:13, 84:1, 85:25  
**Marilyn** [3] - 22:17, 22:18, 29:20  
**mark** [5] - 3:17, 3:18, 3:19, 36:21, 70:8  
**market** [1] - 101:21  
**marred** [1] - 21:7  
**marriage** [1] - 23:18  
**Mars** [3] - 18:12, 58:16, 92:23  
**Martha** [4] - 41:20, 41:21, 60:15, 60:20  
**marvelous** [1] - 95:17  
**Massachusetts** [4] - 23:16, 64:14, 64:18, 85:17  
**massive** [2] - 28:15, 58:22  
**master** [1] - 65:23  
**material** [5] - 5:15, 26:11, 27:6, 49:3, 85:14  
**materials** [1] - 91:8  
**mat** [3] - 105:19, 105:20, 116:2  
**Matt** [1] - 119:23  
**mattanawcook** [1] - 99:18  
**matter** [6] - 4:4, 23:5, 65:20, 80:9, 103:22, 117:12  
**matter-of-factly** [1] - 103:22  
**maturation** [1] - 119:20  
**maximize** [1] - 118:20  
**maximum** [1] - 8:18  
**maze** [1] - 89:21  
**MD** [1] - 106:24  
**mean** [17] - 17:12, 17:14, 29:3, 32:22, 34:21, 38:19, 45:17, 50:18, 62:21, 75:2, 78:6, 78:10, 78:24, 86:4, 86:20, 100:22, 101:24  
**meander** [1] - 91:11  
**meaning** [1] - 17:24  
**means** [7] - 17:12, 19:21, 22:15, 67:11, 69:18, 101:12, 109:23  
**meantime** [1] - 90:11  
**measures** [1] - 94:10  
**mechanical** [1] - 28:4  
**Medford** [1] - 3:5  
**media** [1] - 57:1  
**median** [1] - 110:7  
**medium** [1] - 11:3  
**meet** [6] - 68:1, 95:25, 101:10, 118:21, 119:17  
**meeting** [8] - 40:5, 52:22, 52:23, 76:4, 80:20, 108:17, 108:24, 109:5  
**meets** [3] - 4:18, 44:5, 44:19  
**megaliths** [1] - 100:11  
**megawatt** [8] - 4:5, 8:17, 8:18, 30:11, 30:12, 30:14, 80:25, 81:25  
**megawatts** [2] - 18:4, 73:25  
**MEMBER** [1] - 105:16  
**member** [2] - 74:13, 89:7  
**members** [9] - 3:1, 6:25, 14:14, 17:3, 43:11, 53:17, 78:13, 88:1, 116:6  
**mention** [1] - 51:17  
**mentioned** [2] - 69:15, 116:7  
**mere** [1] - 24:21  
**met** [2] - 101:11, 101:16  
**metals** [1] - 56:4  
**meteorological** [1] - 4:15  
**meter** [1] - 45:21  
**meters** [2] - 9:10, 15:21  
**Mexico** [1] - 75:3  
**mic** [3] - 14:8, 60:19, 111:19  
**Michael** [1] - 65:8  
**microphone** [1] - 14:4  
**middle** [4] - 13:24, 68:17, 72:4, 88:17  
**midst** [1] - 32:7  
**Midwest** [1] - 32:4  
**might** [6] - 42:7, 71:25, 72:1, 81:23, 86:24, 88:13  
**migrate** [1] - 23:10  
**migration** [1] - 15:9  
**migratory** [1] - 15:17  
**Mike** [5] - 61:20, 61:21, 92:16, 92:17, 99:17  
**mile** [1] - 24:21  
**miles** [23] - 4:11, 8:5, 8:7, 10:12, 10:13, 10:15, 10:18, 40:20, 42:19, 47:23, 47:24, 48:1, 48:3, 49:6, 49:8, 49:9, 49:10, 84:9, 91:18, 95:21, 106:7, 107:3, 110:6  
**military** [1] - 84:20  
**mill** [1] - 29:4  
**Millinocket** [1] - 70:8  
**million** [17] - 18:5, 18:10, 51:21, 51:24, 58:20, 58:21, 73:24, 73:25, 76:16, 82:22, 93:11, 97:5, 109:7, 110:24, 110:25  
**millions** [6] - 57:8, 58:17, 63:17, 71:16, 82:18, 91:17  
**MILLS** [7] - 3:10, 36:25, 37:4, 37:11, 37:14, 37:20, 38:7  
**mills** [2] - 3:10, 103:5  
**Milton** [3] - 61:19, 61:21, 62:25  
**mind** [6] - 45:8, 66:2, 74:1, 76:5, 79:2, 97:17  
**mindful** [1] - 86:3  
**mine** [3] - 38:2, 95:25, 114:15  
**minimal** [1] - 91:2  
**minimize** [1] - 94:4  
**minimum** [1] - 11:10  
**mining** [1] - 56:2  
**minority** [1] - 25:18  
**minutes** [10] - 7:14, 7:19, 12:24, 13:8, 29:11, 40:6, 76:4, 79:8, 79:9, 102:12  
**misrepresentation** [1] - 57:9  
**misrepresented** [1] - 57:14  
**Mississippi** [1] - 62:8  
**mistakes** [1] - 115:16  
**MIT** [1] - 60:2  
**mitigation** [1] - 46:15  
**mix** [1] - 81:10  
**models** [2] - 59:24, 60:2  
**moment** [2] - 80:4, 84:16  
**moments** [1] - 103:20  
**Monday** [6] - 1:14, 2:3, 5:18, 5:20, 121:2, 121:4  
**money** [23] - 22:2, 39:7, 39:25, 40:12, 42:11, 51:22, 52:3, 55:3, 58:23, 59:11, 62:15, 64:10, 69:18, 69:21, 69:22, 76:5, 76:6, 76:7, 83:8, 84:4, 84:25, 86:8, 106:10  
**Monhegan** [1] - 108:1  
**moniker** [1] - 32:19  
**monks** [2] - 101:11, 101:14  
**monolith** [1] - 102:13  
**month** [6] - 20:7, 27:8, 45:13, 57:20, 67:18, 110:23  
**monthly** [1] - 82:25  
**months** [2] - 96:22, 112:4  
**monuments** [1] - 56:11  
**moon** [1] - 63:20  
**Moore** [2] - 61:19, 61:22  
**MOORE** [1] - 61:22  
**moose** [1] - 102:24  
**moratorium** [1] - 28:24  
**morning** [2] - 12:20, 120:20  
**mortality** [2] - 15:18, 15:23  
**most** [27] - 12:12, 17:17, 26:25, 27:6, 32:12, 33:9, 34:22, 35:6, 39:6, 45:9, 46:19, 47:18, 48:25, 50:13, 52:12, 54:2, 54:8, 61:23, 67:5, 71:11, 76:23, 77:22, 96:12, 97:24, 99:7, 100:24, 102:18  
**mostly** [2] - 72:22, 93:13  
**mothers** [1] - 65:11  
**motor** [1] - 50:13  
**motors** [1] - 84:11  
**mountain** [10] - 24:12, 24:20, 47:11, 50:7, 58:13, 59:15, 62:12, 69:14, 71:9, 80:2  
**Mountain** [12] - 1:9, 2:24, 30:6, 42:21, 61:14, 61:16, 65:14, 68:18, 68:22, 68:25, 89:16, 122:6  
**mountains** [12] - 25:15, 30:15, 39:12, 58:2, 79:25, 80:1, 84:6, 85:19, 87:21, 89:5, 105:8, 109:2  
**mountaintop** [1] - 97:15  
**mountaintops** [1] - 87:6  
**mouthpiece** [1] - 92:4  
**move** [5] - 26:4, 68:3, 79:11, 82:7, 87:13  
**moved** [2] - 70:23, 107:5  
**moving** [5] - 62:20, 64:19, 77:14, 94:10, 106:25  
**MR** [58] - 3:5, 3:6, 3:11, 3:13, 6:15, 14:12, 16:23, 21:11, 22:15, 22:20, 26:6, 36:19, 36:23, 37:1, 37:5, 37:6, 37:10, 37:13, 37:16, 37:21, 37:24, 38:2, 38:3, 38:4, 38:11, 38:17, 38:20, 39:1, 39:3, 53:16, 56:19, 56:20, 60:1, 61:22, 62:25, 64:12, 65:8, 67:2, 68:15, 70:11, 71:25, 74:11, 78:6, 78:10, 78:17, 78:22, 85:24, 88:22, 90:15, 92:18, 95:6, 99:17, 103:14, 106:6, 111:13, 111:20, 116:1, 120:2  
**MREA** [1] - 16:25  
**MS** [113] - 2:6, 2:16, 3:7, 3:9, 3:10, 3:15, 6:10, 7:11, 12:17,

13:23, 16:21, 19:25, 20:1, 22:12, 22:13, 22:16, 26:1, 29:20, 32:20, 34:15, 34:16, 34:17, 34:19, 35:19, 35:20, 35:21, 35:22, 35:23, 35:24, 35:25, 36:4, 36:5, 36:10, 36:15, 36:16, 36:17, 36:18, 36:22, 36:25, 37:4, 37:11, 37:14, 37:20, 38:7, 38:16, 38:18, 38:23, 41:15, 41:16, 41:22, 43:8, 50:25, 51:3, 52:13, 52:16, 52:17, 52:18, 53:15, 59:25, 60:15, 60:18, 60:20, 61:18, 62:24, 63:24, 65:7, 67:1, 68:8, 68:9, 70:10, 71:2, 76:19, 76:20, 78:8, 78:16, 78:20, 79:4, 79:11, 79:17, 79:23, 83:25, 84:1, 92:13, 92:14, 95:5, 96:9, 98:21, 98:23, 99:16, 103:13, 104:7, 104:8, 105:12, 105:13, 105:17, 105:21, 106:19, 109:11, 109:12, 111:18, 115:1, 115:25, 119:22, 119:23, 120:4, 120:7, 120:8, 120:9, 120:10, 120:12, 120:13, 120:14, 120:18  
**Mt** [2] - 41:11, 41:13  
**multi** [3] - 50:2, 50:6, 118:6  
**multi-day** [2] - 50:2, 50:6  
**multi-generational** [1] - 118:6  
**multibillion** [1] - 82:16  
**multimillion** [1] - 82:15  
**multiple** [1] - 61:10  
**MURPHY** [15] - 36:19, 36:23, 37:1, 37:5, 37:10, 37:13, 37:16, 37:21, 38:2, 38:4, 38:11, 38:17, 38:20, 39:1, 39:3  
**Murphy** [4] - 22:16, 36:19, 37:1, 37:2  
**musquash** [1] - 103:16

**must** [9] - 5:1, 5:13, 19:10, 45:8, 46:6, 46:21, 89:21, 91:11, 111:23  
**myhill** [1] - 31:11  
**Myhill** [1] - 31:12

---

## N

---

**N.S** [1] - 93:19  
**NADEAU** [2] - 3:13, 56:19  
**Nadeau** [1] - 3:13  
**name** [56] - 2:21, 3:7, 5:3, 6:15, 13:19, 13:25, 14:3, 14:7, 16:23, 20:1, 21:11, 22:13, 22:20, 23:7, 26:6, 29:20, 34:15, 34:19, 41:19, 43:8, 52:18, 53:17, 60:15, 60:20, 61:19, 61:22, 62:25, 63:24, 64:12, 65:8, 67:2, 68:15, 71:2, 72:2, 74:11, 75:3, 76:20, 79:24, 84:1, 85:24, 88:22, 90:15, 91:22, 92:18, 95:6, 99:17, 101:13, 104:8, 106:19, 109:12, 111:18, 111:20, 111:24, 114:4, 116:2, 120:14  
**named** [2] - 101:12, 122:12  
**names** [10] - 6:1, 13:11, 41:17, 61:18, 68:9, 79:6, 79:12, 92:14, 105:13, 120:4  
**Nan** [2] - 105:17, 105:20  
**Nancy** [5] - 92:16, 92:17, 96:10, 98:21, 106:19  
**Naples** [1] - 3:6  
**nation** [2] - 76:24, 99:3  
**national** [6] - 27:9, 29:15, 39:16, 45:14, 52:5, 101:9  
**nationally** [1] - 29:14  
**nations** [1] - 84:18  
**natural** [22] - 11:25, 14:19, 15:5, 17:10, 22:10, 24:1, 25:8, 25:9, 31:4, 43:9, 46:11, 71:20, 71:23, 87:22, 90:4, 91:2, 91:8, 95:13, 95:23, 100:2, 100:18,

112:16  
**nature** [7] - 5:4, 89:20, 95:14, 95:25, 103:4, 106:1, 117:10  
**near** [5] - 28:22, 45:19, 59:2, 80:9, 97:7  
**nearby** [1] - 14:24  
**nearest** [2] - 10:9, 10:10  
**nearly** [1] - 47:23  
**necessarily** [2] - 11:1, 89:4  
**necessary** [2] - 84:12, 115:4  
**neck** [1] - 32:2  
**need** [24] - 4:24, 13:10, 41:8, 42:8, 42:12, 42:25, 43:6, 46:24, 48:18, 60:6, 68:5, 77:11, 79:5, 84:5, 84:13, 84:24, 85:14, 85:18, 88:7, 99:6, 104:9, 109:2, 109:8  
**needed** [5] - 31:4, 85:5, 85:12, 103:15, 110:21  
**needs** [11] - 11:7, 12:3, 27:24, 29:4, 40:7, 42:13, 46:25, 55:2, 68:5, 103:7  
**needy** [1] - 87:7  
**negative** [2] - 45:9, 114:8  
**negatively** [4] - 61:6, 62:1, 89:19, 90:7  
**neighbor** [1] - 68:22  
**neighbors** [2] - 90:8, 119:3  
**nervous** [1] - 72:1  
**nesting** [1] - 98:25  
**neutral** [1] - 64:1  
**never** [9] - 24:10, 42:3, 42:10, 42:16, 54:7, 67:10, 67:25, 71:17, 109:7  
**new** [20] - 4:9, 4:12, 17:18, 39:8, 40:1, 46:16, 46:18, 54:8, 55:9, 57:17, 59:24, 60:1, 66:20, 75:2, 76:14, 86:12, 97:13, 110:13, 110:15, 117:18  
**New** [16] - 9:16, 22:21, 31:18, 53:21, 57:21, 71:6, 71:13, 71:18, 81:5, 81:19, 82:8, 82:9, 83:12, 83:13,

96:16, 112:1  
**newer** [1] - 27:21  
**news** [1] - 34:4  
**newspaper** [1] - 57:19  
**next** [14] - 14:3, 22:13, 23:6, 24:20, 40:18, 41:16, 61:18, 68:9, 79:6, 79:7, 79:12, 92:14, 105:13, 108:23  
**nice** [2] - 58:14, 113:3  
**nick** [4] - 103:17, 103:19, 103:25, 104:5  
**night** [15] - 13:16, 21:2, 22:6, 24:13, 30:19, 62:8, 62:9, 65:1, 68:1, 71:22, 89:22, 100:13, 100:18, 100:24, 106:3  
**nights** [2] - 21:5, 117:15  
**nighttime** [1] - 71:11  
**nil** [3] - 17:25, 40:17, 40:18  
**nine** [5] - 48:3, 48:21, 49:5, 49:24, 59:4  
**ninth** [2] - 49:4  
**nobody** [1] - 22:2  
**noise** [1] - 59:6  
**non** [2] - 46:16, 87:3  
**non-emitting** [1] - 46:16  
**non-questioning** [1] - 87:3  
**nonbinding** [1] - 52:21  
**nonelectric** [1] - 84:2  
**nonresidents** [1] - 43:3  
**north** [13] - 9:1, 9:5, 23:22, 35:1, 35:7, 35:24, 43:9, 73:1, 93:15, 100:1, 100:21, 106:7, 117:24  
**northeast** [3] - 15:14, 16:6, 72:16  
**northern** [7] - 27:9, 48:24, 50:4, 57:21, 92:22, 112:19, 116:21  
**northwest** [1] - 26:13  
**nose** [1] - 15:20  
**NOTARY** [1] - 122:18  
**Notary** [2] - 2:2, 122:4  
**note** [2] - 76:17, 83:8  
**noted** [1] - 28:1  
**notes** [1] - 71:25

**nothing** [5] - 6:7, 38:25, 42:14, 68:3, 84:15  
**notice** [4] - 27:20, 37:6, 67:23, 90:20  
**notified** [2] - 5:24, 94:20  
**notion** [1] - 88:12  
**NRCM** [3] - 43:21, 48:5, 76:13  
**NRCM's** [1] - 43:11  
**nuclear** [3] - 46:18, 63:15, 81:1  
**nuisance** [1] - 58:5  
**number** [14] - 12:21, 20:25, 57:18, 58:17, 60:11, 60:22, 63:2, 66:9, 66:13, 76:15, 78:2, 96:14, 97:21, 108:9  
**numbers** [4] - 66:15, 74:3, 97:5

---

## O

---

**o'clock** [1] - 12:19  
**objective** [2] - 54:5, 61:14  
**objectives** [1] - 92:9  
**objects** [1] - 86:11  
**obligated** [1] - 94:17  
**obnoxious** [1] - 111:8  
**observable** [1] - 91:3  
**obsolescent** [1] - 80:23  
**obsolete** [1] - 98:19  
**obtaining** [1] - 16:19  
**obvious** [3] - 103:23, 106:8, 119:24  
**obviously** [1] - 50:18  
**occasional** [1] - 102:24  
**occurred** [2] - 26:22, 28:16  
**occurring** [1] - 18:19  
**ocean** [2] - 46:18, 96:20  
**offensive** [1] - 92:5  
**offer** [2] - 38:8, 58:8  
**offered** [1] - 97:17  
**offers** [4] - 17:25, 19:14, 58:13, 77:8  
**office** [3] - 3:10, 7:19, 42:12  
**officer** [2] - 2:22, 53:16  
**offices** [1] - 7:17  
**officials** [1] - 59:15  
**offs** [1] - 110:4  
**often** [1] - 56:11

oil [21] - 19:22, 25:5, 31:25, 32:1, 45:6, 46:22, 55:20, 81:1, 81:11, 84:15, 84:17, 84:20, 86:14, 88:18, 88:19, 88:20, 88:21, 93:2, 109:22

old [11] - 42:22, 56:17, 56:22, 72:5, 86:12, 90:19, 93:16, 102:5, 103:8, 103:9, 116:2

older [1] - 27:22

oldsters [1] - 86:21

Olsen [1] - 3:17

on-demand [1] - 54:12

once [8] - 17:24, 23:8, 39:7, 59:7, 88:3, 94:25, 97:12, 101:12

One [1] - 101:12

one [91] - 6:17, 7:17, 9:25, 13:16, 14:23, 15:21, 15:22, 17:20, 17:21, 19:4, 20:13, 20:15, 21:8, 22:7, 26:12, 28:20, 30:15, 31:13, 33:3, 33:6, 33:16, 34:7, 34:19, 35:6, 40:9, 43:18, 43:23, 45:9, 46:19, 47:5, 47:14, 48:23, 49:2, 49:5, 49:7, 49:12, 50:4, 50:9, 50:10, 54:19, 55:15, 57:13, 58:1, 58:14, 58:17, 59:1, 59:14, 60:1, 60:11, 62:7, 62:8, 62:11, 63:25, 64:9, 64:25, 66:9, 66:13, 66:19, 67:21, 72:9, 72:23, 72:25, 73:6, 74:19, 75:16, 76:15, 76:23, 78:2, 81:22, 82:15, 82:21, 83:16, 87:22, 97:24, 99:3, 102:19, 103:2, 103:14, 108:18, 110:2, 111:8, 111:14, 111:25, 112:8, 113:19, 114:10, 114:14, 116:1

one's [2] - 87:19, 100:20

one-third [1] - 47:5

ones [2] - 27:22, 41:2

ongoing [3] - 97:23, 109:4, 118:25

online [1] - 7:17

onslaught [1] - 22:5

open [6] - 5:17, 13:16, 58:3, 58:14, 113:13, 121:1

opened [2] - 33:11, 96:14

opening [1] - 2:20

operate [1] - 111:9

operates [1] - 7:24

operating [1] - 18:18

operation [2] - 16:14, 110:19

operations [3] - 4:13, 56:3, 94:10

operators [1] - 34:20

opinion [4] - 23:5, 48:15, 49:23, 89:12

opportunities [2] - 11:25, 50:6

opportunity [12] - 14:3, 14:13, 17:9, 17:15, 22:25, 23:4, 29:13, 42:24, 53:13, 60:13, 79:23, 99:22

oppose [6] - 15:3, 32:10, 63:20, 63:22, 71:9, 105:22

opposed [7] - 31:20, 53:2, 61:24, 65:2, 70:4, 76:11, 107:4

opposing [4] - 48:13, 56:25, 57:21, 63:5

opposite [1] - 56:23

opposition [1] - 30:6

option [2] - 28:23, 110:3

order [3] - 2:7, 89:11, 91:19

ore [1] - 56:3

Oregon [1] - 71:20

organization [4] - 70:6, 80:2, 115:13, 115:17

organizations [1] - 31:19

original [1] - 100:10

originally [1] - 64:14

Orono [3] - 61:22, 73:1, 93:16

otherwise [1] - 15:9

ourselves [6] - 2:21, 28:2, 35:15, 87:25, 88:20, 119:12

outbuildings [1] - 70:20

outcome [1] - 122:12

undated [1] - 83:2

outdoor [3] - 33:24, 116:20, 117:10

outdoors [1] - 102:23

output [3] - 55:14, 55:16, 81:18

outside [2] - 2:11, 23:14

outstanding [8] - 10:17, 49:2, 49:5, 49:7, 49:25, 51:10, 51:12, 51:15

outweigh [1] - 44:22

overall [3] - 9:19, 12:12, 31:6

overdependent [1] - 45:3

overlooking [1] - 29:25

overlooks [1] - 21:14

overnight [1] - 20:14

overpowered [1] - 59:8

overproduction [1] - 31:3

overseas [1] - 75:3

overshadowing [1] - 65:16

oversight [1] - 16:3

overstated [1] - 112:24

overview [2] - 7:15, 7:20

Owl [1] - 30:14

own [16] - 20:6, 21:12, 22:22, 29:21, 34:1, 37:2, 55:16, 60:16, 60:21, 82:12, 87:19, 87:23, 89:1, 90:15, 99:20, 104:11

owned [4] - 34:21, 36:7, 49:21

owner [1] - 89:23

owners [2] - 34:20, 52:11

ownership [3] - 36:8, 118:1, 118:4

owns [2] - 36:15, 69:25

---

**P**

---

p.m [7] - 2:4, 2:14, 2:15, 79:15, 79:16, 120:24, 121:10

pace [2] - 100:4, 103:11

package [1] - 53:11

packet [1] - 110:22

packets [1] - 27:6

paddle [2] - 102:23, 103:8

paddler's [1] - 50:12

paddling [1] - 50:2

pads [1] - 16:13

pages [2] - 6:25, 39:4

paid [1] - 93:11

painful [1] - 77:7

paint [1] - 89:24

Palmer [4] - 3:21, 44:8, 49:23, 50:1

panel [1] - 46:2

paper [1] - 66:10

paragraph [2] - 60:1, 103:14

pardon [1] - 38:3

parents [4] - 104:11, 104:14, 104:17, 105:1

parks [1] - 49:17

part [20] - 2:10, 34:5, 38:19, 43:23, 48:25, 50:23, 70:5, 71:12, 80:17, 80:24, 81:10, 82:8, 83:14, 92:22, 109:24, 110:13, 111:5, 111:21, 117:16

part-time [1] - 111:21

PARTICIPANTS [1] - 6:9

participated [2] - 16:15, 89:9

particular [2] - 116:10, 119:20

particularly [2] - 2:9, 11:9

parties [2] - 37:15, 82:4

parting [1] - 115:22

partnerships [1] - 118:15

parts [5] - 28:4, 40:16, 57:2, 60:5, 83:8

party [3] - 13:14, 16:2, 94:17

pass [3] - 39:5, 82:5, 101:2

passed [2] - 32:11, 62:17

passengers [1] - 96:15

past [2] - 110:18, 110:23

Pat [3] - 92:15, 92:16, 92:18

path [2] - 91:10, 118:13

patience [2] - 99:23, 116:4

pause [1] - 28:25

pay [10] - 28:13, 29:6, 29:7, 29:8, 53:8, 70:20, 70:23, 82:10, 94:18, 109:8

paycheck [1] - 86:10

payer [2] - 55:3, 82:13

paying [3] - 69:17, 98:4

payment [1] - 11:12

Payne [2] - 14:9, 16:23

PAYNE [1] - 16:23

pays [1] - 70:15

peace [1] - 34:24

peaceful [4] - 20:8, 23:23, 62:19, 101:19

peak [3] - 18:14, 54:15, 93:8

pending [2] - 15:14, 21:6

Penobscot [3] - 1:10, 2:25, 4:6

people [75] - 12:3, 12:23, 13:23, 14:2, 14:3, 21:4, 21:23, 25:21, 32:6, 33:22, 35:5, 35:8, 42:2, 42:25, 52:11, 53:2, 53:3, 58:10, 58:19, 60:10, 60:13, 62:3, 63:4, 63:8, 63:10, 63:13, 63:19, 63:22, 65:24, 67:9, 67:17, 67:22, 68:2, 69:2, 69:15, 73:17, 75:2, 75:12, 75:22, 77:3, 77:5, 78:18, 79:18, 80:7, 84:24, 85:4, 87:18, 88:14, 89:21, 90:6, 90:21, 91:16, 93:9, 93:10, 94:18, 94:20, 96:12, 97:6, 97:21, 101:23, 102:1, 102:16, 102:20, 105:23, 108:16, 110:1, 111:16, 114:4, 114:11, 114:14, 114:19, 115:21, 116:18, 117:15

people's [3] - 39:8, 79:2, 86:18

per [7] - 9:10, 11:11, 15:21, 81:25, 84:9, 93:7

percent [20] - 19:18, 30:16, 31:15, 31:25, 46:4, 55:11, 55:14, 55:15, 55:17, 56:17, 56:21, 56:24, 58:9, 63:19, 82:5, 82:6, 84:17, 84:22, 97:10

percentage [1] - 109:5

percentages [1] - 66:16

perfect [1] - 83:13

**performance** [1] - 30:13  
**perhaps** [4] - 17:17, 21:15, 38:9, 87:24  
**period** [3] - 12:7, 18:16, 26:14  
**periods** [1] - 18:14  
**permanent** [6] - 4:14, 9:6, 11:13, 61:7, 67:11, 93:24  
**permanently** [2] - 31:1, 61:25  
**Permit** [2] - 1:7, 122:6  
**permit** [6] - 2:23, 4:4, 14:15, 24:7, 70:16, 119:17  
**permits** [2] - 83:9, 117:7  
**permitting** [2] - 7:13, 47:8  
**perrow** [1] - 3:19  
**person** [11] - 6:16, 26:8, 37:7, 37:8, 68:11, 69:3, 88:24, 93:6, 94:13, 95:21, 122:11  
**personal** [2] - 34:1, 82:1  
**personally** [1] - 58:11  
**personnel** [1] - 28:18  
**persons** [1] - 5:24  
**perspective** [1] - 78:17  
**petition** [3] - 48:6, 48:8, 48:18  
**phases** [1] - 14:24  
**philosophical** [1] - 107:11  
**philosophy** [1] - 107:9  
**phones** [1] - 86:24  
**photos** [1] - 59:2  
**phrase** [1] - 65:11  
**pick** [4] - 29:18, 77:13, 101:6, 108:3  
**picked** [2] - 94:20, 104:16  
**picking** [1] - 86:10  
**picture** [9] - 21:16, 83:16, 83:17, 99:6, 100:15, 113:22, 113:23, 113:25, 114:1  
**pictures** [2] - 100:12, 100:17  
**picturing** [1] - 21:16  
**piece** [3] - 23:23, 92:2, 101:23  
**pieces** [1] - 18:25  
**pig** [1] - 115:8  
**pilot** [1] - 108:1  
**place** [32] - 20:5, 20:8, 23:9, 29:19, 30:11, 33:14, 60:8, 64:17, 65:10, 65:17, 66:3, 66:23, 67:9, 68:20, 77:22, 78:2, 80:17, 89:11, 90:3, 91:14, 94:10, 95:16, 96:1, 96:20, 98:20, 98:25, 99:10, 99:13, 101:5, 112:2, 114:1, 115:7  
**placed** [4] - 4:23, 30:5, 89:4, 100:1  
**placement** [1] - 28:21  
**places** [5] - 65:19, 74:19, 89:5, 111:24, 114:21  
**plan** [18] - 6:5, 23:25, 24:19, 24:22, 24:24, 25:2, 25:6, 25:7, 49:19, 56:14, 59:19, 59:21, 83:21, 89:10, 94:6, 96:4, 96:6, 119:1  
**plane** [1] - 100:23  
**planes** [1] - 28:17  
**planet** [2] - 87:24, 88:3  
**planner** [1] - 3:16  
**planning** [4] - 3:17, 53:19, 53:22, 89:7  
**plans** [1] - 89:10  
**Plantation** [13] - 1:10, 2:25, 4:6, 8:2, 8:13, 11:16, 14:16, 41:23, 52:19, 67:3, 68:5, 68:16  
**plantation** [5] - 3:14, 48:7, 52:23, 53:1, 53:7  
**planting** [1] - 101:1  
**plants** [4] - 25:5, 84:12, 98:25, 106:13  
**plate** [1] - 83:15  
**plates** [1] - 57:18  
**play** [2] - 15:16, 46:12  
**pleas** [1] - 21:8  
**Pleasant** [4] - 35:21, 35:23, 50:21, 51:9  
**pleased** [1] - 64:5  
**pledge** [1] - 119:2  
**plight** [1] - 59:18  
**plots** [1] - 119:4  
**plus** [4] - 18:7, 70:21, 82:6  
**pocket** [1] - 69:19  
**pockets** [1] - 82:1  
**Pocumcus** [1] - 103:2  
**point** [10] - 6:22, 7:9, 23:19, 24:8, 39:16, 48:16, 102:17, 106:23, 107:8  
**points** [2] - 96:16, 117:4  
**poles** [1] - 9:22  
**policies** [4] - 19:6, 46:7, 80:5, 89:12  
**political** [1] - 89:15  
**politicians** [2] - 86:11  
**polls** [2] - 19:17, 57:6  
**polluting** [1] - 41:3  
**pollution** [5] - 46:10, 46:13, 46:15, 71:15, 94:6  
**Pond** [2] - 102:4, 111:21  
**pond** [5] - 58:13, 59:2, 100:17, 102:9, 114:17  
**pool** [2] - 9:24, 9:25  
**pools** [2] - 47:16, 98:25  
**poor** [3] - 30:13, 56:14, 77:8  
**popular** [2] - 35:7, 97:25  
**populated** [2] - 71:13, 76:23  
**population** [2] - 84:22, 116:21  
**populations** [1] - 15:13  
**porch** [1] - 21:14  
**portage** [3] - 49:15, 50:21, 50:22  
**portfolio** [2] - 17:21, 81:6  
**portion** [2] - 33:25, 50:4  
**pose** [1] - 27:4  
**position** [1] - 80:21  
**positions** [2] - 11:13, 53:23  
**positive** [2] - 35:9, 91:15  
**positively** [1] - 19:16  
**possible** [6] - 53:11, 57:7, 86:6, 87:10, 88:16, 103:9  
**possibly** [4] - 40:4, 57:12, 72:10, 72:16  
**post** [3] - 9:15, 16:3, 115:13  
**post-construction** [2] - 9:15, 16:3  
**posterity** [1] - 96:2  
**posters** [1] - 2:8  
**Potemkin** [1] - 90:11  
**potential** [9] - 10:23, 15:2, 15:12, 47:15, 47:19, 49:18, 61:5, 108:25, 110:9  
**pots** [1] - 63:13  
**Poverty** [1] - 88:5  
**power** [62] - 2:25, 8:25, 16:11, 16:16, 16:20, 17:1, 17:4, 17:7, 17:11, 18:4, 19:21, 25:5, 43:25, 45:2, 45:3, 46:9, 46:12, 46:19, 47:2, 47:3, 47:6, 47:7, 47:12, 54:4, 54:16, 54:21, 55:11, 55:19, 55:22, 56:2, 56:17, 57:3, 61:2, 61:9, 63:14, 63:15, 70:1, 70:3, 81:5, 81:7, 82:7, 82:11, 82:13, 84:12, 84:13, 85:12, 92:25, 97:15, 97:18, 106:13, 107:21, 107:22, 108:1, 108:25, 109:8, 110:2, 110:10, 110:11, 113:1, 117:18, 117:19  
**Power** [1] - 54:20  
**powers** [3] - 39:12, 85:21, 96:6  
**Prabode** [1] - 101:12  
**practical** [3] - 63:8, 114:24, 118:2  
**practices** [1] - 117:25  
**prairie** [1] - 30:22  
**pre** [2] - 9:15, 10:4  
**pre-conduct** [1] - 10:4  
**pre-construction** [1] - 9:15  
**preceded** [1] - 115:15  
**precious** [2] - 21:1, 22:10  
**predators** [1] - 101:7  
**predictable** [2] - 18:9, 54:11  
**predicted** [1] - 100:12  
**preferable** [2] - 48:1, 118:24  
**premium** [2] - 110:7, 119:19  
**prepared** [1] - 38:8  
**PRESCOTT** [1] - 7:11  
**Prescott** [1] - 7:11  
**present** [3] - 4:17, 14:25, 84:16  
**presentation** [4] - 7:10, 58:25, 59:1, 76:3  
**presented** [1] - 54:24  
**presently** [1] - 53:21  
**preservation** [2] - 22:23, 80:1  
**preserve** [4] - 71:23, 78:2, 98:20, 98:23  
**preserving** [1] - 80:2  
**presiding** [2] - 2:22, 53:16  
**Presque** [1] - 55:16  
**prestigious** [1] - 27:8  
**pretty** [6] - 33:7, 75:5, 101:25, 110:7, 114:20, 118:15  
**prevail** [1] - 109:9  
**prevent** [1] - 96:6  
**prevention** [1] - 94:6  
**previous** [1] - 56:15  
**previously** [1] - 89:17  
**prices** [2] - 17:21, 114:9  
**primarily** [2] - 9:21, 46:10  
**primary** [1] - 118:18  
**prime** [1] - 98:16  
**primitive** [1] - 20:15  
**Princeton** [6] - 23:11, 24:3, 60:3, 107:17, 108:14, 108:15  
**principle** [2] - 109:20, 109:25  
**print** [1] - 27:8  
**pristine** [11] - 30:12, 32:18, 64:21, 65:20, 68:2, 75:9, 76:9, 86:22, 86:25, 95:15, 106:1  
**private** [3] - 51:21, 81:24, 96:20  
**privately** [1] - 36:7  
**privilege** [1] - 95:22  
**pro** [3] - 101:2, 102:8, 102:19  
**pro-wind** [2] - 101:2, 102:8  
**pro-winders** [1] - 102:19  
**problem** [1] - 118:2  
**problems** [3] - 26:19, 55:2, 74:20  
**procedures** [1] - 4:1  
**proceeding** [2] - 2:11, 6:23  
**proceedings** [1] - 5:8  
**process** [4] - 7:14, 38:19, 101:14, 107:16  
**processes** [1] - 56:5  
**procure** [1] - 102:21  
**produce** [2] - 81:15, 118:8  
**produced** [3] - 30:17,

55:15, 80:24  
**producers** [2] - 17:1, 17:2  
**produces** [2] - 82:21  
**producing** [1] - 81:13  
**production** [1] - 87:7  
**profession** [2] - 23:15  
**professional** [1] - 5:3  
**professionals** [1] - 78:24  
**professor** [1] - 113:13  
**profit** [1] - 17:1  
**profiting** [2] - 118:10, 118:11  
**profits** [2] - 21:22, 97:20  
**program** [1] - 108:5  
**progress** [5] - 19:10, 42:24, 88:13, 97:16, 98:6  
**progresses** [1] - 94:11  
**Project** [2] - 1:9, 14:15  
**project** [134] - 2:19, 2:25, 3:16, 6:12, 6:14, 6:17, 7:12, 7:15, 7:20, 7:21, 7:22, 8:1, 8:4, 8:6, 8:7, 8:14, 8:20, 8:23, 9:3, 9:4, 9:7, 9:9, 9:18, 9:25, 10:1, 10:5, 10:12, 10:14, 10:15, 10:19, 10:23, 10:25, 11:7, 11:14, 11:17, 11:19, 11:21, 12:9, 12:11, 12:12, 14:20, 14:23, 14:24, 15:4, 16:19, 17:6, 17:24, 19:14, 21:6, 21:10, 22:3, 34:9, 35:18, 40:11, 41:5, 43:5, 43:9, 43:12, 43:14, 43:15, 44:3, 44:5, 44:6, 44:18, 47:9, 48:3, 48:7, 48:9, 48:10, 48:12, 48:14, 51:18, 59:2, 59:20, 61:14, 61:16, 61:24, 63:4, 63:9, 63:18, 65:2, 65:14, 68:5, 70:10, 71:9, 75:24, 76:11, 76:14, 76:15, 76:17, 80:6, 81:21, 83:18, 83:22, 87:16, 88:9, 89:19, 90:14, 91:25, 92:11, 92:23, 92:24, 93:4, 93:5, 93:9, 93:12, 93:23, 94:9, 94:13, 94:18, 98:5, 101:6, 104:1, 104:4,

104:13, 105:5, 105:11, 105:22, 106:4, 107:4, 108:1, 110:13, 112:22, 113:17, 113:23, 115:9, 115:12, 115:14, 116:10, 119:1, 119:20  
**projected** [1] - 45:19  
**projections** [1] - 45:20  
**projects** [34] - 7:25, 17:11, 17:12, 18:12, 18:14, 18:18, 20:21, 21:22, 26:8, 29:1, 33:1, 40:14, 51:22, 57:17, 57:22, 76:7, 92:22, 94:2, 94:3, 94:5, 94:25, 97:22, 110:12, 112:12, 112:17, 112:18, 112:23, 113:7, 115:6, 115:15, 115:19, 116:24, 117:23, 119:16  
**promise** [1] - 57:7  
**promised** [1] - 97:12  
**promontories** [1] - 30:13  
**promoted** [2] - 55:19, 92:9  
**promoting** [2] - 56:16, 57:16  
**promotion** [1] - 57:2  
**pronounce** [1] - 14:6  
**pronunciation** [1] - 41:19  
**proof** [4] - 17:23, 55:7, 60:7, 114:12  
**proper** [2] - 22:4  
**properly** [1] - 99:25  
**properties** [2] - 58:15, 58:16  
**property** [24] - 19:2, 22:22, 24:4, 24:9, 24:18, 25:24, 26:19, 29:24, 29:25, 36:12, 36:13, 58:2, 58:6, 58:12, 61:23, 68:18, 87:20, 99:20, 113:19, 114:9, 114:10, 118:11  
**proponents** [1] - 86:2  
**proposal** [4] - 4:18, 5:14, 48:22, 117:20  
**proposed** [10] - 4:7, 7:22, 14:15, 22:3, 27:17, 44:3, 44:4, 44:6, 47:10, 99:24  
**proposing** [2] - 19:1, 30:11

**proprietary** [1] - 113:5  
**props** [1] - 67:4  
**prospects** [1] - 17:18  
**prosperity** [1] - 99:14  
**protect** [7] - 19:15, 38:15, 59:21, 91:19, 95:3, 96:7, 99:7  
**protected** [2] - 102:7, 104:4  
**protecting** [3] - 43:21, 91:13, 99:12  
**protective** [1] - 100:3  
**protocols** [1] - 16:1  
**proud** [3] - 33:7, 34:7, 98:14  
**prove** [1] - 100:9  
**proved** [1] - 40:19  
**proven** [1] - 109:7  
**provide** [13] - 7:15, 11:8, 14:5, 43:13, 54:10, 54:11, 54:12, 54:13, 54:14, 55:10, 110:9, 119:18  
**provided** [3] - 49:20, 97:6, 116:4  
**provides** [1] - 50:5  
**providing** [4] - 15:16, 29:12, 44:19, 55:20  
**provinces** [1] - 28:21  
**provisions** [3] - 3:24, 16:5, 29:6  
**proximity** [1] - 28:15  
**psyches** [1] - 87:9  
**PUBLIC** [1] - 122:18  
**public** [30] - 4:2, 4:16, 4:17, 5:19, 6:11, 6:20, 12:1, 13:16, 19:6, 27:4, 29:18, 31:22, 36:10, 36:11, 37:9, 38:1, 45:12, 49:10, 49:16, 57:14, 69:24, 81:24, 112:6, 118:22, 119:19, 120:23, 121:3  
**Public** [3] - 1:4, 2:2, 122:4  
**publicly** [1] - 49:21  
**publicly-owned** [1] - 49:21  
**publish** [1] - 27:11  
**Pug** [1] - 48:24  
**pulled** [2] - 102:12, 112:21  
**pulp** [1] - 66:10  
**purchase** [4] - 23:25, 24:3, 55:10, 81:7  
**purchases** [1] - 51:21  
**purpose** [7] - 4:16, 5:6, 5:20, 45:1, 50:16, 91:13, 121:4

**pursuant** [1] - 3:23  
**pursuit** [1] - 40:1  
**put** [14] - 6:20, 19:20, 21:9, 33:11, 64:25, 73:10, 77:21, 83:14, 90:3, 91:13, 96:17, 101:6, 114:3  
**puts** [1] - 102:19  
**putting** [3] - 17:12, 25:11, 84:6

---

## Q

---

**qualifications** [1] - 116:6  
**qualifies** [1] - 117:7  
**qualities** [1] - 65:3  
**quality** [8] - 10:17, 15:16, 60:8, 66:23, 98:19, 99:9, 99:12, 100:19  
**quarter** [2] - 30:15, 118:8  
**quasi** [2] - 27:8, 29:15  
**questioned** [1] - 31:21  
**questioning** [2] - 54:19, 87:3  
**questions** [11] - 5:13, 5:15, 16:22, 19:24, 29:5, 34:14, 41:14, 60:22, 61:11, 61:12, 119:7  
**quicker** [1] - 102:21  
**quickly** [4] - 5:10, 44:24, 52:7, 87:13  
**quiet** [8] - 34:24, 50:9, 59:6, 59:13, 79:22, 101:24, 102:23, 103:19  
**quite** [6] - 26:3, 63:2, 63:3, 64:15, 85:13, 90:1  
**quote** [4] - 31:14, 37:7, 50:9, 50:11

---

## R

---

**race** [5] - 33:4, 33:14, 33:17, 33:23, 34:3  
**racers** [1] - 33:23  
**races** [1] - 33:5  
**railroads** [1] - 96:13  
**rain** [1] - 103:16  
**raise** [3] - 6:6, 38:24, 120:10  
**raised** [3] - 60:23, 64:14, 71:5  
**raising** [1] - 15:21  
**ramifications** [1] - 117:17

**ramping** [1] - 31:3  
**Ramsey** [1] - 93:20  
**ran** [1] - 97:13  
**range** [5] - 8:3, 11:2, 24:12, 45:20, 61:12  
**Rangeley** [3] - 80:9, 105:3, 105:4  
**ranked** [2] - 47:14, 47:17  
**rapepae** [1] - 85:8  
**rapid** [1] - 118:1  
**rapidly** [1] - 16:6  
**raptor** [1] - 9:13  
**rare** [5] - 15:9, 56:4, 98:25, 100:23, 103:20  
**rarely** [3] - 27:21, 71:13, 80:8  
**rate** [6] - 45:14, 55:3, 61:3, 82:3, 82:13, 110:6  
**rated** [3] - 76:15, 78:1, 101:8  
**rates** [1] - 81:9  
**rather** [8] - 20:10, 31:10, 36:23, 43:12, 85:13, 85:14, 101:24, 114:23  
**ratio** [1] - 31:15  
**Raymond** [3] - 20:1, 20:16, 21:12  
**read** [8] - 6:24, 7:16, 41:16, 56:13, 91:1, 116:5, 116:8  
**readers** [1] - 27:10  
**readily** [1] - 103:10  
**ready** [1] - 14:4  
**real** [13] - 54:1, 54:3, 54:21, 57:25, 58:3, 76:1, 85:1, 100:11, 107:6, 107:18, 111:1, 111:2, 112:9  
**reality** [2] - 24:6, 109:21  
**realize** [8] - 32:8, 32:14, 39:11, 39:13, 57:19, 58:4, 96:12, 110:1  
**realized** [2] - 40:22, 90:10  
**really** [31] - 2:16, 12:25, 22:3, 42:15, 43:6, 43:18, 51:18, 55:18, 74:24, 76:24, 77:3, 77:5, 77:7, 77:9, 77:23, 78:3, 78:6, 78:7, 85:14, 95:3, 98:13, 105:8, 112:8, 114:5, 114:10, 116:25,

117:25, 118:13, 118:22  
**realtor** [1] - 107:14  
**reason** [10] - 30:10, 39:22, 61:24, 62:19, 68:6, 74:9, 84:5, 90:2, 91:4, 96:3  
**reasonable** [3] - 18:9, 22:5, 114:24  
**reasons** [5] - 25:21, 64:20, 80:14, 99:23, 107:5  
**rebar** [1] - 93:15  
**rebuttal** [2] - 5:21, 121:5  
**receive** [3] - 4:3, 5:18, 121:2  
**received** [4] - 27:20, 51:24, 58:13, 78:12  
**receiving** [2] - 5:20, 121:4  
**recent** [8] - 18:12, 18:14, 18:23, 23:11, 28:7, 30:15, 56:22, 81:17  
**recently** [7] - 28:23, 43:25, 47:11, 51:24, 59:12, 59:14, 93:3  
**recess** [2] - 2:14, 79:15  
**recession** [1] - 18:21  
**recognition** [1] - 83:12  
**recognize** [2] - 17:9, 109:4  
**recommendation** [4] - 12:2, 38:7, 114:25, 115:2  
**reconnect** [1] - 100:5  
**reconsider** [1] - 88:12  
**record** [18] - 2:10, 5:2, 5:17, 5:22, 5:23, 6:20, 7:3, 7:6, 8:22, 26:18, 27:13, 70:18, 76:12, 100:16, 121:1, 121:6, 121:7, 122:10  
**recording** [2] - 3:20, 5:8  
**recreate** [1] - 25:21  
**recreation** [5] - 34:10, 47:17, 49:17, 95:15, 103:7  
**recreational** [5] - 11:25, 43:22, 44:7, 44:12, 44:16  
**recreations** [1] - 103:5  
**red** [11] - 24:13, 30:18, 59:7, 62:11, 71:22, 84:18, 89:22, 104:20, 104:21, 104:24, 120:16  
**reduce** [9] - 15:23, 17:15, 18:1, 18:4, 30:19, 30:20, 84:15, 84:16, 86:13  
**reduced** [1] - 122:8  
**reducing** [5] - 15:18, 31:24, 46:13, 55:20, 55:21  
**reduction** [1] - 31:9  
**reductions** [1] - 58:7  
**Reed** [10] - 33:12, 82:17, 86:8, 86:9, 92:19, 93:13  
**referred** [2] - 9:22, 86:5  
**refining** [1] - 56:5  
**reflect** [1] - 87:8  
**reflecting** [1] - 59:7  
**reflections** [1] - 100:14  
**refrigerators** [1] - 63:12  
**regard** [1] - 31:24  
**regarding** [3] - 44:5, 60:23, 122:6  
**region** [18] - 20:4, 22:8, 32:18, 44:7, 45:2, 46:21, 50:1, 52:12, 65:18, 66:20, 76:15, 80:11, 91:2, 91:19, 92:11, 95:13, 99:19, 102:7  
**region's** [1] - 46:15  
**regional** [4] - 3:18, 12:14, 17:16, 81:4  
**regions** [1] - 32:13  
**registered** [2] - 65:22  
**regrowth** [1] - 94:25  
**regular** [2] - 18:24, 39:25  
**regulates** [2] - 10:10, 10:11  
**Regulation** [2] - 1:2, 3:2  
**regulations** [4] - 11:7, 19:2, 90:3, 91:17  
**regulatory** [3] - 18:8, 30:8, 94:6  
**rehabilitated** [1] - 94:23  
**rejected** [1] - 28:24  
**relate** [2] - 70:10, 75:16  
**related** [6] - 12:5, 44:7, 44:10, 44:12, 59:3, 59:13  
**relationship** [1] - 29:2  
**relationships** [1] - 27:12  
**relatives** [1] - 59:10  
**relaxed** [1] - 103:11  
**released** [1] - 103:18  
**relevant** [1] - 5:13  
**reliability** [2] - 31:21, 81:14  
**reliable** [3] - 54:11, 55:21, 107:25  
**remain** [5] - 5:17, 18:20, 64:1, 119:5, 121:1  
**remainder** [1] - 8:17  
**remaining** [2] - 84:17, 100:4  
**remarks** [1] - 18:10  
**remember** [7] - 19:20, 23:17, 45:1, 51:10, 67:23, 86:22, 109:24  
**remembering** [1] - 41:19  
**REMIAN** [1] - 53:16  
**REMIAN** [2] - 56:20, 60:1  
**Remian** [2] - 41:20, 53:17  
**remind** [3] - 13:19, 106:12, 120:25  
**reminiscent** [1] - 85:7  
**remote** [7] - 49:17, 50:7, 50:12, 50:13, 75:10, 101:8, 104:2  
**remoteness** [1] - 66:4  
**removal** [1] - 53:9  
**remove** [5] - 24:18, 25:9, 25:20, 25:23, 56:11  
**removed** [1] - 2:8  
**removing** [1] - 91:7  
**renewable** [12] - 16:25, 17:1, 35:14, 35:15, 43:23, 45:2, 46:8, 46:18, 46:20, 81:6, 87:17, 110:8  
**rentals** [2] - 107:2, 107:7  
**rented** [1] - 98:8  
**repair** [2] - 42:8, 53:8  
**repaired** [1] - 42:12  
**repeat** [2] - 86:1, 114:13  
**repetitious** [1] - 5:15  
**replace** [2] - 31:5, 40:15  
**replicate** [1] - 115:16  
**replied** [1] - 27:18  
**report** [7] - 26:12, 45:14, 45:23, 76:14, 94:19, 99:8, 109:15  
**reported** [2] - 110:22, 122:7  
**Reporter** [1] - 122:19  
**reporter** [1] - 3:21  
**Reporting** [1] - 1:24  
**reporting** [1] - 57:1  
**reports** [2] - 26:14, 27:1  
**represent** [7] - 5:5, 33:5, 52:10, 64:3, 79:25, 109:13, 119:25  
**representation** [2] - 39:15, 40:9  
**representative** [2] - 3:18, 64:9  
**representing** [2] - 74:16, 120:2  
**reputation** [1] - 99:10  
**request** [3] - 5:8, 15:23, 26:1  
**require** [3] - 10:8, 54:10, 81:11  
**required** [2] - 5:1, 81:13  
**requirements** [4] - 10:7, 19:3, 54:17, 55:25  
**requiring** [1] - 97:14  
**research** [7] - 30:7, 63:5, 63:6, 106:7, 107:24, 109:4, 112:6  
**resent** [1] - 78:7  
**reserves** [1] - 84:17  
**reshape** [1] - 17:15  
**reside** [4] - 22:21, 65:9, 95:7, 106:24  
**residence** [3] - 5:3, 10:9, 64:13  
**residences** [1] - 90:12  
**resident** [7] - 13:21, 65:9, 67:3, 74:12, 76:21, 92:19, 111:21  
**residential** [1] - 12:9  
**residents** [7] - 11:20, 43:1, 43:2, 53:6, 53:9, 61:8, 93:10  
**residing** [1] - 60:25  
**resolve** [1] - 117:25  
**resolved** [1] - 29:5  
**resource** [12] - 9:9, 10:2, 11:3, 11:25, 12:3, 17:10, 49:1, 49:4, 49:6, 110:8, 111:5, 117:11  
**resources** [38] - 10:6, 10:12, 10:21, 10:22, 11:5, 11:24, 12:4, 12:9, 14:19, 24:2, 25:9, 38:15, 38:21, 43:10, 43:22, 44:10, 44:11, 44:16, 46:19, 46:20, 47:15, 47:23, 47:24, 48:2, 48:4, 48:20, 48:21, 49:8, 49:25, 51:5, 51:6, 51:12, 51:13, 51:14, 51:15, 59:22, 112:16  
**responded** [1] - 27:16  
**response** [4] - 27:23, 27:24, 80:8, 80:13  
**responsibilities** [1] - 6:17  
**responsibility** [2] - 95:23, 95:24  
**responsible** [2] - 7:12, 21:23  
**responsibly** [1] - 94:3  
**rest** [5] - 38:1, 82:9, 84:23, 87:13, 111:22  
**restitution** [1] - 83:12  
**restrictions** [1] - 91:14  
**result** [6] - 5:25, 9:18, 11:14, 12:13, 16:12, 56:23  
**results** [6] - 9:13, 12:13, 41:4, 56:23, 56:25, 57:3  
**resumed** [2] - 2:15, 79:16  
**retail** [1] - 58:18  
**retire** [1] - 23:25  
**retired** [1] - 53:3  
**retirement** [1] - 25:24  
**return** [3] - 59:6, 59:17, 118:20  
**returning** [1] - 59:14  
**returns** [1] - 118:3  
**revealing** [1] - 88:2  
**revenue** [5] - 82:22, 107:20, 108:4, 108:6, 108:12  
**revenues** [1] - 93:24  
**reverse** [1] - 56:12  
**review** [4] - 48:16, 48:17, 104:1, 117:2  
**reviewed** [6] - 14:23, 15:10, 48:10, 48:11, 48:15, 94:7  
**reviewing** [1] - 44:3  
**reviews** [1] - 50:3  
**rich** [2] - 84:22, 85:16  
**Richard** [5] - 14:10, 14:11, 22:13, 22:20, 23:7  
**rid** [1] - 87:24  
**ride** [1] - 103:9  
**riders** [1] - 35:6  
**rides** [1] - 35:7  
**ridge** [8] - 14:22,

17:13, 21:2, 21:15,  
21:17, 22:6, 92:5  
**ridges** [5] - 8:2, 21:19,  
87:7, 95:16, 106:2  
**rigged** [1] - 34:7  
**rightly** [1] - 16:11  
**rights** [3] - 39:21,  
39:23, 39:24  
**rimmed** [1] - 95:16  
**rise** [2] - 45:15, 45:19  
**risk** [1] - 15:18  
**road** [8] - 21:12, 35:1,  
35:7, 41:23, 93:4,  
96:17, 104:21  
**Road** [1] - 20:2  
**roads** [9] - 4:10, 8:20,  
8:23, 16:13, 42:7,  
42:11, 53:8, 108:25  
**rob** [1] - 22:9  
**Robert** [1] - 106:20  
**Rocky** [1] - 100:6  
**role** [3] - 15:16, 43:16,  
46:12  
**rolling** [1] - 71:11  
**Rollins** [7] - 81:20,  
83:17, 92:23, 93:4,  
94:13, 94:25, 100:6  
**roof** [2] - 89:25  
**room** [5] - 2:9, 2:12,  
30:20, 63:19, 102:11  
**roosting** [1] - 15:16  
**roots** [1] - 111:23  
**roper** [2] - 22:17,  
29:20  
**ROPER** [1] - 29:20  
**ROPER** [1] - 74:3  
**roughly** [1] - 74:6  
**round** [3] - 20:7, 25:1,  
65:9  
**Route** [9] - 8:11, 8:12,  
8:15, 9:1, 9:5, 20:25,  
68:16, 68:21, 69:15  
**route** [2] - 8:23, 25:12  
**rubber** [3] - 47:9, 77:2,  
77:20  
**ruin** [3] - 32:17, 71:10,  
85:3  
**ruination** [1] - 24:16  
**ruining** [1] - 21:1  
**rules** [2] - 4:1, 117:4  
**ruling** [1] - 84:21  
**run** [4] - 70:1, 85:16,  
106:15, 114:15  
**running** [1] - 40:12  
**runs** [1] - 9:23  
**rural** [7] - 18:19,  
21:19, 32:13, 86:3,  
110:21, 119:9,  
119:10  
**rush** [1] - 56:21

**rushed** [1] - 89:13  
**Russell** [2] - 3:17,  
70:8  
**rustic** [1] - 75:5

---

## S

---

**S.G.C** [1] - 93:16  
**S.W** [1] - 93:17  
**sacks** [1] - 73:14  
**sacrificing** [1] - 57:10  
**Saddam** [1] - 85:7  
**safe** [3] - 96:20, 96:22,  
98:25  
**safeguard** [1] - 96:2  
**safety** [1] - 26:18  
**SAINATI** [4] - 76:20,  
78:8, 78:16, 78:20  
**Sainati** [1] - 76:20  
**sake** [1] - 84:20  
**salaries** [2] - 78:11,  
78:25  
**sale** [5] - 24:9, 24:18,  
25:24, 58:16, 60:9  
**sales** [1] - 58:18  
**salivating** [1] - 86:16  
**Sally** [1] - 3:11  
**salmon** [7] - 45:24,  
45:25, 46:4, 66:6,  
98:1, 99:1, 103:18  
**Sam** [1] - 69:18  
**Samantha** [1] - 3:16  
**sand** [1] - 29:21  
**Sarah** [2] - 31:11,  
31:12  
**Sargent** [1] - 93:14  
**satisfaction** [1] - 88:6  
**satisfied** [1] - 88:13  
**satisfy** [1] - 54:16  
**satisfying** [1] - 109:9  
**save** [2] - 31:13, 104:2  
**savings** [1] - 31:23  
**Savlen** [2] - 61:20,  
64:12  
**SAVLEN** [1] - 64:12  
**saw** [4] - 59:16, 103:2,  
105:5, 114:18  
**scale** [4] - 7:24, 30:9,  
31:22, 87:24  
**scaled** [1] - 88:4  
**scaled-back** [1] - 88:4  
**scam** [3] - 32:3, 32:7,  
85:1  
**scenarios** [2] - 46:2,  
58:8  
**scene** [1] - 113:25  
**scenery** [4] - 62:6,  
62:13, 64:21, 102:24  
**scenic** [30] - 3:22,  
10:11, 10:17, 24:2,

43:22, 44:6, 44:10,  
44:11, 44:16, 47:16,  
47:23, 47:24, 48:2,  
48:3, 48:15, 48:20,  
49:2, 51:6, 51:12,  
51:13, 51:14, 51:15,  
58:2, 62:14, 65:6,  
71:10, 75:11, 76:9  
**scheduled** [1] - 80:20  
**school** [6] - 17:19,  
32:25, 33:4, 33:8,  
107:20  
**School** [2] - 1:19, 2:2  
**science** [3] - 45:14,  
54:1, 54:3  
**scientific** [2] - 55:7,  
60:6  
**Scotland** [2] - 31:18,  
31:21  
**Scott** [1] - 3:19  
**scouts** [2] - 72:14  
**Scraggly** [5] - 50:11,  
50:21, 75:14, 102:7  
**scramble** [1] - 85:1  
**screen** [1] - 85:16  
**screened** [1] - 21:14  
**scrutiny** [1] - 55:6  
**sea** [4] - 45:15, 45:18,  
45:19, 84:18  
**seaboard** [1] - 93:17  
**seal** [1] - 122:14  
**search** [1] - 23:24  
**searched** [1] - 68:19  
**seasons** [3] - 9:12,  
9:13  
**secluded** [1] - 89:17  
**second** [4] - 9:10,  
15:21, 81:24, 120:22  
**section** [1] - 3:24  
**sections** [2] - 4:19,  
17:8  
**secure** [1] - 86:16  
**security** [2] - 39:16,  
93:17  
**see** [57] - 7:2, 13:24,  
20:22, 24:19, 26:11,  
32:1, 32:5, 34:5,  
35:7, 38:14, 39:9,  
39:24, 42:15, 42:23,  
43:3, 43:4, 51:23,  
62:2, 63:8, 63:22,  
67:25, 68:24, 69:2,  
69:4, 69:12, 70:8,  
71:14, 71:15, 71:17,  
71:20, 71:21, 72:9,  
72:17, 73:5, 75:8,  
77:12, 83:18, 83:20,  
84:3, 87:5, 87:15,  
88:10, 94:24, 98:13,  
100:10, 101:21,

102:3, 102:5,  
102:16, 104:22,  
109:1, 114:2,  
116:13, 117:9,  
120:16, 121:8  
**seeing** [7] - 55:4, 62:5,  
66:20, 69:9, 69:13,  
69:16, 118:25  
**seeking** [1] - 95:15  
**seem** [2] - 54:22, 85:2  
**sees** [1] - 41:11  
**seize** [1] - 17:10  
**seldom** [1] - 20:10  
**selectively** [1] - 91:7  
**selectmen** [2] - 63:25,  
64:1  
**self** [1] - 87:12  
**self-interest** [1] -  
87:12  
**sell** [5] - 58:15, 66:23,  
69:20, 85:15, 97:17  
**selling** [2] - 64:19,  
97:10  
**send** [2] - 100:15,  
114:2  
**sending** [1] - 82:25  
**senior** [1] - 112:6  
**sense** [5] - 25:19,  
54:2, 80:11, 106:11,  
109:9  
**sensible** [1] - 80:4  
**sent** [2] - 27:6, 113:3  
**sequestering** [1] -  
56:8  
**serenity** [1] - 20:18  
**serious** [1] - 65:5  
**seriously** [2] - 60:12,  
115:3  
**servants** [1] - 96:21  
**serve** [1] - 53:21  
**served** [2] - 67:13,  
112:13  
**service** [4] - 43:19,  
69:24, 108:4, 109:1  
**services** [4] - 17:2,  
107:20, 110:25,  
115:23  
**serving** [2] - 19:5,  
106:18  
**session** [7] - 3:20,  
18:24, 19:1, 37:14,  
37:15, 120:22, 121:1  
**sessions** [1] - 13:15  
**set** [3] - 11:19, 101:1,  
120:13  
**setbacks** [1] - 19:2  
**seven** [6] - 5:19, 18:7,  
18:16, 18:18, 78:13,  
121:3  
**seven-year** [1] - 18:16

**several** [15] - 7:24,  
15:15, 20:20, 29:17,  
32:23, 39:4, 40:13,  
41:7, 46:7, 55:2,  
58:8, 87:18, 88:18,  
102:5, 116:25  
**severely** [1] - 31:21  
**Sewall** [1] - 93:16  
**shallow** [1] - 50:12  
**shame** [1] - 69:5  
**shape** [1] - 66:15  
**share** [5] - 82:13,  
88:8, 88:15, 95:10,  
113:12  
**sharing** [1] - 103:3  
**share** [1] - 90:22  
**shaved** [1] - 90:21  
**Shaw** [1] - 50:22  
**sheer** [1] - 20:24  
**sheets** [2] - 4:22, 4:24  
**Sherman** [1] - 106:6  
**shipping** [1] - 108:25  
**ships** [1] - 96:16  
**shirts** [1] - 33:5  
**shoe** [2] - 23:15, 23:16  
**shooting** [1] - 71:16  
**shore** [4] - 91:6,  
91:10, 102:19,  
104:11  
**shorefront** [1] - 91:18  
**shoreline** [1] - 49:21  
**shorelines** [1] - 20:19  
**short** [7] - 28:6, 32:20,  
39:4, 40:8, 61:1,  
70:12, 96:4  
**short-sited** [1] - 96:4  
**shorter** [1] - 90:1  
**shortly** [2] - 23:9,  
32:19  
**shot** [1] - 93:1  
**show** [6] - 2:9, 50:15,  
60:4, 67:4, 100:24,  
114:4  
**showed** [1] - 9:13  
**shown** [5] - 8:22,  
15:20, 45:17, 89:3,  
119:15  
**shows** [5] - 51:3,  
51:19, 51:20, 52:4,  
55:14  
**shutting** [1] - 106:12  
**side** [6] - 23:1, 35:24,  
44:25, 66:16, 68:23,  
71:3  
**sides** [3] - 64:2, 66:14,  
96:19  
**Sidney** [1] - 16:24  
**Siemens** [2] - 8:17,  
8:18  
**sight** [2] - 45:6, 71:17

**sightings** [1] - 35:12  
**sign** [4] - 4:22, 4:24, 68:12, 69:9  
**signed** [2] - 12:23, 13:25  
**significance** [7] - 44:10, 44:12, 47:25, 48:22, 49:24, 52:5, 101:9  
**significant** [14] - 9:25, 10:16, 11:8, 15:7, 15:11, 17:14, 46:16, 48:21, 49:8, 49:25, 51:14, 57:1, 58:1  
**silt** [1] - 95:1  
**similar** [1] - 57:3  
**simple** [4] - 46:11, 62:15, 74:9, 88:14  
**simply** [3] - 27:1, 47:9, 85:12  
**simultaneous** [1] - 46:7  
**sincerely** [1] - 86:13  
**sit** [2] - 68:21, 100:13  
**site** [12] - 9:8, 12:18, 12:20, 15:24, 55:24, 56:7, 70:25, 80:21, 93:9, 94:16, 94:23, 108:3  
**sited** [1] - 96:4  
**sites** [14] - 9:15, 47:12, 47:18, 47:20, 47:21, 48:1, 76:23, 77:6, 87:9, 87:11, 87:16, 88:11, 88:12  
**siting** [1] - 47:2  
**sits** [1] - 68:17  
**sitting** [2] - 30:4, 69:13  
**situation** [2] - 45:4, 70:5  
**six** [1] - 73:13  
**sized** [1] - 17:11  
**sketches** [1] - 72:2  
**ski** [1] - 20:13  
**skies** [1] - 100:18  
**skills** [1] - 33:19  
**Skowhegan** [1] - 23:8  
**sky** [11] - 21:3, 22:6, 30:19, 59:8, 59:13, 62:9, 65:1, 80:19, 105:7, 106:3  
**sleepless** [1] - 117:15  
**slightly** [2] - 39:5, 86:1  
**slow** [5] - 5:11, 5:12, 56:19, 98:21, 99:8  
**slower** [2] - 56:20, 100:4  
**slowly** [1] - 98:22

**small** [7] - 33:8, 54:14, 82:3, 82:13, 97:7, 98:12, 105:22  
**smaller** [2] - 85:10, 87:19  
**smallmouth** [3] - 98:1, 98:5, 99:1  
**smartest** [1] - 63:7  
**smelting** [1] - 56:5  
**Smith's** [1] - 23:8  
**snow** [1] - 53:8  
**snowmobiling** [1] - 58:20  
**snowshoe** [1] - 20:13  
**so-called** [1] - 31:19  
**soaring** [1] - 20:19  
**social** [1] - 119:14  
**Society** [2] - 11:23, 64:8  
**society** [1] - 115:21  
**soil** [1] - 84:18  
**solar** [2] - 35:15, 46:18  
**sold** [1] - 79:3  
**solemnly** [2] - 38:24, 120:11  
**solitude** [1] - 22:7  
**solution** [1] - 54:25  
**solve** [1] - 55:1  
**solved** [1] - 54:1  
**someone** [3] - 36:23, 77:8, 102:14  
**sometimes** [7] - 21:18, 46:21, 86:5, 89:8, 91:15, 108:9, 111:7  
**somewhat** [1] - 28:15  
**sons** [1] - 93:22  
**soon** [3] - 21:7, 23:25, 106:25  
**sorry** [5] - 56:20, 60:20, 78:7, 98:23, 105:4  
**sort** [5] - 44:25, 50:25, 75:15, 87:16, 103:13  
**soul** [1] - 86:7  
**sound** [7] - 10:7, 10:8, 12:12, 19:2, 80:21, 81:24, 82:15  
**sounds** [1] - 35:11  
**source** [5] - 17:23, 54:10, 99:14, 107:25, 110:10  
**sources** [4] - 46:22, 54:5, 54:9, 61:2  
**south** [9] - 8:7, 8:15, 23:22, 71:3, 72:16, 93:19, 96:16, 104:11, 120:14  
**southern** [4] - 34:23, 58:1, 82:8, 82:9

**space** [2] - 13:12, 58:3  
**speakers** [1] - 108:18  
**speaking** [3] - 72:23, 113:15  
**special** [3] - 15:8, 52:23, 75:10  
**species** [4] - 15:7, 15:15, 46:3, 66:7  
**specific** [2] - 11:15, 43:17  
**specifically** [3] - 11:2, 12:4, 112:22  
**specifics** [1] - 82:20  
**specified** [1] - 4:19  
**specify** [1] - 29:6  
**spectacular** [3] - 21:2, 22:8, 91:2  
**speech** [3] - 39:4, 40:5, 67:6  
**speed** [2] - 15:21, 84:8  
**spend** [2] - 91:4, 111:22  
**spending** [2] - 63:17, 63:20  
**spent** [12] - 12:17, 12:18, 23:22, 30:2, 51:22, 57:8, 59:11, 64:10, 80:17, 91:18, 110:24, 111:1  
**spin** [1] - 99:4  
**spirit** [1] - 86:7  
**spite** [1] - 97:10  
**splendid** [1] - 91:20  
**spoken** [2] - 67:22, 106:1  
**sporting** [6] - 52:11, 80:16, 89:17, 98:2, 98:8, 119:11  
**sports** [2] - 58:20, 114:17  
**sportsmen** [2] - 64:23, 119:19  
**Sportsmen's** [1] - 120:2  
**sportsmen's** [4] - 99:5, 116:3, 116:15, 119:25  
**spots** [2] - 97:8, 97:25  
**Sprague** [2] - 105:17, 106:19  
**SPRAGUE** [1] - 106:19  
**sprawl** [1] - 100:7  
**spread** [2] - 26:24, 28:14  
**spring** [1] - 58:25  
**Springfield** [2] - 8:13, 72:3  
**spruce** [2] - 58:12, 59:15

**square** [2] - 49:14, 110:5  
**squish** [1] - 85:21  
**staff** [7] - 3:8, 6:2, 6:12, 6:16, 13:6, 15:10, 94:12  
**stake** [2] - 22:1, 29:3  
**Stallion** [1] - 93:15  
**stamp** [3] - 47:9, 77:2, 77:20  
**stand** [1] - 6:5  
**standard** [3] - 23:18, 81:14, 107:14  
**standards** [3] - 4:21, 81:6, 119:15  
**standby** [1] - 81:12  
**standing** [1] - 36:1  
**Stantec** [2] - 7:12, 104:9  
**star** [1] - 61:25  
**stargazing** [1] - 71:12  
**stark** [1] - 109:21  
**Starks** [1] - 3:9  
**starlit** [1] - 59:8  
**starr** [3] - 41:17, 41:20, 41:22  
**stars** [4] - 62:10, 71:14, 71:15, 71:16  
**start** [9] - 5:11, 19:14, 22:14, 59:25, 66:12, 66:21, 79:17, 94:8, 115:7  
**started** [8] - 6:11, 12:19, 69:7, 94:5, 94:9, 101:19, 112:10, 113:10  
**starting** [2] - 3:3, 32:5  
**starts** [1] - 50:17  
**State** [1] - 122:4  
**state** [68] - 5:2, 6:19, 10:8, 11:9, 13:19, 15:14, 17:8, 18:11, 19:8, 21:20, 22:9, 24:11, 24:24, 24:25, 25:7, 25:10, 27:1, 28:5, 28:12, 30:24, 32:13, 32:18, 34:23, 38:15, 44:1, 47:4, 50:10, 51:21, 52:3, 60:13, 62:22, 63:9, 65:4, 65:23, 65:25, 66:17, 66:20, 69:9, 70:2, 70:3, 71:6, 73:6, 78:22, 78:24, 80:5, 80:7, 83:11, 85:16, 89:5, 90:5, 92:22, 93:1, 95:4, 97:11, 98:3, 98:4, 98:12, 99:11, 101:9, 106:13, 106:18, 111:2, 111:18, 114:17, 116:17, 117:17, 119:13, 119:20

**state's** [1] - 16:19  
**statement** [5] - 2:20, 7:8, 25:13, 95:9, 120:19  
**statements** [3] - 5:18, 7:5, 121:2  
**States** [2] - 26:23, 111:25  
**states** [7] - 15:14, 26:23, 31:12, 53:21, 57:3, 58:1, 99:3  
**statewide** [7] - 19:17, 44:10, 44:11, 47:23, 47:25, 48:21, 49:1  
**stating** [1] - 27:18  
**station** [1] - 85:11  
**stationary** [1] - 113:3  
**stations** [2] - 29:9, 87:18  
**statistics** [4] - 72:6, 72:18, 72:19, 74:2  
**status** [4] - 16:6, 36:20, 37:2, 38:5  
**statute** [2] - 17:7, 17:8  
**statutes** [2] - 4:20, 44:1  
**stay** [6] - 35:6, 53:6, 72:18, 73:3, 76:10, 109:22  
**staying** [1] - 91:6  
**steady** [2] - 84:12, 86:17  
**steep** [1] - 15:13  
**Steinberg** [1] - 68:11  
**stenographically** [1] - 122:7  
**step** [2] - 16:19, 38:9  
**steps** [1] - 47:3  
**Stetson** [18] - 8:7, 8:9, 9:2, 14:24, 18:13, 29:22, 29:23, 30:1, 30:14, 30:16, 33:10, 33:14, 55:15, 59:2, 81:17, 92:23, 94:24, 110:12  
**Stetson's** [1] - 81:18  
**steward** [1] - 119:16  
**stewards** [1] - 86:15  
**stewardship** [1] - 95:23  
**stifling** [2] - 40:5, 41:4  
**still** [14] - 46:21, 58:16, 64:18, 73:8, 74:19, 75:4, 82:8, 88:16, 96:23, 96:25,

103:9, 105:7, 114:21  
**Stillwater** [1] - 93:14  
**stimulation** [1] - 77:11  
**stimulus** [1] - 110:21  
**stock** [1] - 18:23  
**stop** [7] - 21:1, 24:16,  
29:11, 40:8, 52:14,  
62:5, 96:4  
**stopped** [1] - 94:16  
**storage** [1] - 25:4  
**stored** [1] - 25:5  
**stories** [1] - 101:25  
**storm** [1] - 94:5  
**story** [1] - 75:16  
**stoves** [1] - 63:13  
**strange** [1] - 102:14  
**strategy** [2] - 43:24,  
46:15  
**Stream** [15] - 25:16,  
25:20, 64:13, 64:17,  
64:19, 64:23, 73:5,  
74:12, 80:12,  
101:10, 103:6,  
105:22, 106:5,  
106:24, 108:18  
**stream** [6] - 21:25,  
24:14, 72:8, 73:13,  
74:14, 102:15  
**Streams** [1] - 45:24  
**street** [2] - 24:22,  
54:18  
**strict** [1] - 13:8  
**strike** [1] - 68:11  
**strikes** [2] - 28:3, 28:8  
**strobe** [2] - 62:9,  
62:20  
**strobing** [2] - 59:7,  
120:16  
**strong** [3] - 19:18,  
43:21, 118:15  
**strongly** [1] - 76:11  
**struck** [1] - 26:17  
**structure** [1] - 39:7  
**struggle** [1] - 46:21  
**struggled** [1] - 53:7  
**struggling** [1] -  
102:25  
**strung** [1] - 24:11  
**student** [1] - 34:11  
**students** [4] - 33:2,  
34:4, 113:1, 113:14  
**studies** [6] - 15:20,  
15:25, 16:1, 16:3,  
59:24, 60:1  
**study** [11] - 18:3,  
18:12, 19:8, 19:10,  
58:7, 108:22, 113:2,  
115:5, 115:19,  
115:20, 115:23  
**stuff** [1] - 95:2

**stupid** [1] - 85:20  
**subcontractors** [1] -  
93:12  
**subject** [1] - 64:2  
**subjected** [2] - 29:22,  
54:5  
**submit** [4] - 7:4, 13:2,  
27:13, 94:5  
**submitted** [3] - 4:4,  
6:23, 91:17  
**subscribe** [1] - 122:13  
**subsidiaries** [1] - 86:8  
**subsidiary** [1] - 7:23  
**subsidiaries** [3] - 39:15,  
56:9, 80:24  
**subsidized** [3] -  
40:13, 46:23, 81:2  
**subsidy** [1] - 81:25  
**substantial** [1] - 53:12  
**substation** [3] - 4:12,  
9:3, 9:23  
**substations** [1] - 31:8  
**success** [1] - 116:25  
**successes** [1] -  
115:16  
**succumbed** [1] - 87:4  
**suddenly** [1] - 97:13  
**sue** [3] - 105:14,  
105:19, 105:21  
**suffer** [1] - 90:12  
**sufficient** [1] - 38:20  
**suggest** [2] - 52:10,  
115:17  
**suggested** [2] - 52:4,  
52:8  
**suggestion** [4] - 38:2,  
38:4, 92:3, 120:18  
**suggests** [1] - 51:9  
**suitable** [1] - 47:18  
**suite** [1] - 9:11  
**summarize** [2] -  
50:25, 115:1  
**summary** [3] - 12:8,  
116:5, 116:9  
**summed** [1] - 103:25  
**summer** [8] - 71:7,  
72:9, 73:12, 74:5,  
92:2, 96:22, 97:1  
**summers** [1] - 30:3  
**Sunday** [1] - 109:18  
**sunrise** [1] - 15:22  
**sunset** [1] - 15:22  
**sunsets** [1] - 89:21  
**super** [1] - 84:22  
**supermarket** [1] -  
102:22  
**superwise** [1] - 115:23  
**suppliers** [3] - 17:1,  
81:12, 93:12

**supply** [1] - 44:17  
**support** [18] - 13:2,  
14:14, 15:3, 15:23,  
16:18, 17:6, 19:18,  
24:23, 25:2, 26:3,  
35:17, 89:6, 89:13,  
105:11, 109:15,  
110:15, 111:11,  
119:11  
**supported** [7] - 14:23,  
18:15, 18:16, 48:7,  
48:8, 48:11, 48:12  
**supporter** [1] - 43:21  
**supporters** [2] - 17:3,  
43:11  
**supporting** [2] -  
48:13, 118:17  
**supports** [2] - 14:20,  
99:10  
**supposed** [1] - 42:20  
**surface** [1] - 45:18  
**surrounded** [1] -  
96:19  
**surrounding** [2] -  
49:15, 74:22  
**survey** [4] - 56:15,  
56:18, 56:22, 56:23  
**surveyed** [1] - 108:2  
**surveys** [14] - 7:13,  
9:8, 9:11, 9:12, 9:13,  
9:14, 9:17, 9:19,  
9:24, 10:2, 10:3,  
10:4, 19:17  
**survive** [1] - 99:3  
**Susan** [2] - 79:12,  
79:24  
**suspect** [1] - 115:4  
**sustain** [1] - 66:7  
**sustainable** [1] -  
118:19  
**sustainably** [1] - 17:3  
**swamps** [1] - 72:25  
**swarths** [1] - 89:4  
**swear** [6] - 6:4, 6:7,  
38:12, 38:13, 38:25,  
120:11  
**sweet** [1] - 32:21  
**swimming** [1] - 20:11  
**swims** [1] - 100:18  
**swishing** [1] - 35:11  
**Switzerland** [1] -  
71:20  
**swooping** [1] - 102:25  
**sworn** [5] - 5:1, 38:12,  
38:16, 38:18, 120:6  
**syndrome** [1] - 15:20  
**Sysladobsis** [5] -  
50:17, 50:19, 60:17,  
60:22, 75:13  
**system** [3] - 8:24,

91:20, 101:3  
**systems** [1] - 50:5

---

## T

---

**T-shirts** [1] - 33:5  
**table** [2] - 4:23, 13:24  
**tall** [1] - 28:6  
**taller** [1] - 28:1  
**tangible** [7] - 11:8,  
11:15, 12:6, 52:24,  
53:11, 64:6, 93:23  
**TANSTAAFL** [1] -  
109:25  
**task** [3] - 16:15, 16:17,  
47:7  
**tax** [9] - 19:3, 41:23,  
43:4, 56:9, 82:22,  
93:23, 108:4,  
108:13, 110:20  
**taxation** [2] - 39:14,  
40:9  
**taxes** [4] - 11:12,  
53:11, 82:1, 97:5  
**taxing** [1] - 53:9  
**taxpayer** [1] - 55:2  
**teach** [1] - 112:5  
**teaching** [1] - 112:10  
**team** [1] - 12:10  
**tears** [1] - 59:3  
**technical** [2] - 12:10,  
55:8  
**technology** [5] -  
80:22, 83:2, 83:3,  
83:6, 98:18  
**Ted** [3] - 14:9, 14:10,  
14:17  
**Tel** [1] - 101:20  
**telegram** [1] - 109:18  
**temperature** [1] -  
45:18  
**temporary** [3] - 24:24,  
57:10, 61:7  
**ten** [11] - 8:16, 72:9,  
73:4, 73:5, 73:11,  
73:15, 79:8, 80:23,  
97:4, 105:23  
**tents** [1] - 73:14  
**term** [1] - 61:1  
**terms** [4] - 45:22,  
47:14, 49:4, 73:25  
**test** [1] - 108:3  
**tested** [1] - 27:24  
**testified** [2] - 52:9,  
114:12  
**testify** [20] - 4:22,  
4:25, 6:5, 12:23,  
14:1, 17:6, 29:13,  
37:8, 37:10, 37:12,  
37:25, 38:16, 48:5,  
68:12, 79:8, 79:20,  
79:23, 83:23, 99:22,  
120:6  
**testifying** [1] - 43:11  
**testimony** [23] - 4:3,  
4:17, 5:2, 5:13, 5:21,  
6:11, 14:1, 14:5,  
22:14, 27:15, 29:16,  
29:23, 38:8, 51:2,  
52:9, 77:4, 82:20,  
111:15, 116:5,  
120:21, 120:22,  
121:5, 122:10  
**thankful** [1] - 27:8  
**thankless** [1] - 83:24  
**theirs** [1] - 96:1  
**themes** [1] - 54:21  
**themselves** [8] - 3:3,  
10:21, 16:14, 35:8,  
69:17, 94:8, 101:15,  
109:8  
**theory** [1] - 14:4  
**therefore** [2] - 58:5,  
87:5  
**they've** [5] - 29:1,  
63:5, 89:3, 98:6,  
106:15  
**thinking** [2] - 21:5,  
113:11  
**thinks** [2] - 30:20,  
108:6  
**third** [4] - 16:2, 47:5,  
63:2, 94:17  
**third-party** [2] - 16:2,  
94:17  
**THOMPSON** [1] - 67:2  
**Thompson** [3] - 1:23,  
61:20, 67:2  
**Thoreau** [1] - 103:24  
**thorough** [1] - 115:14  
**thoughts** [1] - 116:9  
**thousands** [10] -  
28:19, 29:3, 30:24,  
30:25, 55:21, 57:7,  
58:18, 91:16, 98:17  
**threat** [1] - 99:11  
**threatened** [1] - 15:8  
**threats** [1] - 27:4  
**three** [19] - 8:1, 8:11,  
9:12, 12:25, 18:12,  
49:8, 49:10, 53:5,  
53:21, 54:20, 63:25,  
64:7, 72:10, 72:17,  
77:17, 80:21, 96:19,  
103:25, 109:18  
**throughout** [11] -  
7:25, 9:18, 9:24,  
15:13, 16:9, 33:12,  
33:17, 34:2, 65:25,  
66:7, 68:19

**throw** [2] - 65:11, 65:12  
**throws** [1] - 26:20  
**Tici** [2] - 14:9, 20:1  
**TICI** [1] - 14:10  
**tidal** [4] - 17:5, 107:22, 107:24, 108:25  
**TIF** [7] - 108:5, 108:8, 108:9, 108:12, 108:14, 108:18, 108:20  
**TIFs** [1] - 82:22  
**tighter** [1] - 118:2  
**timber** [2] - 27:10, 36:16  
**tiny** [1] - 67:9  
**tired** [1] - 86:23  
**titled** [2] - 27:9, 109:19  
**Toby** [1] - 3:6  
**today** [12] - 12:21, 22:24, 30:2, 35:23, 48:13, 66:6, 80:14, 82:20, 95:7, 95:20, 116:4, 118:6  
**today's** [3] - 3:20, 4:3, 86:23  
**TODD** [4] - 6:15, 37:6, 37:24, 38:3  
**Todd** [4] - 3:15, 6:11, 6:16, 37:5  
**together** [3] - 51:13, 51:14, 87:1  
**tomorrow** [7] - 12:16, 13:15, 37:14, 37:22, 120:20, 120:23  
**tomorrow's** [1] - 120:25  
**tonight** [18] - 3:2, 3:15, 7:5, 7:15, 12:16, 12:24, 13:5, 37:21, 37:25, 38:8, 39:20, 43:10, 61:13, 64:3, 72:12, 74:15, 77:2, 109:15  
**tons** [4] - 18:5, 30:25, 31:14, 31:15  
**took** [10] - 23:9, 23:15, 23:24, 24:1, 33:14, 33:19, 34:2, 69:11, 69:12, 114:16  
**top** [1] - 69:13  
**topic** [1] - 116:22  
**topnotch** [1] - 99:12  
**total** [3] - 12:6, 18:9, 58:9  
**totally** [4] - 39:25, 56:23, 69:17, 116:22  
**touch** [2] - 48:5, 116:13  
**tour** [2] - 80:14, 81:17  
**tourism** [13] - 21:4, 34:11, 58:17, 60:12, 61:5, 66:9, 66:12, 66:14, 76:10, 82:19, 82:21, 96:12, 97:4  
**tourist** [2] - 62:3, 74:23  
**tourists** [4] - 32:15, 64:23, 86:21, 99:5  
**touted** [1] - 56:15  
**tow** [1] - 55:12  
**toward** [2] - 16:19, 100:23  
**tower** [3] - 26:19, 62:5, 112:8  
**towers** [9] - 4:15, 9:6, 25:12, 33:16, 33:19, 33:20, 62:4, 62:10, 83:7  
**town** [33] - 7:18, 20:23, 32:23, 33:8, 41:24, 41:25, 42:2, 42:5, 42:6, 42:12, 42:21, 42:25, 43:1, 43:2, 49:11, 53:12, 53:23, 59:14, 64:9, 64:11, 67:8, 67:17, 71:13, 76:3, 87:17, 93:17, 105:23, 107:17, 108:13, 113:21, 114:3, 116:2  
**towns** [4] - 62:18, 64:7, 97:7, 108:7  
**Township** [10] - 1:11, 4:7, 8:3, 8:14, 11:20, 14:17, 30:6, 34:21, 109:17, 110:14  
**township** [3] - 3:1, 106:24, 106:25  
**townships** [2] - 21:19, 43:23  
**track** [1] - 82:2  
**trade** [2] - 27:9, 110:4  
**trade-offs** [1] - 110:4  
**tradesmen** [1] - 57:24  
**tradition** [1] - 75:5  
**traditional** [1] - 46:22  
**trailers** [1] - 82:25  
**trails** [2] - 50:9, 97:2  
**training** [2] - 112:15, 114:8  
**tranquility** [2] - 92:3, 95:15  
**transcribed** [1] - 5:7  
**transcription** [1] - 122:9  
**transfer** [2] - 85:11, 87:17  
**transient** [1] - 86:5  
**transition** [1] - 46:6  
**translating** [1] - 43:16  
**transmission** [9] - 4:13, 8:8, 9:2, 16:13, 31:9, 57:23, 82:7, 83:5, 83:9  
**transparent** [3] - 54:6, 55:17, 61:15  
**transport** [2] - 31:7, 55:23  
**travel** [2] - 80:7, 89:20  
**traveled** [4] - 12:19, 12:20, 96:3, 116:17  
**treasures** [1] - 99:2  
**treasury** [1] - 119:11  
**tree** [1] - 41:12  
**treeline** [2] - 93:20, 100:18  
**trees** [2] - 30:24, 39:9  
**trend** [1] - 118:25  
**trends** [1] - 117:24  
**tried** [2] - 76:4, 102:9  
**trigger** [1] - 40:22  
**triggered** [2] - 40:23, 40:25  
**trips** [4] - 20:14, 23:17, 50:6, 59:12  
**troll** [1] - 102:18  
**trolled** [1] - 95:19  
**trout** [6] - 45:24, 45:25, 46:4, 66:6, 98:1, 99:1  
**truck** [1] - 55:12  
**trucks** [1] - 28:17  
**true** [7] - 58:8, 62:9, 77:6, 108:20, 115:5, 115:11, 122:10  
**truest** [1] - 99:14  
**truly** [3] - 87:7, 95:16, 96:5  
**trump** [1] - 46:25  
**Trust** [1] - 74:15  
**trust** [3] - 31:18, 70:25, 119:13  
**truth** [8] - 6:7, 38:25, 109:21, 114:4, 120:11  
**trying** [6] - 42:10, 53:7, 56:20, 86:13, 100:15, 113:13  
**turbine** [13] - 10:10, 11:11, 26:14, 26:18, 26:21, 26:24, 27:2, 28:2, 28:14, 28:20, 31:13, 71:9, 90:2  
**turbine-caused** [1] - 28:14  
**turbines** [67] - 4:8, 4:9, 4:11, 8:10, 8:14, 8:16, 8:25, 16:14, 20:22, 20:25, 21:17, 21:20, 23:2, 26:10, 27:4, 27:12, 27:19, 27:21, 27:25, 28:5, 28:6, 28:7, 28:22, 29:2, 30:11, 30:12, 30:14, 31:4, 31:7, 33:12, 49:11, 49:12, 49:21, 55:13, 60:25, 61:3, 61:7, 83:3, 83:20, 84:4, 84:7, 84:14, 84:25, 85:6, 86:3, 87:6, 87:19, 88:17, 88:21, 98:15, 98:18, 100:8, 102:2, 102:8, 102:16, 105:8, 105:10, 106:16, 107:3, 107:24, 109:7, 110:11, 110:16, 114:2, 114:9, 114:18  
**turn** [1] - 7:9  
**turned** [3] - 19:8, 22:25, 25:6  
**Turner** [1] - 93:18  
**turning** [2] - 44:24, 48:20  
**turns** [2] - 101:17, 115:12  
**TVs** [1] - 85:16  
**twenty** [1] - 28:4  
**twenty-two** [1] - 28:4  
**twirling** [1] - 30:18  
**two** [24] - 9:12, 9:13, 27:6, 28:4, 33:5, 33:14, 42:18, 45:13, 47:24, 49:12, 57:23, 57:25, 58:13, 62:8, 68:2, 70:7, 72:24, 77:17, 101:11, 102:9, 105:18, 107:18, 111:24, 114:17  
**two-car** [1] - 70:7  
**type** [2] - 89:11, 89:13  
**typewritten** [1] - 122:8  
**typical** [4] - 52:7, 52:8, 52:10, 52:12  


---

## U

---

**U.S** [5] - 26:12, 45:15, 45:24, 84:19, 84:20  
**ugly** [1] - 84:4  
**ultimate** [2] - 44:21, 118:25  
**umwauh** [1] - 85:8  
**unacceptable** [1] - 92:12  
**unanimous** [1] - 110:15  
**unanimously** [1] - 19:4  
**unanswered** [1] - 28:11  
**unattached** [1] - 24:7  
**unblemished** [1] - 95:16  
**unchanged** [1] - 19:12  
**uncle** [1] - 69:18  
**under** [4] - 80:19, 84:17, 91:5, 115:6  
**underneath** [1] - 9:21  
**underrate** [1] - 49:24  
**understated** [1] - 112:23  
**undertake** [1] - 115:18  
**undeveloped** [2] - 15:6, 20:19  
**undisturbed** [2] - 98:20, 98:24  
**undue** [3] - 14:25, 16:11, 44:14  
**unduly** [1] - 5:15  
**unemployment** [1] - 110:6  
**unfavorable** [1] - 31:16  
**unfortunate** [1] - 32:15  
**unfortunately** [2] - 40:3, 47:13  
**unfounded** [1] - 100:9  
**unions** [2] - 57:20, 57:22  
**unique** [3] - 15:5, 22:7, 24:17  
**uniqueness** [1] - 25:16  
**united** [2] - 23:16, 26:23  
**United** [2] - 57:3, 111:25  
**units** [1] - 29:10  
**universities** [1] - 60:2  
**University** [2] - 107:25, 115:18  
**university** [7] - 55:16, 60:3, 60:4, 81:19, 112:5, 112:7, 113:2  
**unknowns** [1] - 59:22  
**unless** [1] - 116:13  
**unlike** [1] - 31:18  
**unnatural** [1] - 69:17  
**unorganized** [2] - 21:19, 43:22  
**unquote** [2] - 31:14, 37:7  
**unreasonable** [3] - 11:4, 44:14, 55:7

**unreliability** [1] - 81:11  
**unspoiled** [2] - 22:6, 95:25  
**unsubstantiated** [1] - 59:23  
**unsustainable** [3] - 45:4, 45:7, 56:12  
**untested** [1] - 27:23  
**untouched** [1] - 66:22  
**unusual** [1] - 111:24  
**unwanted** [1] - 57:4  
**up** [88] - 4:8, 4:14, 4:22, 4:24, 6:5, 8:16, 9:1, 9:6, 9:23, 11:19, 12:23, 13:10, 13:12, 13:13, 13:19, 13:25, 14:4, 14:7, 17:12, 29:12, 29:18, 31:3, 32:6, 32:10, 32:22, 33:11, 33:15, 35:1, 35:7, 40:18, 41:11, 42:17, 47:18, 50:17, 50:19, 50:20, 50:21, 51:1, 52:6, 58:9, 59:9, 59:25, 62:11, 64:14, 64:15, 64:19, 68:12, 69:7, 69:8, 69:9, 70:8, 70:14, 70:17, 71:13, 72:22, 73:5, 73:13, 74:6, 75:13, 75:14, 75:21, 77:13, 79:3, 79:7, 79:11, 79:17, 81:7, 81:20, 81:22, 84:4, 84:6, 86:10, 94:20, 94:24, 96:14, 97:16, 98:9, 101:1, 101:21, 102:4, 103:13, 103:25, 105:6, 106:25, 111:19, 113:13  
**upgrade** [2] - 82:7, 82:9  
**upheld** [1] - 39:23  
**uphold** [2] - 38:14, 40:13  
**upper** [5] - 29:22, 29:25, 45:19, 100:17, 102:9  
**upstate** [1] - 112:1  
**urge** [2] - 15:24, 25:14  
**urgently** [1] - 99:12  
**urging** [1] - 24:15  
**US** [1] - 18:3  
**useful** [1] - 44:20  
**useless** [1] - 32:16  
**users** [1] - 82:11  
**uses** [7] - 10:23, 11:1, 11:5, 44:7, 44:10,

58:6, 118:19  
**usual** [1] - 45:22  
**utilities** [1] - 54:18  
**utility** [4] - 54:8, 55:5, 82:2, 112:6  
**utilizing** [1] - 4:9

---

## V

---

**vacation** [1] - 25:21  
**vacationland** [2] - 32:19, 83:14  
**vague** [1] - 80:11  
**valley** [1] - 21:14  
**valuable** [2] - 59:21, 99:7  
**value** [3] - 24:2, 58:7, 103:23  
**valued** [1] - 95:17  
**values** [3] - 76:1, 89:18, 114:10  
**vandalism** [1] - 91:21  
**vandalized** [1] - 92:5  
**variety** [1] - 16:17  
**various** [2] - 47:15, 92:22  
**vast** [3] - 89:3, 93:9, 110:5  
**vegetation** [1] - 91:7  
**vehicle** [2] - 55:10, 57:18  
**venture** [2] - 23:21, 109:6  
**ventures** [1] - 22:8  
**venues** [1] - 89:14  
**verbatim** [1] - 116:8  
**verify** [1] - 37:5  
**Vermont** [2] - 57:19, 57:21  
**vernal** [4] - 9:24, 9:25, 47:16, 98:25  
**versus** [1] - 25:17  
**vestas** [1] - 91:13  
**veteran** [1] - 39:21  
**viable** [5] - 40:10, 40:11, 75:23, 110:9, 111:10  
**vibrant** [1] - 74:19  
**vicinity** [1] - 60:25  
**victims** [1] - 30:23  
**Victor** [3] - 105:17, 105:20, 106:6  
**videotapings** [1] - 33:25  
**view** [11] - 25:18, 30:4, 47:6, 62:4, 68:16, 68:18, 68:22, 71:10, 89:21, 100:21, 113:19  
**viewers** [3] - 52:7,

52:10, 52:12  
**views** [8] - 21:7, 49:12, 52:8, 58:2, 75:11, 76:9, 114:5, 114:7  
**vigorously** [1] - 55:19  
**village** [1] - 90:11  
**villages** [1] - 103:6  
**violate** [1] - 59:20  
**Virginia** [1] - 60:3  
**virtually** [2] - 17:25, 80:13  
**visibile** [1] - 105:8  
**visibility** [3] - 10:19, 10:24, 10:25  
**visible** [3] - 49:21, 89:5, 89:16  
**vision** [3] - 43:16, 117:20, 117:23  
**visit** [3] - 12:18, 25:21, 41:12  
**visited** [2] - 12:20, 91:22  
**visiting** [1] - 20:3  
**visitor** [1] - 103:11  
**visitors** [2] - 90:12, 100:5  
**visits** [1] - 23:17  
**vistas** [1] - 91:23  
**visual** [6] - 10:20, 19:2, 61:9, 91:19, 92:10, 104:12  
**vivid** [1] - 99:9  
**voice** [3] - 19:17, 23:4, 25:25  
**Volume** [1] - 1:16  
**vote** [5] - 52:21, 52:22, 53:1, 67:12, 67:16  
**vouch** [1] - 73:19  
**vulnerable** [1] - 46:1

---

## W

---

**W's** [1] - 15:23  
**wages** [1] - 58:18  
**Wagner** [2] - 36:16  
**waiting** [2] - 21:25, 101:17  
**waking** [1] - 32:6  
**walk** [2] - 86:25, 101:20  
**wall** [1] - 54:18  
**Wallace** [3] - 68:10, 68:13, 68:15  
**wallet** [1] - 55:3  
**wants** [1] - 7:2  
**war** [2] - 69:7  
**warm** [1] - 103:19  
**warming** [4] - 30:20, 45:24, 46:1, 55:22

**warranted** [1] - 16:8  
**wars** [1] - 88:18  
**Washburn** [3] - 14:10, 22:21, 23:7  
**WASHBURN** [2] - 22:15, 22:20  
**Washburns** [1] - 23:9  
**Washington** [20] - 1:11, 3:1, 4:7, 11:18, 30:15, 34:11, 74:18, 74:19, 74:20, 74:21, 77:10, 109:13, 109:16, 109:17, 110:5, 110:14, 111:2, 112:2, 112:3, 112:11  
**waste** [1] - 17:5  
**wasted** [1] - 100:25  
**wasteland** [1] - 83:7  
**wasting** [1] - 109:6  
**watchful** [1] - 91:5  
**watching** [5] - 58:21, 58:23, 100:17, 102:14, 102:24  
**water** [15] - 12:5, 28:17, 50:8, 50:9, 58:2, 58:12, 58:20, 59:8, 65:21, 94:6, 97:17, 100:14, 102:19, 102:25  
**water-carrying** [1] - 28:17  
**water-generated** [1] - 97:17  
**waterboro** [1] - 93:15  
**waterfowl** [1] - 66:5  
**waters** [6] - 17:14, 64:22, 66:6, 95:15, 95:19, 95:20  
**watershed** [5] - 24:15, 24:17, 80:12, 99:25, 104:4  
**waterway** [1] - 61:25  
**ways** [5] - 17:22, 27:3, 40:13, 41:7, 119:9  
**wealthy** [2] - 96:15, 96:21  
**wear** [1] - 40:14  
**weather** [1] - 84:10  
**web** [1] - 88:1  
**website** [6] - 30:8, 55:17, 81:3, 113:21, 114:3  
**week** [4] - 73:4, 73:11, 93:6  
**weekend** [2] - 103:16, 120:17  
**weekends** [1] - 23:22  
**weeklies** [1] - 27:7  
**weeks** [7] - 27:6, 72:9,

73:11, 74:5, 93:6, 102:9, 109:18  
**weigh** [2] - 44:20, 45:1  
**weighing** [2] - 44:15, 111:7  
**welcome** [1] - 2:11  
**welling** [1] - 93:20  
**wells** [2] - 63:14  
**west** [11] - 23:22, 60:3, 65:16, 66:4, 66:8, 66:22, 72:24, 75:12, 102:6, 103:16, 107:2  
**West** [6] - 20:4, 30:3, 48:25, 50:24, 88:23, 106:23  
**western** [4] - 50:23, 79:25, 112:14, 116:22  
**wetland** [3] - 9:17, 9:19, 9:20  
**wetlands** [2] - 9:21, 53:20  
**WHEREOF** [1] - 122:13  
**white** [5] - 15:20, 30:18, 50:8, 51:23, 66:6  
**white-nose** [1] - 15:20  
**WHITELY** [2] - 74:11, 105:21  
**whitely** [4] - 68:10, 74:11, 105:14, 105:21  
**whitetail** [1] - 116:21  
**whole** [10] - 6:7, 14:21, 34:3, 38:25, 48:10, 48:12, 98:12, 111:4, 120:11  
**wholeheartedly** [3] - 35:17, 42:1, 43:5  
**wide** [3] - 61:11, 91:11, 91:14  
**wife** [5] - 22:22, 23:21, 59:3, 68:19, 74:8  
**wild** [11] - 32:14, 32:18, 50:11, 65:20, 95:12, 98:20, 98:24, 103:22, 103:23, 104:5  
**Wilderness** [2] - 34:20, 34:22  
**wilderness** [10] - 34:24, 65:20, 66:5, 72:23, 72:24, 73:1, 86:22, 91:23, 96:25  
**wildernesses** [1] - 72:25  
**wildlife** [22] - 14:25, 15:4, 15:7, 15:11, 16:12, 32:14, 35:3,

35:4, 35:5, 42:16,  
45:12, 47:16, 58:21,  
66:5, 83:11, 85:4,  
90:12, 106:10,  
119:7, 119:12

**wildness** [1] - 96:25

**William** [3] - 68:10,  
68:13, 72:2

**willing** [1] - 113:12

**Wind** [33] - 1:8, 1:9,  
4:5, 7:23, 14:14,  
14:15, 19:5, 19:11,  
24:22, 25:2, 25:6,  
25:10, 30:10, 32:17,  
33:6, 41:25, 52:24,  
64:6, 76:2, 81:17,  
81:20, 85:1, 85:22,  
92:21, 108:17,  
110:22, 113:3,  
114:9, 116:23,  
119:1, 119:6

**wind** [174] - 2:24, 2:25,  
4:5, 4:7, 4:8, 7:22,  
7:24, 9:8, 9:9, 15:2,  
16:11, 16:15, 16:19,  
16:20, 17:4, 17:7,  
17:11, 17:12, 17:23,  
17:25, 18:4, 18:6,  
18:12, 18:18, 19:14,  
19:19, 19:21, 20:20,  
20:22, 21:6, 21:10,  
21:20, 21:22, 21:24,  
22:3, 24:11, 24:20,  
25:4, 25:6, 25:9,  
25:11, 25:19, 26:10,  
26:13, 27:4, 27:12,  
29:23, 30:7, 30:9,  
30:23, 31:8, 31:16,  
31:20, 31:22, 32:3,  
32:6, 32:9, 32:11,  
32:16, 33:1, 33:10,  
33:12, 33:14, 34:13,  
41:11, 43:25, 45:2,  
46:9, 46:12, 46:19,  
47:2, 47:3, 47:6,  
47:7, 47:9, 47:12,  
52:23, 53:6, 53:10,  
54:4, 54:7, 54:16,  
54:19, 54:21, 54:22,  
54:23, 55:9, 55:13,  
55:15, 55:19, 55:22,  
55:23, 56:2, 56:17,  
56:22, 56:24, 56:25,  
57:3, 57:5, 57:22,  
57:23, 58:4, 58:6,  
58:23, 59:2, 59:22,  
59:23, 60:4, 60:7,  
60:23, 60:25, 61:2,  
61:3, 61:6, 61:8,  
61:14, 61:16, 63:4,  
65:14, 71:9, 80:25,  
81:5, 81:7, 81:10,  
81:13, 82:23, 83:21,  
84:4, 84:7, 84:8,  
84:10, 84:14, 85:6,  
86:2, 86:7, 87:6,  
87:8, 87:19, 88:11,  
88:12, 88:21, 89:2,  
90:2, 92:25, 93:4,  
97:15, 100:6, 101:2,  
101:5, 101:6, 102:8,  
103:17, 104:12,  
104:18, 105:5,  
105:8, 105:10,  
105:11, 106:8,  
106:16, 107:21,  
108:1, 109:16,  
110:8, 110:16,  
111:4, 111:8,  
111:10, 112:18,  
113:1, 115:19,  
117:18

**Wind's** [1] - 85:19

**winders** [1] - 102:19

**windmill** [5] - 35:18,  
69:19, 69:25, 76:23,  
92:5

**windmills** [19] - 35:2,  
35:7, 42:15, 42:19,  
59:16, 61:10, 62:20,  
64:4, 69:12, 69:16,  
69:19, 75:4, 75:8,  
75:21, 76:22, 77:14,  
85:10, 89:21, 90:9

**winds** [1] - 31:6

**windy** [3] - 47:13,  
76:24, 76:25

**Winn** [1] - 93:21

**winner** [1] - 118:23

**winter** [2] - 20:12,  
112:4

**wintering** [1] - 119:4

**Winterport** [1] - 95:7

**winterville** [1] - 3:13

**Wisconsin** [1] - 27:10

**wisely** [1] - 64:10

**wish** [3] - 5:24, 90:6,  
120:25

**wishing** [1] - 4:22

**wit** [1] - 95:24

**withdraw** [1] - 105:16

**withheld** [1] - 26:5

**WITNESS** [1] - 122:13

**witnessed** [1] - 73:16

**witnesses** [6] - 5:1,  
6:4, 37:16, 37:23,  
37:25, 122:10

**WMDs** [3] - 85:8

**woman** [1] - 101:18

**wonder** [2] - 88:3,  
95:23

**wonderful** [2] - 69:11,  
84:2

**wood** [2] - 29:4,  
106:13

**wooden** [1] - 103:8

**woods** [10] - 12:5,  
32:2, 39:9, 43:9,  
86:25, 91:20, 99:24,  
100:1, 100:21,  
117:25

**woolwich** [1] - 92:20

**word** [4] - 29:14,  
83:10, 83:14, 115:22

**words** [4] - 47:2,  
47:19, 54:14, 103:25

**workers** [3] - 57:18,  
82:24, 86:9

**workings** [1] - 28:4

**works** [1] - 78:4

**world** [19] - 26:9, 63:7,  
65:17, 65:19, 65:25,  
66:3, 66:7, 67:5,  
69:7, 77:23, 95:14,  
95:22, 101:9,  
101:11, 106:8,  
112:9, 112:11,  
112:12, 115:14

**worldwide** [1] -  
112:16

**worried** [1] - 96:11

**worries** [1] - 100:9

**worrisome** [1] -  
117:24

**worry** [1] - 117:15

**worse** [1] - 69:13

**worst** [1] - 97:3

**worth** [1] - 57:10

**worthy** [1] - 119:16

**would-be** [1] - 27:17

**wow** [1] - 101:22

**wrap** [3] - 50:25,  
59:25, 103:13

**wretchedness** [1] -  
88:5

**written** [9] - 5:18, 7:5,  
13:2, 39:4, 52:14,  
103:24, 116:5, 121:2

**wrote** [2] - 57:20,  
109:20

**www.**  
**eastgrandschool.**  
**org** [1] - 33:24

**Wyman** [1] - 104:9

**Wytopitlock** [1] - 71:5

18:16, 20:7, 25:1,  
32:24, 33:15, 46:5,  
52:21, 55:15, 58:14,  
59:5, 65:9, 93:7,  
93:8, 97:3, 105:3,  
107:19, 111:22,  
116:17

**year-round** [3] - 20:7,  
25:1, 65:9

**years** [63] - 16:9, 18:7,  
20:4, 20:5, 20:6,  
20:20, 32:12, 32:23,  
33:14, 34:22, 40:15,  
42:9, 42:10, 42:18,  
42:22, 45:16, 52:20,  
53:19, 58:1, 59:4,  
59:10, 63:2, 64:16,  
66:9, 68:19, 69:4,  
69:10, 70:6, 70:23,  
72:4, 72:5, 72:7,  
72:9, 73:10, 73:15,  
73:20, 74:4, 77:17,  
80:23, 84:10, 87:14,  
89:8, 90:10, 90:19,  
92:9, 97:4, 97:12,  
97:13, 97:18, 98:3,  
98:9, 98:15, 104:15,  
106:21, 107:18,  
108:23, 110:18,  
112:10, 112:17,  
116:24, 117:13

**yielded** [1] - 30:16

**York** [6] - 31:18, 71:6,  
71:13, 71:18, 96:16,  
112:1

**young** [2] - 67:24,  
70:16

**yourselves** [1] - 47:8

**youth** [3] - 17:18,  
50:2, 86:23

**youths** [6] - 72:10,  
72:13, 72:14, 72:15,  
73:16, 73:21

---

## Z

---

**zoned** [1] - 32:12

**zoning** [2] - 53:19,  
89:10

---

## Y

---

**yards** [1] - 68:23

**year** [20] - 11:11,