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State of Maine
Department of Conservation
Maine Land Use Regulation Commission

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Volume I of III

Fifth Pre-hearing Procedural Order Hearing

In the Matter of

Development Permit DP 4860

TransCanada Maine Wind Development, Inc.

Kibby Expansion Project

Held at Sugarloaf Grand Summit Conference Center
Carrabassett Valley, Maine

Don Thompson & Associates

Court Reporters

1 (This hearing was taken before Angella D. Clukey,
2 Notary Public, at the Sugarloaf Grand Summit Conference
3 Center, Carrabassett Valley, Maine, on Tuesday, May 11,
4 2010, beginning at 6:45 p.m.)

5 MS. HILTON: I would like to start this hearing. Let
6 me just make sure we have the sound --. Okay. How does
7 that sound -- sound to you folks out there? That's
8 terrible. How about now?

9 AUDIENCE: Better.

10 MS. HILTON: Folks in the back? I'm just going to talk
11 fairly loud. The first thing I would like to do is say
12 good evening and welcome and thanks for coming tonight.
13 And we're going to hear testimony and listen to what's
14 going to be said about the TransCanada project.

15 My name is Gwen Hilton and I am Commission Chairperson,
16 presiding officer for the hearing. I would like to have
17 the commissioners and others at the table here introduce
18 themselves. Steve, you want to start?

19 MR. SCHAEFER: Steve Schaefer, Grand Lake Stream.

20 MS. KURTZ: Rebecca Kurtz, Phillips.

21 MS. MILLS: Amy Mills from the A.G.'s office.

22 MS. CARROLL: I'm Catherine Carroll, I'm the Commission
23 staff director.

24 MS. FARRAND: Sally Farrand from Beaver Cove.

25 MR. NADEAU: Jim Nadeau, Winterville Plantation.

1 MS. HILTON: And over on the left here we have Angella
2 Clukey who is our -- recording this, Rebecca Renaud is the
3 one doing the sound system. And other staffers here
4 Samantha Horn-Olsen, manager of the planning division,
5 Marcia Spencer-Famous, senior planner. And that's all of
6 us up front here.

7 This evening's hearing is being held pursuant to the
8 provisions of 12 M.R.S. Section 685-B. The hearing will be
9 conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 of the Commission's
10 rules for the conduct of public hearings.

11 This evening's hearing is being held to receive public
12 testimony on the matter of Development Permit DP 4860,
13 submitted by TransCanada Maine Wind Development,
14 Incorporated to construct a 45-megawatt wind energy
15 development in Kibby Township and Chain of Ponds Township
16 in Franklin County. The proposed wind energy development
17 would consist of 15 3-megawatt wind turbines, an access
18 road, a 34.5 kV collector line, a substation and a short
19 segment of 115 kV transmission line to connect to the
20 existing Kibby substation. The proposed project would use
21 the existing Kibby Operations and Maintenance building and
22 the existing 115 kV transmission line that connects to the
23 Bigelow Station -- substation.

24 The purpose of this hearing is to allow the public to
25 present direct testimony in evidence as to whether the

1 development proposal meets the criteria for approval as
2 specified in 12 M.R.S. Section 685-B(4) and (4-B) of the
3 Commission's statutes and also the Commission's land use
4 districts and standards.

5 Before we get to the public testifying portion of this,
6 I believe TransCanada is -- has a short presentation for
7 us. And I guess I'll hand that over to you.

8 MR. WILLIAMSON: Good evening, everybody. My name is
9 Toby Williamson. I've been working with TransCanada
10 basically doing this type of thing, explaining the project
11 to people in the local area for the last -- this project
12 for the last year, the original Kibby Wind Power Project
13 for the last going on three years now so -- almost four
14 years.

15 So tonight I'm just going to give you the brief
16 overview of the project. I wanted to start by giving you a
17 brief overview of the original Kibby Wind Project. So that
18 is a --.

19 All right. So the original Kibby Wind Power Project is
20 under construction right now, it's a \$320 million
21 investment. 44, 3-megawatt Vestas Turbines on two ridges.
22 This is Kibby Mountain right here and Kibby Range.

23 The -- and it's also -- an operations and maintenance
24 building, this sort of orange dot right there. It's a
25 27-mile transmission line that connects into the New

1 England grid starting here and heading down and connecting
2 into the -- the existing Bigelow substation which was
3 upgraded as part of the original project.

4 And so the Kibby Expansion Project is roughly 2 miles
5 from Kibby Range. So, again, here's Kibby -- Kibby
6 Mountain and Kibby Range is down here, this wishbone shape.
7 And roughly 2 miles away over here is Sisk Mountain, which
8 TransCanada is proposing to put 15 3-megawatt turbines onto
9 for a total of 45 megawatts. This would be \$100 million
10 plus investment. And it would support an additional year
11 of construction benefits, create at least one more
12 additional job -- full-time job and it would utilize the
13 existing infrastructure that I pointed out in the previous
14 slide.

15 Could you back up just one, please? I just wanted to
16 -- to point out the -- the visual resources that Jean
17 Vissering, who did the visual study for the original
18 project and this project. So that we've got Arnold --
19 Arnold Pond here, Crosby Pond, Chain of Ponds and then
20 Kibby Stream is in this area here.

21 Next one, please.

22 MS. HILTON: Toby, could you speak up a little bit?
23 We're trying to transcribe this, too.

24 (A discussion was held off the record.)

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: So, again, this is just a close-up

1 view of the project footprint. Again 15 3-megawatt
2 turbines along this ridge line here. The project utilizes
3 a total of 7.4 miles of existing road. That includes the
4 Gold Brook Road, 5 miles that were upgraded as part of the
5 original Kibby project that's off this map to the south
6 here, and then 2.4 miles of upgraded road, the Mile 5 Road
7 off of the Gold Brook Road here, roughly to that point
8 there. And then the project would build an additional 4.7
9 miles of new roads starting -- starting roughly here. So
10 that will be 1.1 miles of access road and then 3.6 miles of
11 crane path along the top of the ridge line.

12 Also, there would be a collector system that would
13 bring the power from each of these turbines down and into
14 the -- a new substation which would be built just off the
15 map in this area here.

16 There were several studies done to support the permit
17 application. Visual studies, sound studies, a shadow
18 flicker study, plant communities, wetland and vernal pools,
19 birds, bats and other wildlife and historical resources.

20 Just to give you one example of one of the studies,
21 this is the sound contour map. Again, the turbines are
22 roughly in this area, 15 turbines here. This is the
23 transformer and the substation that would be built. These
24 lines here show the -- the decibel levels starting close to
25 the project about -- in the 50 decibel range, getting out

1 close here to the Chain of Ponds to the 30 decibel range.

2 And to give you an idea of what that means, basically,
3 25 decibels is -- is termed as a quiet rural area. And the
4 predicted and peer-reviewed sound levels at the camps along
5 the Chain of Ponds are equivalent to current conditions and
6 substantially below any regulatory limits.

7 Very briefly I want to go through the tangible benefits
8 and other benefits that are part of this project. The
9 Maine Legislature recently required all wind power projects
10 to include \$4,000 per turbine as a -- as a tangible benefit
11 to local a community. So as part of this project, we'll be
12 continuing the \$1,000 per megawatt per year for the Town of
13 -- Town of Eustis. So it would be an additional \$45,000
14 each year.

15 An additional benefit would be \$150,000 to the Maine
16 Department of Labor for the Franklin County Green Jobs
17 Fund, which would be similar to the Kibby boot camp program
18 that we ran -- that the career center ran for this -- in
19 this previous year of 2009. There will be \$150,000 for the
20 High Peaks Alliance for Franklin County trail corridor
21 conservation. \$100,000 for the Arnold Exhibition
22 Historical Society. That will be continuing a partnership
23 that we developed with them during the -- the initial Kibby
24 project. And that will be used for trail corridor
25 conservation or historical interpretation.

1 And, finally, a Bicknell's Thrush conservation fund,
2 \$100,000 for the protection of their overwintering habitat
3 down in the Caribbean.

4 Very briefly, the anticipated schedule for this
5 project, we installed a met tower up on the Sisk ridge line
6 in the summer 2009, filed the applications in the fall of
7 2009. We are hoping to receive --

8 (A discussion was held off the record due to audio
9 problems.)

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: So just to finish up here, this is one
11 of the last slides. We're hoping to receive the permitting
12 decisions later this summer. And if the project is
13 approved, we will start construction in late summer of this
14 year and complete the project in the fall of 2011.

15 So with that, thank you for spending your evening with
16 us tonight. Tell the commissioners what you think about
17 the project. And the rest of the evening is for you. So
18 thank you again.

19 MS. HILTON: Okay. We're going to take a break.

20 (Whereupon a recess was held at 6:25 p.m., and the
21 hearing was resumed at 6:40 p.m. this date.)

22 MS. HILTON: All right. Okay. Those wishing to
23 testify need to sign up on the sheets. If you haven't
24 already done that, please do so. They then bring them up
25 for us at the front here. Anybody that wants to testify

1 needs to be sworn in and will be required to give testimony
2 -- to state for the record their name, residence, business
3 or professional affiliation, the nature of their interest
4 in the hearing and whether or not they represent another
5 individual, firm or other legal entity for the purposes of
6 the hearing.

7 In addition, as you know, we're transcribing this, so I
8 request that you speak clearly and fairly loudly so
9 certainly everybody in this room is able to hear you, if
10 possible. All questions and testimony must be relevant to
11 the Commission's criteria for approval for this proposal.
12 Irrelevant or unduly repetitious material or questions will
13 be excluded.

14 The record of this hearing will remain open for ten
15 days for written comments until Monday, May 24th and for an
16 additional seven days until Tuesday, June 1st for rebuttal
17 testimony or as determined by the presiding officer. No
18 additional evidence or testimony will be allowed into the
19 record after that date. Persons attending the hearing who
20 wish to be notified of the final action taken by the
21 Commission as a result of this hearing, may leave their
22 names and addresses with our staff over here on the -- on
23 my left, your right.

24 At this time I would like anybody who is going to be
25 testifying to rise, I'm going to swear you in. If you

1 could raise your right hand and state after me. I do swear
2 that I will tell the truth and nothing but the truth.

3 PARTICIPANTS: I do swear that I will tell the truth
4 and nothing but the truth.

5 MS. HILTON: Okay. Thank you very much. Let's see.
6 What we're going to do is Catherine is going to call off
7 the first five names on the list that we have here. And I
8 guess if you could come up -- the first person could come
9 up to the podium here and testify first and if the other
10 four could sit down, we'll then call you up as we go.

11 I would like to ask you to limit your remarks to less
12 than five minutes. We have quite a few people that want to
13 testify here. If you have more to say and you have written
14 testimony, we would be happy to receive that and you can
15 drop that off also with our staff here.

16 So I'm going to be keeping track of time in general and
17 encourage you if you have a lot to say to try to be concise
18 and to the point. And, I guess, let's get started.
19 Anything else? That's right. And if -- as I said earlier,
20 if you -- you have -- the record is going to be remaining
21 open for a period of time here, I just read this, for ten
22 days for additional written comments. So there is an
23 opportunity to submit more testimony after tonight. Okay.

24 MS. CARROLL: I have two sign up sheets right now so if
25 anybody hasn't signed in to testify, over there at the

1 entrance on the table are sheets to sign up to testify.
2 And I'll go over there shortly to see if there are any more
3 sign up sheets.

4 So the first five names that have indicated they wish
5 to speak -- the first one is a group. You look like a
6 group. Are you the group? Okay. Well, the group goes
7 first. And that's Casey Smith, JH Howard, Patty Ladd and
8 Gary Perlson. I'm sorry, forgive me if I cannot read or
9 pronounce your names. Next will be Lloyd Cuttler, Gene
10 Currie, Richard Fotter and Sharon Thomas. Those are the
11 first five in that order. Come on up.

12 MR. PERLSON: Okay. So we're going without a
13 microphone. I'll see if I can project and everybody can
14 hear us. All right. Is that good? All right.

15 My name is Gary Perlson, I live in Madrid Township.
16 And I work with an organization in Franklin County called
17 the Franklin County Community College Network. And this is
18 an organization of businesses, rate-based groups,
19 educational organizations and about 60 partners that work
20 to train the emerging work force and retrain the existing
21 work force in Franklin County. And I'm going to speak to
22 you a little bit about and share with you the experience of
23 some of the folks who work with -- in what we understand
24 was the Kibby Project, and that was the Kibby boot camp
25 that we participated in last summer.

1 So last -- about a year ago in April, Toby came to our
2 Franklin County Community College Network meeting and
3 talked to us about the project at Kibby. Well, we very
4 rarely have opportunities in Franklin County and,
5 especially, northern Franklin County to train people in the
6 jobs of the future. So we worked together.

7 We submitted a proposal through the stimulus package
8 through the American Recovery Act and received a grant to
9 work with our new partners TransCanada, Vestas, Cianbro,
10 Reed & Reed, Sargent, Maine Drilling & Blasting, TRC, all
11 of the contractors that were constructing the -- the wind
12 farm. And our partners who brought them to us, some of the
13 partners are here tonight, Alison Hagerstrom, because it is
14 an economic development issue, and Patty Ladd, who's the
15 manager of the Woodland Career Center and many other
16 partners were involved.

17 So I was asked to be the project team leader and help
18 recruit a group of 18- to 24-year-olds who were
19 disadvantaged. These are by federal standards,
20 disadvantaged. And there's many ways to look at
21 disadvantaged. Well, we had the opportunity to work with
22 all of these contractors, everything from Dana Valleau
23 taking a look at all of the five years of environmental
24 studies, we did some lynx studies with them as a team, we
25 worked with Plum Creek and learned about best forest

1 management practices, we did some reseeded and
2 reforestation, we worked with Sargent on the road building,
3 learned what a balanced site was, where the rocks were
4 really used once they were blasted by Maine Drilling and
5 blasted, crushed and used for roads, we learned about the
6 electrical work and -- that Cianbro was doing to connect
7 the lines.

8 We went through the whole process. As a matter of
9 fact, JD here, our technology coordinator -- and we all had
10 jobs in the boot camp, all ten of us -- created a DVD
11 that's been circulating quite widely and I've been sharing
12 it with the schools. These are the jobs of the future.

13 So I wanted to introduce some of these participants to
14 you. There were ten participants, all of them completed
15 the program. All but one was hired and there was no
16 guaranty at the beginning they would be hired. I told them
17 it was like The Apprentice, they were going to be under
18 scrutiny for six weeks learning the soft skills as well as
19 the hard skills. And if these companies like what they
20 saw, there was a possibility of employment, but absolutely
21 no guaranty.

22 So I would like to introduce Casey Smith from Salem
23 Township.

24 MR. SMITH: Hi. I'm Casey Smith, I'm from Cardridge,
25 Maine. I took part in the Kibby boot camp last summer.

1 And I was a single father and I had lost my job. And the
2 opportunity arose itself, so I took advantage of it and I
3 ended up with a job for Reed & Reed, which I'm currently
4 working for them. And that's it.

5 MR. PERLSON: Maybe JD Howard could enlighten us a
6 little bit more about his --

7 MR. HOWARD: Right now I'm continuing my education at
8 Southern Maine Community College, so --. I right now got
9 employed with them. There was 15 applicants and they were
10 only hiring one person for an IT support analysis. And
11 also not only did we learn a lot about how they were making
12 the things like that, but we learned a lot with interview
13 skills, public speaking, working on resumes and things like
14 that.

15 So it wasn't only this, but that's what really helped
16 me with my job. I have a two-year degree in computer
17 drafting and design. So the future, I think, looks good.
18 I work right now -- I'm going to be fully employed with the
19 school and I feel that this program helped me a lot being
20 able to get the job that I received. I'm from Phillips, so
21 there wasn't really many jobs when I was younger or
22 anything like that.

23 And being -- when Gary contacted me to get this job,
24 I've always been one to jump on the opportunity. And like
25 he had said, we learned so much being up there for the six

1 weeks and, like I said -- was said before, we have the DVD
2 and I hope you guys will be able to check it out because
3 not only do we know -- learned about the windmills, we
4 learned about the process before, how much studying it
5 takes to go in between. And it was just very educational
6 all around and it also helped us get employed for the full
7 -- full summer.

8 MS. LADD: Hello. My name is Patty.

9 PARTICIPANT: I would like to suggest to move the
10 podium just to the left a little bit so they could face the
11 committee as well as the audience because they're back-to
12 and we can't see their expressions as well as facing the
13 camera.

14 (A discussion was held off the record.)

15 MS. LADD: My name is Patty Ladd, I'm from Farmington.
16 I'm working at the Career Center, as a manager. And we
17 work with a lot of people that are unemployed and we're
18 trying to find employment. We also work with economic
19 development in trying to work with businesses as well
20 helping them come to the area. We were fortunate enough to
21 have Alison introduce us to TransCanada. And we were
22 involved in the job fair that took place prior to the
23 construction of a lot of the windmills up there last year.

24 And that was quite an opportunity. And at that time
25 TransCanada was very interested in working with the

1 community. And sometimes we all -- we don't always get
2 that in Franklin County, to have an employer come in and
3 really care about the people that they serve. So it was
4 kind of nice to have TransCanada come to us and be willing
5 to work with us on this Kibby boot camp project as well --
6 it does work.

7 So it was also very nice for that to happen, not only
8 for our adults looking for employment, but to also give the
9 youth an opportunity and to give them education about green
10 jobs. It's more and more prevalent every day and it's very
11 important for them to learn about that.

12 So I just want to say that I feel we're very fortunate
13 to have them in Franklin County and would like to see more
14 of it. Thank you.

15 MR. PERLSON: I'm just going to conclude. All right.
16 One of the things we learned is that this is -- this is not
17 an easy task to construct in the -- the conditions. And as
18 a contractor, you have to be willing to travel. Both these
19 young men will need to leave for work at 4 o'clock this
20 morning and it's about an hour to take them home. So I do
21 hope you will excuse us, we need to get them home so they
22 can get to their respective jobs on time.

23 If you have any questions for us, we do hope that we
24 are able to repeat this again next year and spend some more
25 time on Kibby learning more about alternative energy and

1 having another 10 to 12 people trained and employed in
2 Franklin County.

3 So I want to thank you the commissioners for their time
4 and I want to thank all of you for your patience. And have
5 a good evening.

6 MS. CARROLL: Lloyd.

7 MR. CUTTLER: That's a tough act to follow. I think
8 this is the fourth time I've sat or stood at this podium
9 and addressed this board regarding windmills.

10 MS. HILTON: Can you state your name and where you're
11 from?

12 MR. CUTTLER: Sure. Lloyd Cuttler, resident, selectman
13 and small business owner in Carrabassett Valley. I was
14 trying to think what's different this time after four times
15 testifying. And there's one big thing that stands out in
16 my mind and that's a track record. This group that was
17 just hear speaks to that track record. We've heard about
18 what developers were going to do, what windmill companies
19 were going to try to do, but now we've seen TransCanada
20 actually do it. They've been good neighbors, they've been
21 good developers, I think they have been very respectful to
22 the environment, which I and the residents of the area live
23 in.

24 And these are the things that were a real point of
25 interest or a point of contention to a lot of people. I

1 think, as we just found out with technology, we have an
2 insatiable desire to have energy. Our country continues to
3 expand on needs for energy. We all know that windmills,
4 solar power are not going to be the ultimate answer, but
5 they are part of this solution. We only have to open up
6 the paper today to see what oil and coal are doing. Those
7 are environmental disasters that will continue.

8 I look at a windmill, I look at solar power, I look at
9 our renewable energy, which will continue to be a small
10 part of the mix, but they are an attempt for us to address
11 as responsible citizens our need for energy and the fact
12 that we need to move forward. We need to find other
13 sources. 20, 40, 50 years from now windmills may not be
14 that source, but they're very easy to disassemble. They're
15 part of the process of -- of qualifying for a permit, they
16 have to show that, they can take them down if they have to
17 return the mountains back to the way they were.

18 Again, I go back to this track record that --. Again,
19 we have a lot of very good environmentalists that care
20 tremendously about the mountains that I have lived in, that
21 many of us live in. And we respect that. And we also
22 understand that we have to be part of this solution.
23 That's how we looked at the windmill project. I would
24 never stand there and say that a mountain without a
25 windmill is as pretty as a mountain with a windmill. But

1 you have to look beyond that windmill and see what it's
2 doing. You have to see that we're making an attempt to be
3 part of the solution of what exists in our country.

4 So I guess what I would say is that, in conclusion, I
5 would look at the fact that the difference in this hearing
6 is that it's actually occurred; TransCanada has built 22
7 turbines, they're building 22 more, they're looking to
8 permit additional turbines. We only have to go and look at
9 what they've done to see that this is a responsible
10 company, that they've done a professional job, they've
11 addressed the needs of the county, the needs of the town
12 and they've been very respectful to the environment. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. CARROLL: Gene.

15 MR. CURRIE: My name is Gene Currie, I'm a small
16 business owner in the Stratton area. And I'd just like to
17 make a few comments. One of them is that everybody has
18 been watching the newspaper or the news lately, we've seen
19 more and more people having these problems monetarily.
20 This is -- so far has been a very good godsend to this
21 area. It's helped my business, all the businesses. And --
22 but that's not the only reason I'm for wind power.

23 I think probably by watching television the last few
24 weeks, we've seen people die in the coal mines, we see
25 people die in offshore drilling. And no matter how many

1 people die from that, there's still going to be coal mines,
2 there's still going to -- they will continue to do offshore
3 drilling because this country is a glut as a nation where
4 we need energy, we need energy bad.

5 And my feeling is we have to try to find something that
6 -- a renewable safe energy. As far as I'm concerned, it's
7 wind power. We can't keep thinking that we're going to
8 live on oil. A lot of these manufacturing facilities,
9 they're burning oil. Now, the coal mines are putting out
10 coal to fuel the needs of this country. And I think in our
11 area up in Stratton, Eustis area, this area down here,
12 everybody is benefitting from it; it's a safe renewable
13 ongoing thing.

14 And maybe it isn't going to make all the difference in
15 the world, but it will make a difference in the thought
16 that it will help at least alleviate the pain. And if the
17 these other windmill projects in other parts of the United
18 States are allowed to continue, they're also going to
19 alleviate the necessity of oil and coal mining.

20 Do I think that everything about it is great? Probably
21 not. But, you know, as far as the environment is
22 concerned, I've lived here all my life and that area up
23 there is not good hunting, it's not good fishing, it never
24 was good hunting in that area. And I just believe that
25 there's a time and a place for everything. And if we can

1 allow this project to continue, it will definitely help our
2 area.

3 And I just think that -- finishing up, I'd just like to
4 say, as I said, before there's a time and place for
5 everything. Would I want to see ten mills put on Cranberry
6 Peak so that when I look out my living room window I'm
7 going to see them? No. But there is a time and a place
8 for everything and I believe that the Kibby wind project
9 area up there is a perfect place for it and I believe the
10 timing is perfect. In fact, I would like to see it even
11 get larger. Thank you.

12 MS. CARROLL: Richard.

13 MR. FOTTER: Good evening. I'm Richard Fotter and I
14 live in Wyman Township just right up the road here. I'm a
15 member of the Flagstaff Area of Business Association and
16 one of their directors and officers, I'm also part of the
17 Franklin County Tourism Network, the Maine Lakes and
18 Mountains Organization and the Greater Franklin Alliance,
19 which is a group of four chambers and our association that
20 represent tourism and business development in Franklin
21 County.

22 And at our meetings, which we had one last week, we
23 were talking about developing new tourism things for this
24 area. And one of our members mentioned or brought this
25 little slogan up and said that tourism is everyone's

1 business. And, yes, it is. In the state of Maine tourism
2 brings in more dollars than most other businesses, if you
3 consider the whole state. And Franklin County, the
4 northern part of it, we're dependent on tourism. There's
5 Sugarloaf here, if we go to Rangeley with Saddleback,
6 whatever.

7 People -- and we are trying to develop other new ways
8 of getting people to come to this area, enjoy it and
9 hopefully spend their money here so that we can continue to
10 grow and our citizens can stay here and prosper.

11 I'm thinking that based on the maps that are up back
12 and they show viewpoints of the proposed towers and where
13 you can see them from the Chain of Ponds public reserve
14 lands on the -- it would be on the -- I guess, the west
15 side of Chain of Ponds, but there could be a possibility of
16 somebody developing a tourist attraction that might take
17 people out onto the Chain of Ponds waterways, they could
18 see the towers in two or three different places, they could
19 also see the wildlife, they could go fishing, they could
20 enjoy many things that that area has to -- has and can
21 provide.

22 And I think we might have forgotten that this -- you
23 know, we talk about all the -- you know, that it's -- they
24 don't look that well, they make noise, whatever, but let's
25 look ahead and see if we can't take what we have and add to

1 this. And these are the ones that are going to be visible,
2 let's try to make something out of it that we can bring
3 more people in.

4 I've looked at a study that they did in Ireland and
5 they do that same thing, they looked at tourism; it did not
6 negatively effect it. So I'm thinking we have an
7 opportunity here in the western mountains in unorganized
8 territories and we also have -- in your first permit that
9 you granted, you gave a TIF grant or the Kibby wind power
10 TransCanada to Franklin County. And that money is to be
11 used with an emphasis on tourism, business development,
12 communications and for scholarships for education.

13 Exactly like our very first speaker, there will be
14 moneys available, because TransCanada is providing it, that
15 people can be trained that live in the unorganized
16 territories in Franklin County. And I think that this is
17 all important. Everything else is important, but we have
18 to remember that tourism is a big business here in the
19 north western part of Maine.

20 And in closing, I would like to say that TransCanada is
21 a very good corporate citizen. They have provided funds in
22 the past for different projects and I'm sure they will
23 continue to do that in the future. And like Mr. Cuttler
24 said, they have a good track record. Thank you.

25 MS. CARROLL: All right. Sharon. And after Sharon

1 gives her testimony, the next five people who have
2 indicated they wish to speak include Alison Hagerstrom,
3 Millie Howard, Allen Wicken and Senator Gooley. And after
4 Senator Gooley is Wendy. Wendy from Stratton. I'll let
5 Wendy give her last name. Thank you.

6 MS. THOMAS: Just for the record, I didn't stand and
7 swear in, but I will now, I swear in. I wasn't sure I was
8 going to testify. So is that --

9 MS. HILTON: I need to formally swear you in. Can you
10 raise your right hand? Do you swear to tell the whole
11 truth and nothing but the truth?

12 MS. THOMAS: I do.

13 MS. HILTON: Thank you.

14 MS. THOMAS: My name is Sharon Thomas, our legal
15 residence is in Wilton, Maine, but we own Natanis Point
16 Campground, my husband and I, which is on the Chain of
17 Ponds. And when TransCanada first came in and was talking
18 about what they were going to do, our first initial concern
19 was the impact that it would have on us because we have
20 people that come to enjoy the natural beauty of the area.
21 And there's a -- the Chain of Ponds has a tendency to be
22 very special to a lot of people. And so our concern was,
23 what would these campers that come to travel that waterway,
24 be in that area, how would they feel if they're going to
25 have wind turbines visible?

1 And in the course of the past year, talking with
2 TransCanada, dealing with Toby Williamson and just
3 discussing all of our concerns about it all, we asked him,
4 you know, it's the impact, you know, we're the end of the
5 line up there and we own a business up there.

6 And so every person that comes into that area that
7 would camp with us, you know, it has an economic impact on
8 us. And so even if you take a small segment of that
9 population and say we're disgruntled and they don't want to
10 be there, that impacts us. There's several things in that
11 area that are going on right now that are of concern to us.
12 But I must say that TransCanada has talked with us on
13 numerous occasions and bent over backwards to try to
14 eliminate the negative aspect of it the best that they can.

15 And so, you know, we were, like, well, can we ever get
16 electricity up there, we live in a dead zone? You know,
17 it's north of us and it's south of us, it's not where we
18 are. And they was like, well, no, that's going to happen.
19 So -- but they have -- they have come to us and said that
20 they would like to work with us on the possibility of maybe
21 solar power. And we've had a site evaluation done and
22 we're in a primo spot for that. And so they're willing to
23 work with us to help offset any negative impact.

24 This would bring a positive impact to everybody there
25 because with that we would be able to sell ice, which is --

1 maybe seems like nothing to you, but when you're in the
2 wilderness and you live out of a cooler, it's a rare
3 commodity up there. And to be able to have that and to
4 provide that would definitely -- you know, it would offset
5 any negative impact.

6 And so in dealing with them, you know, I've come away
7 with a whole different opinion. And even if they hadn't
8 offered this, I still would have had a better opinion of
9 them just because they are willing to work with you, they
10 are willing to negotiate with you, they're willing to take
11 a look at it from your perspective.

12 And so for that, I want to thank them.

13 MS. CARROLL: Okay. Alison.

14 MS. HAGERSTROM: Commissioner, good evening. Thank you
15 once again for this opportunity to speak in front of you.
16 My name is Alison Hagerstrom, I'm a resident of Farmington.
17 And I'm the executive director for the Greater Franklin
18 Development Corporation also located in Farmington. And my
19 primary purpose is to create jobs through business
20 attraction.

21 TransCanada has been a pleasure to work with since they
22 first started to investigate the potential for wind power
23 in northern Franklin County. Their communications have
24 been open and frequent. We, Franklin County, are very
25 fortunate to have them as an employer, taxpayer and

1 community member now that the Kibby Project is being
2 constructed and partially operational.

3 This evening I want to focus on the value of the
4 corporate citizen and the importance of one quality job.
5 First, TransCanada's efforts to develop our economy and
6 invest in our communities is exemplary. The Kibby boot
7 camp was a huge success in 2009, as you've heard earlier
8 this evening, and TransCanada is investing 150,000 this
9 year to enable this program to continue to develop our work
10 force in emerging industries like wind. This opportunity
11 is priceless.

12 The High Peaks Alliance is a group of local people and
13 organizations working to preserve and enhance our
14 recreational access to forest lands in northern Franklin
15 County. One of the many activities of the alliance is
16 promoting back country trail connections between area town
17 centers. TransCanada is investing 150,000 in this economic
18 opportunity to connect and grow the tourism in northern
19 Franklin County.

20 The Arnold Trail is yet another opportunity to enhance
21 the visitor experience in northern Franklin County and
22 preserve history. Again, TransCanada is investing
23 \$100,000. And TransCanada was instrumental in connecting
24 the Flagstaff Area Business Association to the many
25 Franklin County networks, tourism, the community college

1 and economic development.

2 Secondly, the context of job security, a salary,
3 benefits and promotions. Per the definition of a quality
4 job, workers are paid higher wages. One job supports a
5 family, they pay taxes and feed their family. They spend
6 on housing, goods and services. These wages cycle through
7 the economy and improve the livelihood and well-being of
8 the entire community. One job leads to another job and
9 another and another.

10 These economic growth opportunities and the TIF
11 revenues made possible by the first phase of the project
12 for the benefit of the unorganized townships would not have
13 been possible without TransCanada. We are very fortunate
14 to have such a company sincerely interested in the success
15 of northern Franklin County.

16 We have the chance to expand a great project, add more
17 jobs and, in addition, another year of construction jobs
18 and purchasing of goods and services in -- all of which
19 will benefit the people in Franklin County and the state of
20 Maine.

21 On behalf of the Greater Franklin Development
22 Corporation's board of directors, we encourage you to
23 permit the Kibby wind power expansion on Sisk Mountain.
24 Again, thank you for your time and I will be happy to
25 answer any questions. Thank you.

1 MS. CARROLL: Millie.

2 MS. HOWARD: I'm Millie Howard from Stratton. And I
3 represent the Stratton Summer Rec Program. Our director is
4 away right now, so she asked me to read this letter that
5 she wrote to thank TransCanada.

6 The Stratton/Eustis summer program would like to thank
7 TransCanada for their generous donations over the past few
8 years. Almost three years ago TransCanada approached the
9 Stratton summer program wanting to do something for the
10 area children. We were thrilled to know that we had such a
11 good neighbor in TransCanada.

12 They raised over \$750 through a raffle they put on
13 during family fun days. This money went towards ensuring
14 our children had a safe, fun and healthy environment to
15 come to every day through our program.

16 Over the last two years the Stratton summer program has
17 applied for grants through TransCanada and we've been
18 awarded \$2,000. This extra funding has helped our program
19 go from six weeks to eight weeks and has provided our
20 children with many fun and exciting new programs and trips.
21 We were also able to set up a hardship fund so that all
22 children could attend our camps without parents having to
23 worry about the ability to pay.

24 We've been acknowledged as having one of the best
25 outdoor recreational and educational programs around and

1 we're glad TransCanada has been a part of our success.

2 On behalf of the Stratton summer program, we would like
3 to thank you for all you've done and for our program and
4 hope to continue working with you in the future.

5 I have a copy of the letter with some pictures of our
6 program for each of you, if you'd like them. And I work on
7 the program, so I'm a counselor with the older kids. And I
8 have seen how this has helped our program and the
9 advantages it's had. We've been able to add education to
10 the summer program, which benefits all the kids since it's
11 a long summer and it does help as they enter into the
12 school year.

13 And as well as the school year, I would like to thank
14 Toby Williamson for helping out at our school. I also help
15 at the school, I'm a volunteer coordinator and a substitute
16 teacher. And he has come into our school and worked with
17 our science teacher talking about the program -- the Kibby
18 wind power. And this past fall you'll see in pictures the
19 classes -- I think it was 6th, 7th and 8th have all been
20 involved. But we were invited to come up for a field trip
21 to see what's been going on up there. And then our steel
22 drum band was invited to come play at the opening
23 celebration.

24 So our kids have had an opportunity to see what's going
25 on in our -- our new wind farm. Thank you.

1 MS. CARROLL: Allen.

2 MR. WICKEN: Good evening. My name is Allen Wicken and
3 I'm a resident of Dallas Plantation, not too far from here.
4 And I'm chair elect of the American Lung Association in
5 Maine's Volunteer Leadership Board. I'm here to express
6 our strong support for the Kibby Expansion project.

7 The American Lung Association in Maine is a public
8 health organization. Over our nearly 100 years of
9 existence we have fought against the most significant to
10 lung health. For our first 50 years that threat was
11 tuberculosis. Cigarette smoking was the next major threat
12 we attacked. But today the largest threat to lung health
13 is the pollution of the air we breathe.

14 We are committed to assuring that the air we all breath
15 doesn't cause or worsen lung disease. We are not an
16 environmental organization, we claim no expertise on
17 habitat issues, erosion, water pollution, scenic vistas or
18 a number of other items that will be discussed as part of
19 this application. But we do know something about the
20 health impacts of air pollution.

21 In fact, the more we learn, the more dangerous we find
22 particulate matter in ozone to be at -- even at levels once
23 thought to be safe. The single largest contributor to air
24 pollution in Maine and the nation is our dependency on the
25 fossil fuel for energy and transportation. The good news

1 is that a recent Harvard University study found that
2 cleaning up air pollution actually has increased life
3 expectancy in the U.S.

4 There's no single or simple solution to breaking our
5 dependency on fossil fuel, but wind power is certainly a
6 key part of the solution. We have spoken in favor of
7 continued wind power development in Maine for years.
8 TransCanada's initial Kibby Project was implemented as
9 planned. We are not aware of any broken promises or
10 surprises as a result of the Kibby Project. They have been
11 a company that does what it says it will do.

12 As you consider this project, we would also ask that
13 you consider the 25,000 children in Maine who have asthma
14 and 80,000 others with some form of lung disease, consider
15 the tens of thousands of Maine people with heart disease
16 who are severely impacted by air pollution.

17 Some people may not like us exporting, quote, unquote,
18 renewable energy to other states. If that clean energy
19 replaces unhealthy nonrenewable sources south of us that
20 currently export pollution our way, we fail to understand
21 why that isn't a good idea.

22 Some may not like the site of windmills on our mountain
23 ridges. And, personally, nobody enjoys these mountains
24 more than I do, I don't think. We respect their opinion,
25 but we don't like the site of people in emergency rooms due

1 to unhealthy air each summer.

2 You have an opportunity to once again take a
3 significant step in the right direction for Maine away from
4 fossil fuel and toward healthy renewable energy. Thank
5 you. And I have some copies.

6 MS. CARROLL: Senator Gooley.

7 MR. GOOLEY: I have to say right up front that the
8 governor just appointed me to a new committee, a new task
9 force, and that is the task force on the MMA Railroad, the
10 Montreal Maine and Atlantic Railroad in Aroostook County,
11 which has big problems. And people are going to see that
12 in a bond issue in June. So anyways, I'm headed for
13 Caribou at 6:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

14 So anyways, running for the Legislature and being in it
15 is a unique experience and you all should try it. All
16 right. Thank you very much.

17 I thank you for the opportunity to express my support
18 for the proposed Sisk Mountain wind project. As a member
19 of the governor's tax force on wind power and as state
20 senator from Franklin County, I've had the opportunity to
21 watch TransCanada work and to directly experience the
22 impact of wind investment to rural Maine. I've been
23 impressed with TransCanada and know them to be a first
24 class operation. And more importantly to me, I have seen
25 the positive impact of local investment during a difficult

1 financial time in our state and country.

2 So the Sisk project presents an opportunity to continue
3 that investment in Franklin County and to generate green
4 renewable energy. And so from -- from there I have a few
5 additional comments.

6 As I mentioned, I did -- I have served on the task
7 force -- the governor's wind power task force. I've seen
8 projects up close, including Mars Hill. I understand the
9 noise problem especially up at -- at Mars Hill and I -- I
10 think that is a problem. I know it's a problem.

11 I do not support wind energy on every mountain top in
12 Maine. Renewable energy is important in Maine and that
13 includes wind power as a part of the mix. A comparison
14 between renewable and nonrenewable energy in the U.S. can
15 be made. An example, what's going on in the Gulf of Mexico
16 right now and that is a big problem.

17 Legislative support is also -- I'm not sure if there
18 are other legislators here tonight, but I know there are a
19 number of legislators who support this project, including
20 Representative Fitz and Representative Fletcher and others.

21 So the world is changing and renewable energy including
22 wind power must play a larger part in the energy mix. So
23 with that, I will conclude my remarks and hope that you
24 will approve this project. Thank you very much.

25 MS. CARROLL: Wendy is next. And after Wendy the next

1 five people who have signed in to speak include Karen
2 Pease, David Corrigan, Lauri Sibulkin, Jane Wilkinson and
3 Jonathan Carter. Thank you.

4 MS. DARIENZZO: Thank you for the opportunity to speak
5 in front of you folks. My name is Wendy Darienzzo, I'm a
6 resident of Stratton. I work at Carrabassett Valley
7 Academy as assistant to the headmaster and in the
8 development in alumni relations.

9 In the interest of full disclosure, my husband Michael
10 is the Kibby wind farm operations coordinator and has been
11 a subcontractor for the development of the project since it
12 began. Tonight, however, I represent my beliefs. I have
13 seen my husband track the Canada lynx to make sure her, her
14 babies and her habitat remain intact and protected during
15 the construction phase. I have watched my husband collect
16 and relay avian data and data from extensive research and
17 observations of bat populations and other alpine creatures,
18 all to make sure that they would not be adversely effected
19 by the Kibby Project.

20 I have sat through many hearings for economic and
21 environmental purposes concerning the Kibby Project. I
22 have watched very closely the TransCanada employees on the
23 development, construction and operation teams do exactly
24 what they said they would do concerning the care and
25 respect of our local environment and our community.

1 I don't give my support nor my loyalty easily. I
2 believe that trust must be earned. In researching the
3 company a few years ago, I came across a quote from the
4 TransCanada president and CEO. It says that: Corporate
5 responsibility at TransCanada is, in fact, nothing less
6 than the values put into action by our dedicated employees.
7 The result is a company that you can rely upon to meet
8 society's strategic energy needs with conviction, ingenuity
9 and integrity.

10 I've seen, as Kibby Project employees conduct
11 themselves personally and professionally, as if it was
12 written about them. TransCanada has proven they're a
13 corporation of their word. The facts are indisputable.

14 I have friends and neighbors who may very well have
15 lost their homes were it not for this project. As of
16 October 2009 the project has spent more than \$75 million on
17 material, labor, and room and board in Maine with more than
18 \$6 million spent in Franklin County. Up to 300
19 construction jobs have been created during peak
20 construction, 90 percent of those jobs have gone to Maine
21 residents. There will be approximately ten to 12 permanent
22 jobs once the -- the wind farm is fully operational, more
23 if the expansion is approved, I'm sure.

24 The wind farm will provide an average of 357 million
25 kilowatt hours per year, enough to provide electricity to

1 more than 50,000 average Maine homes, more if we approve
2 the expansion. That's 357 million kilowatt hours that
3 don't have to come from fossil fuels that damage our earth.

4 The Kibby wind farm is a significant taxpayer and a
5 major contributor to Franklin County's economic
6 development. There's already a community benefit package
7 for Stratton/Eustis of approximately \$132,000 annually.
8 This clearly will benefit all of the surrounding
9 communities when this money is spent.

10 I've followed the Kibby opposition to this expansion
11 and in my opinion I see one valid issue, view. It's true
12 that if you're on the Chain of Ponds you will be able to
13 see the turbines intermittently. In my 19 years of living
14 in this area, I have not seen major recreational population
15 on the Chain of Ponds. I've been camping with my boys on
16 its shores and fishing in the surrounding bogs with my
17 husband and I have encountered a few boaters or fishermen.
18 Its beauty is just that, you can go there and there are
19 very few others to invade your natural stillness.

20 My husband and I are currently building a house that
21 will not rely on fossil fuel for our family's energy needs.
22 As a family we strive not just to talk the talk, but to
23 walk the walk. We've taught our boys to be globally aware
24 and to strive to be globally responsible citizens. We
25 would not be setting a good example for them if we were not

1 to support the expansion of the Kibby Project.

2 I find the view of a wind turbine majestic. To me it
3 represents kindness to the earth. I know that it will not
4 have the devastating effect of an oil spill or the
5 inevitable collapse of a coal mine. I know that it
6 represents clean, renewable energy. Wind turbines are the
7 right thing for our planet. The economic and environmental
8 benefits far outweigh the inconvenience of seeing a turbine
9 against our mountain skyline.

10 If we see them when we canoe on the Chain of Ponds or
11 hunt off the Gold Brook Road or hike into any of the great
12 trout ponds in the area, we will feel proud that we are
13 doing our part. We will sleep well knowing that the
14 Canadian lynx family and the Bicknell's Thrush are being
15 permanently protected in that area thanks to the Kibby wind
16 farm.

17 I look forward to my boys having the opportunity to
18 stay in the area and make a sustainable living due to the
19 positive long-term economic impact of the Kibby wind farm.
20 I look forward to there always being snow on Sugarloaf
21 because we are making a choice for the global warming
22 crisis and supporting the development of wind power in the
23 expansion of the Kibby wind farm onto Sisk. Thank you.

24 MS. CARROLL: Karen.

25 MS. PEASE: Hi. I'm Karen Pease from Lexington

1 Township. I was -- I had a speech all prepared. I am the
2 owner of Narrow Gauge Realty in Kingfield, Maine, and I was
3 going to discuss our real estate values. However, I will
4 turn this in and instead I would like to speak from my
5 heart for a minute.

6 This is really hard. Up until now everyone that has
7 spoken has been speaking for TransCanada. And many of
8 these people are my friends, some of them are really good
9 friends. So this is a hard thing for me to do.

10 However, I listened as they talked about what a good
11 neighbor they've been and I watched the PowerPoint
12 presentation with the tangible benefits. Everyone that has
13 spoken tonight in favor of TransCanada has spoken about
14 money. That's all this is about.

15 Of course, they are going to be good neighbors when
16 multimillion dollars are at stake. Of course, a poor town
17 is going to benefit when they pay for a summer rec
18 department or the Arnold Trail Association is going to get
19 \$100,000. That's impossible almost for a small town
20 citizens to raise that kind of money. But that's all they
21 are looking at.

22 I also am a member of the Friends of Highway Mountains
23 and we do not have anything to do with this project. I am
24 here supporting the mountaintops of Maine. I'm a game
25 warden's daughter, I grew up in these hills. I know these

1 people and these woods, I know these mountains.

2 I have spent months and months researching industrial
3 wind. I have talked and e-mailed experts who have nothing
4 to gain and everything to lose by speaking the truth. And
5 scientists are saying these things are not green. Economic
6 majors are saying these things are not economically
7 feasible. These things are not good. The negative impacts
8 far outweigh the negligible benefits.

9 We can give you the resources so that you can read
10 these truths yourself. We have people who are anxious to
11 talk about this, who haven't been bought off. Tangible
12 benefits are bribes, that's all they are. That's all they
13 are. And I don't believe that the people of Maine, when
14 they hear the realities of industrial wind, will be
15 bribable anymore.

16 I will leave my papers over here. There is a survey
17 that I'm in the process of doing, surveying buyers who come
18 into real estate offices. I'm not conducting the survey
19 myself because I wanted it unbiased for you people. When I
20 have the results, I'll get them to you before the end of
21 the comment period. It will show you what buyers'
22 impressions are. So far I've only seen seven from another
23 agency, but six out of seven answered that in their
24 estimation property values will decrease if industrial wind
25 goes on the mountaintops of Maine. And buyers who drive

1 the real estate market.

2 So I will leave that with you and I will get you those
3 survey results before the end of the comment period. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. CARROLL: David.

6 MR. CORRIGAN: Hi. My name is David Corrigan, I'm a
7 Registered Maine Master Guide, and I run Fletcher Mountain
8 Outfitters in Concord Township. The woods and waters of
9 western Maine are my backyard and also my place of
10 business.

11 I'd like to speak a little bit about the Arnold Trail
12 tonight. As I'm sure you're aware, the Arnold Trail is a
13 site of great national historical significance. In the
14 fall of 1775 Benedict Arnold led 1,100 men through the
15 Maine wilderness on their way to attack Quebec.

16 MS. HILTON: Hey, David, can you just slow down a
17 little bit?

18 MR. CORRIGAN: The attack didn't go so well, but the
19 march through Maine became the stuff of legends. These
20 men, among them future General Daniel Morgan and future
21 vice president of the United States Aaron Burr, faced
22 hardship, freezing and starvation in one of the wildest and
23 most beautiful places on earth.

24 Today that trail is still pretty wild. During the
25 summer of 2008 and 2009 I guided a client over the entire

1 length of the trail, from the Colburn House in Pittston to
2 the Canadian border, distance of about 165 miles by canoe
3 and on foot. As far as I know, I am the only guide to
4 guide the entire trail from south to north since the days
5 of Benedict Arnold. That, combined with the fact that I've
6 lived near and studied the trail since I was a teenager,
7 gives me, perhaps, a unique perspective.

8 The section between the Carry Ponds and the Canadian
9 border is the roughest and most wildly beautiful section
10 of the entire trail. It's certainly the closest thing that
11 we have left of the true wilderness feeling that Arnold's
12 men experienced during that fateful autumn of 1775.

13 One of the biggest disappointments as we hiked and
14 paddled over the trail in 2009 was the intrusion and
15 destruction that we encountered as we ascended the north
16 branch of and Dead River headed toward Chain of Ponds.

17 PARTICIPANT: Can you slow down a little bit, please?

18 MR. CORRIGAN: Imagine in my embarrassment and
19 frustration as I had to explain to my client that the noise
20 he was hearing was the tops of our mountains being blown up
21 to make way for industrial wind turbines. Imagine our
22 shock as we came around the bend of the river and saw the
23 huge gash that is the new transmission, slicing its way
24 through the woods and across the beautiful stretch of
25 river, our horror as we saw the dirt eroding into the once

1 pristine trout waters and smelled the freshly cut trees
2 that had only recently shaded its banks.

3 Nearly as bad was the constant buzzing at very low
4 altitude of the helicopters, something that was apparently
5 essential to the project, but which did nothing to enhance
6 our wilderness experience.

7 Now I understand that the current project proposes to
8 put turbines even closer to the Arnold Trail and I have to
9 ask, why? Others have and will speak about the
10 environmental damage that will be caused, but I have a few
11 words to say about the social, historical and economic
12 damage.

13 These mountains are literally my backyard and anything
14 that hurts them, hurts me. Not only does it hurt me
15 personally, but it hurts me financially as well. My
16 clients come to Maine for a quiet wilderness experience
17 that they can't get anywhere else. They don't come to hear
18 the mountains being dynamited, to see 400 foot tall
19 turbines, to hear the whump, whump of the blades or to fish
20 and canoe in rivers and ponds that stand in the shadow of
21 industrial complexes.

22 As I understand it, under LD 2283, LURC must take into
23 account the effects of this project on the Arnold Trail, as
24 a place of national historical significance. Well, as
25 someone with considerable experience on this trail as an

1 individual, as a guide and as a researcher who has
2 participated in archeological studies, I can say with
3 confidence that this industrial wind project will have a
4 severe negative impact on the future use, enjoyment and
5 preservation of this national treasure.

6 Efforts are underway to bring the Arnold Trail to the
7 attention of more Americans, to introduce them to it as a
8 place to hike and canoe as well as to introduce them to its
9 role in the founding of our country. Some of the greatest
10 men of the American Revolution had their characters shaped
11 by that march through Maine. Some of our greatest authors
12 and historians have written about it. A hardy few have
13 traveled the entire route and countless thousands have
14 enjoyed day and weekend trips.

15 To take away the chance for future generations to enjoy
16 and to understand the Arnold Trail, all for the sake of a
17 project is more political than practical, is simply
18 unconscionable.

19 I believe that the Arnold Trail and the woods and
20 waters surrounding it deserve to be preserved, both for
21 their own sake and for the future of America. It is the
22 duty of the Land Use Regulation Commission to keep greedy
23 individuals from spoiling Maine's natural and historical
24 treasures simply for the sake of money and publicity.

25 You owe it to the men who went before and you owe it to

1 the children who are yet to come. Thank you.

2 MS. CARROLL: Lauri.

3 MR. SIBULKIN: My name is Lauri Sibulkin, I'm from
4 Phillips. First, I'm involved in tomorrow's program and I
5 want to make sure that if I testify now, that doesn't
6 jeopardize my eligibility for tomorrow. Are there any
7 objections?

8 MS. HILTON: Did you file any pre-filed testimony?

9 MR. SIBULKIN: No.

10 MS. HILTON: You're fine.

11 MR. SIBULKIN: Thank you. I'm speaking as a private
12 citizen, I live in Phillips. I work on this mountain in
13 the wintertime. We, as citizens and, furthermore, the
14 leadership of the state of Maine, have been sold an idea or
15 a concept. And I'm not -- I'm not saying a bill of goods,
16 this is not sarcasm. We have been offered an idea or a
17 concept, produce energy from the wind, assist in clean
18 energy production, make this northern area more viable.
19 It's a big idea with many pieces.

20 We've been told that the Kibby -- greater Kibby complex
21 will produce a very high percentage of its rated capacity.
22 They're rated at 3 megs per machine, do the math. And I
23 was told that they will do a very high percentage of that,
24 which reflects on its viability, its profitability, is it
25 worth doing. This information came from a company

1 engineer, that's all that needs to be said, a pretty
2 reliable source.

3 Now, we've been told that the problems that surfaced
4 last winter, the engineering problems and the like, have
5 been dealt with. The power lines had to be modified and
6 the ensuing break in energy production has been overcome
7 and now the windmills are turning again. We all saw them
8 today. We've been told that ultimately this project,
9 whether it's just the size it is now or if it's expanded,
10 will produce a substantial amount of fairly clean energy at
11 a competitive price.

12 There are also three other substantial-sized projects
13 and a couple small ones in Maine producing energy; Stetson
14 1 and 2, Mars Hill are the bigger ones, Vinal Haven has got
15 couple three rigs and Freedom has got a couple. There are
16 enough of these operations in the state that we now have a
17 pretty good test-bed to see what's going to happen.

18 I request that before we sink additional millions, we
19 being anybody, but since Maine and the federal government
20 are providing some of the money as stimulus money or as a
21 subsidy as it goes along, I'm asking that we all not
22 approve any more of these projects until we know if --
23 exactly what they will produce.

24 A claim from an engineer, a skilled person with access
25 to information, that's good. But we don't know what Kibby

1 will produce. Half of it's online, the other half will be
2 soon. But if I start a business -- or want to start a
3 business and go to a bank and say, I'm going to do this and
4 that, I will be informed, you're a relatively new industry
5 in this area, show me the numbers. I'm asking for the time
6 for the industry to generate those numbers and I'm asking
7 for the industry to make them public. A pretty radical
8 thought, but it's that important.

9 I want to know how effective this is going to be. And
10 the key one here is, because I've had this pushed onto me
11 so much, we're going to put fossil fuel plants offline. I
12 would like to see that happen. And, again, I'm not being
13 sarcastic. I ask that the wind generation industry in
14 Maine show me a plant in New Jersey or Ohio or a gas-fired
15 operation here in Maine somewhere that actually shut down
16 and was converted to some other use. Because then that
17 claim would be very, very meaningful and the Lung
18 Association's interest would be backed up by a real
19 important proof.

20 Before we break up what some people call the quality of
21 the experience -- the previous speaker spoke about the
22 people he guides up in these -- not just the Chain of
23 Ponds, but all of the northern Maine forests. If you're
24 going to come up here to Sugarloaf and pay plus or minus 75
25 bucks for a ski pass, plus all of the other costs that go

1 with skiing here for a day, you want a pretty good idea of
2 what you're getting. And if you're hiring this chap for
3 however much he demands for his services, you want a pretty
4 good idea of what you're getting.

5 Before we impact the guide businesses, fishing camps
6 and so on and so forth, by -- never mind wiping them out of
7 business, I'm not going to kid myself that everybody is
8 going to hate windmills. I personally don't have a problem
9 with the aesthetics. But if we take away 10 percent of his
10 business or 20 percent of his business, that's really going
11 to hurt him.

12 Please give the industry -- please demand that the
13 industry take five years -- and that's not a random number
14 -- five years of data, how many megawatts they really
15 produce, when in the course of the year did they produce
16 them, how many coal, oil, gas-fired plants were replaced?
17 Have we developed a new source of energy that will dovetail
18 with the wind industry? Because I don't expect them to
19 crank out juice just as steady as a nuke or a gas-fired
20 plant. I can understand that. Show me that there is some
21 source that dovetails with you. And if it's a gas-fired
22 plant, fine. But show me how many gallons of fuel are not
23 burnt, how many thousand pounds of gases aren't emitted.

24 Please give the industry time to prove its viability
25 before any more permits -- not just this one, but any more

1 permits are issued. That's the gist of it right there.
2 Take five years, make them prove it. Kibby is a good
3 company, clearly, from people that live under their
4 footprint they approve. I'm not knocking Kibby. I'm
5 asking you not to let anybody do another one of these until
6 we know they're worth the chaos, the damage that they can
7 do. Thanks.

8 MS. CARROLL: Jane.

9 MS. WILKINSON: Hello and good evening. My name is
10 Jane Wilkinson and I'm here tonight as a selectman
11 representing the Town of Eustis. You've heard all about us
12 already. As you're probably aware, our small town is the
13 recipient of a generous community benefit package from
14 TransCanada. And the Kibby wind power project that is
15 ongoing has been very helpful to our town.

16 And I speak for many of my town citizens that are also
17 very grateful for this partnership. The local businesses,
18 schools, the youth programs and even the girl scouts in the
19 area have had great benefits from this project. And we
20 would be happy to see it continue with the 15 turbine site
21 proposal on Sisk Mountain for the following reasons.

22 One would be the jobs. The companies who supported the
23 building of the infrastructure as well as the ongoing
24 maintenance of the turbines have been very local in hiring,
25 meaning, Franklin County, Somerset County and particularly

1 Eustis and Stratton. These are secure and very well
2 received jobs that provide competitive salaries with
3 benefits. And in this tough economical environment, this
4 has been quite a boom to us.

5 Second, the power. The recent oil spill in the Gulf
6 has certainly changed the way we need to look at our
7 alternative energy sources. And although wind is not the
8 total answer to the problem, it is one answer to some of
9 the problems. So these additional turbines that are on
10 your approval can only be regarded as a help to provide
11 energy that is cleaner and more reliable than the oil and
12 coal.

13 If allowed, the Sisk project would provide 25 percent
14 of the total number of megawatts that they're already
15 permitted to produce.

16 Thirdly, the location. This site -- Sisk Mountain is
17 the nearest ridge to the existing Kibby Mountain project
18 that has already been approved. It would make great sense
19 to us to tie into these roads and power lines that are
20 already there rather than to begin a new site anywhere else
21 along that corridor. The visibility of the towers is
22 minimal, as you can see from the plaques out on the back
23 part of this room and Toby's presentation.

24 You know, if you're standing on top of any of these
25 mountain summits, which I do a lot of hiking, they are

1 visible, I must admit, and also out in Flagstaff Lake and
2 in the Chain of Ponds. The Sisk towers, if built, would
3 also be visible from these same locations as well as from
4 Lake Megantic and Quebec where we tend to recreate.

5 Due to the load population density of the area that the
6 projects are in, I feel these are a fine location for the
7 project because of the power -- even with the power being
8 sent 30 miles to the nearest substation, no new power lines
9 will need to be built and very few roads will need to be
10 added to the existing infrastructure. So the location is
11 good.

12 And, lastly, reliability. This company, as you've
13 heard from several people, has been very successful in the
14 energy business, not only in wind, but they have been
15 nothing short of professional with our dealings since -- in
16 2007 and they have kept us informed from the beginning with
17 their vast knowledge in the industry field in trying to
18 reduce the reliance on fossil fuels. This company
19 obviously knows what they're doing and can prove it with a
20 long-standing history of successful projects, including
21 Kibby wind farm.

22 And in the past two weeks my husband and I were
23 traveling through Pennsylvania on our way to North Carolina
24 and we paralleled clearly almost 35 miles of turbines along
25 the interstate in Pennsylvania. It made me appreciate the

1 size and location of the plant that is under scrutiny here
2 in our little neck of the woods.

3 Thank you from myself and the Town of Eustis for
4 allowing us to express our thoughts in support of this
5 project on Sisk Mountain. Thank you.

6 MS. CARROLL: Jonathan.

7 MR. CARTER: Thank you. My name is Jonathan Carter,
8 I'm a resident of Lexington Township. I'm speaking on
9 behalf of the Forest Ecology Network. I am the director of
10 the Forest Ecology Network, which is a nonprofit
11 organization that advocates for the protection,
12 preservation and restoration of the north woods. We have
13 about 1,200 members and a list of over 10,000 supporters.

14 I want to speak for the mountains today. As I drove up
15 here from Lexington and I looked out over these western
16 mountains, they are one beautiful place, a place that I
17 happen to call home. And it's sort of ironic because for
18 years I've been advocating for alternative energy,
19 renewable energy, green energy. It's something I believe
20 in, it's something that the Forest Ecology Network still
21 supports, including wind. But the fact of the matter is
22 that mountaintop industrial wind -- these are not wind
23 farms, they're not living with the land -- is extremely
24 destructive. And it is not environmentally sound and it's
25 not economically sound.

1 And I want to go over a few points with you. When you
2 blast the tops of these mountains -- these mountaintops are
3 rare, they're rare in Maine, they host rare species. When
4 you blast them away and you level them, it's what I call
5 Maine's version of mountaintop removal. When you do this
6 and build roads that need to be able to take 90-ton trucks,
7 where they have to be 100 feet wide in order to get the
8 parts to the tops of these mountains, these sensitive
9 alpine areas, you are irreversibly changing the
10 mountaintops.

11 They can tell you when they decommission that they're
12 going to restore it, but once you've blasted all that stuff
13 out and it's gone, it's gone forever and it's not coming
14 back, maybe after the next glaciers return. This is
15 irreversible mountaintop damage.

16 And there's a big myth out there that it's worth it
17 because it's going to help solve the problems of climate
18 change, something I've worked the last three years on with
19 Senator Snowe and with Congressman Pingree in trying to get
20 congress to do something about the catastrophic conditions
21 that we're facing with climate change. But it's a total
22 and absolute myth.

23 The fact is that wind is intermittent. When it blows,
24 the power has to be accepted into the grid. When it
25 doesn't blow, some other source has to come online in order

1 to meet the supply and demand because the grid has to be
2 balanced. When the wind blows, they have to shut something
3 else down. In Maine the only thing you can shut down is
4 hydro. And that's green and renewable. You can't just
5 switch off a coal-fired power plant, you can't just switch
6 off an oil-fired power plant, you cannot just switch off a
7 gas-fired power plant. You can ramp them down, put them on
8 standby, but they're still belching out pollutants.

9 The fact is that added to this they're going to destroy
10 lots of forests in building these mountaintop winds, wind
11 plantations. What do forests do? They sequester carbon.
12 You're losing the natural sequestration of the forest.

13 These industrial power plants on mountaintops require
14 electricity. They don't take it from the turbine, they
15 have to bring electricity in. That electricity is
16 generated by coal, gas and oil. The fact is that these
17 things -- one study in Colorado showed that wind --
18 industrial wind actually produces 10 percent more carbon --
19 it increases carbon output by as much as 10 percent.

20 In Europe, where wind has gone crazy, they've actually
21 had to build backup power plants because when the wind
22 isn't blowing, you've got to have the power. And,
23 actually, in Europe carbon emissions have gone way up in
24 spite of all the wind that's been out there.

25 The third thing is the decimation of wildlife and

1 habitat, sensitive subalpine, alpine habitat, it's unique.
2 The dwarf spruce fir forests that are destroyed up top of
3 these mountains is really old growth. Some of those trees
4 are 100 to 150 years old even though they're this big.

5 The fact is that the alterations of the hydrology has
6 profound impacts on the aquatic life and down streams,
7 streams, the fish that live -- the trout and all those
8 sorts of things have a very huge impact on them. And the
9 post-construction damage continues because erosion
10 continues.

11 The massive turbines that are spinning at 180 miles an
12 hour at their tips are killing birds, we know that, bats
13 and birds. And the developers like to say, well, more
14 birds die because they run into buildings. Well, that's
15 true, but why add more dead birds and bats to the mix. In
16 defiance of the Migratory Bird Act, these turbines will
17 slaughter thousands of birds.

18 The fact is that this has a pronounced impact on
19 wildlife. One study showed that the noise pollution alone,
20 a 3 decibel increase in noise pollution, masks the
21 listening capability of animals 30 percent. An increase of
22 10 decibels in an area masks the listening capability of
23 animals by as much as 90 percent.

24 This study is something that's emerging, but the fact
25 is that -- this isn't even included in the analysis. The

1 fact is that animals' predator/pray relationships,
2 communications, reproductive behavior, forging behavior has
3 been documented to be altered by the sound that emanates
4 from these things.

5 Talk to anybody from Mars Hill or Freedom or any places
6 where they used to see deer -- this is anecdotal -- but
7 deer and moose and things; they aren't there anymore,
8 they've left. There's been studies that show that the
9 vibrations in the ground actually make the moles and the
10 things that live underground move and leave. So this has a
11 profound impact.

12 In terms of noise, yes, go out at the Chain of Ponds in
13 the still of the night in the winter and the background
14 noise is probably about 15 decibels. That's what's normal.
15 We've all been out on a quiet winter night and heard how
16 quiet it is. The fact is that most acoustical engineers
17 say in the mountainous terrain these noises are going to
18 travel 2 to 5 miles. And I guaranty you that the people on
19 Chain of Ponds, even though that chart says the decibel
20 level will only be 20, are going to hear a lot of noise.

21 Finally, I want to talk about the negative economic
22 impacts. This is a scam. The fact is that 60 percent of
23 these projects are paid for by your tax dollars and your
24 tax dollars. These are tax dollars that we the citizens of
25 this country are putting forward. And the developers talk

1 about the great number of jobs. And it's true, for a
2 period of time when they level the mountains, there are
3 some jobs, but then there's very few permanent jobs
4 afterwards.

5 They talk about how local property taxes will go down
6 because they're giving tax dollars. But this will be
7 largely offset by the reduced home equity as real estate
8 prices drop. People do not want to live next to turbines.
9 The state and county will collect some tax dollars, but
10 this will be more than offset by the reduction in tourism
11 and the declining recreational dollars.

12 In the UK they built all these centers because they
13 thought people were going to come and view these turbines
14 because they're different, they're new, it was going to be
15 a great tourist attraction. They're shutting them all down
16 because nobody comes. The fact is that this 60 percent of
17 the cost of these turbines, the stimulus money, the
18 production tax credits, the accelerated, the depreciation,
19 when you add up all these costs, all the new and updated
20 transmission lines and the need to build backup power, new
21 power plants to back up the wind when it's not blowing, it
22 is no wonder that energy experts say that mountaintop wind
23 will increase electric rates. It's going to increase our
24 electric rates, it's not going to decrease electric rates.
25 This stuff is too expensive.

1 The only people that are going to really benefit,
2 except for the local people around here who have had some
3 economic activity during the construction phase, are the
4 developers. And they're going to walk away with millions
5 and millions of our tax dollars. If you really wanted to
6 do something green with that tax dollars, you'd invest it
7 into energy efficiency and conservation or you'd invest it
8 into forest restoration in order to maximize carbon
9 sequestration. Then we'd really be doing something to save
10 the planet. Thank you.

11 MS. CARROLL: The next five people after break will be
12 Michael Sackett, Dave Miller, Earl Wyman, Wendy Wyman and
13 Paul Williamson.

14 MS. HILTON: Why don't we take ten minutes.

15 (Whereupon a recess was held at 8:08 p.m., and the
16 hearing was resumed at 8:22 p.m. this date.)

17 MS. HILTON: Let's get started again, please. And, I
18 guess, who's the first one up?

19 MR. NADEAU: Michael.

20 MS. HILTON: Michael.

21 MR. SACKETT: Chairman Hilton, other members of the
22 Commission and staff, good evening. My name is Michael
23 Sackett I'm a professional land surveyor and licensed
24 professional forester. I live in Solon and I am co-owner
25 of Sackett & Brake located in Skowhegan. I am here as a

1 consultant and contractor during the 2008 Kibby
2 construction project.

3 In May of 2008 my firm was hired by Reed & Reed as
4 general contractor for TransCanada to topographically
5 review the preliminary design for the access roads and made
6 recommendations on movement that reduced the amount of the
7 road to be constructed by well over 3 miles. Subsequent to
8 this work, we were hired by Sargent Corporation to
9 calculate, locate and mark the 44 miles of vegetation
10 clearing.

11 I committed half of my 16-person staff to this project,
12 I hired two additional Maine firms to help with this
13 project to meet its strict completion deadlines. 10 to 15
14 persons were employed on this project daily for six months
15 for which my firm was compensated well over a half a
16 million dollars.

17 I purchased new equipment, I rented houses in Eustis
18 and office space -- for office space and accommodations.
19 Myself and my employees purchased supplies, fuel and food
20 in the Eustis area and ate at a variety of local
21 establishments.

22 I have heard that for every dollar spent in the
23 community, it circulates seven times before leaving or
24 wherever it goes. This being the case, \$3.6 million was
25 circulated between Franklin and Somerset Counties during

1 the summer of 2008 just for the little part my firm had in
2 the Kibby Project.

3 I'm a strong advocate for the reduction of our
4 dependence on U.S. produced and foreign oil. We
5 desperately need to reduce the size of our carbon
6 footprint. The previous Kibby Project and the now proposed
7 expansion on Sisk do just that, they reduce our dependence,
8 they reduce our carbon footprint.

9 Again, I represent a very small piece of this
10 environmentally friendly project, but I urge you to
11 recommend a timely approval for construction. Thank you.

12 MS. CARROLL: Dave.

13 MR. MILLER: Commissioners, staff, ladies and
14 gentlemen, my name is David Miller, I'm from Lexington
15 Township. And I've been asked to come here and speak on
16 behalf of a group of sportsmen that is made up of trappers
17 and guides. We're an independent group called Carrabassett
18 Valley Trappers. We trap the area from the end of the
19 mountains down near north Anson all the way up to the
20 Canadian border. We've done some limited research.
21 There's not much on mammals. There's a lot of research
22 been done on birds and bats. And the energy wind power
23 people have done a tremendous amount of work on that. And
24 that's well covered, but mammals are not.

25 Research by us has shown that domestic animals have

1 died when they're combined in areas where there's wind
2 turbines. There was 400 goats in Taiwan that died over the
3 last couple years. There's a cattle rancher in Ontario,
4 Canada that his calves have been -- there's been
5 stillborns, his calves have been deformed. They suffer in
6 the confinement where these low frequency sounds are.

7 Talking with various professionals, I'll call them,
8 biologists here in Maine and other places, they say, well,
9 the animals will move. Well, that's probably true, but
10 where are they going to move to? When wild animals go into
11 another area that's not their home range, they fight and
12 somebody wins, somebody loses.

13 A fair amount of people who live in the unincorporated
14 townships make a portion of their money and their income by
15 trapping, some of them make it full time, but a very few of
16 them, by trapping, ADC trapping the rest of the year.
17 Quite a few guides have talked to me. They will not come
18 to these hearings and speak or write newspaper articles
19 because they have indications that they may lose their bear
20 baits and et cetera by the property owners who do the
21 leases. But the bottom line is there's a real concern
22 about the mammals, fur bearers and big game animals, being
23 moved out of their ranges into other ranges that's going to
24 cause problems with population, explosions in certain
25 areas, there's going to be a reduction in the animals.

1 Another thing that's been brought up since fishing
2 season started is the effect of the hydrology of the
3 mountains being impacted by the construction and deep
4 bedrock blasting causing the springs and small feeder
5 streams to be effected, possibly raising the water
6 temperatures feeding the larger streams and rivers that
7 have the trout and the salmon in them.

8 That is what they asked me to say and that's all I've
9 got to say. Thank you.

10 MS. CARROLL: Earl.

11 MR. WYMAN: Good evening. My name is Earl Wyman, Jr.,
12 I'm a selectman for the Town of Eustis. And first I would
13 like to thank you people for coming -- taking the time to
14 come to our area where this project is so important to us.

15 I've heard a lot of comments tonight and I was going to
16 -- I had a bunch of stuff all prepared, but I wrote down a
17 few notes that I'm going to go over instead.

18 20 plus years -- 20 plus years a lot of these same
19 environmental groups have been preaching clean renewable
20 resources. They didn't want companies to come into the
21 state of Maine that was going to pollute our state and
22 cause a devastating impact. 20 years plus they've been
23 preaching this.

24 Now that it's here, wind power is an option -- and
25 don't get me wrong, I do support this project. You've

1 heard all the beneficial aspects of this project, monetary
2 wise for money. I'm not here to speak on that, I spoke on
3 that before, you've heard enough. For years now it's every
4 excuse possible to get something or do something else or to
5 do away with this and I don't understand it.

6 This is the right time, this is the right place. The
7 visual impact of this site is minimal at best. My family
8 owns 280 acres of land on the backside of Eustis Ridge and
9 I have some high points and ridges on that land. Two of
10 them point right towards these -- this wind power project.
11 And on a nice clear day, I can see several of the wind
12 towers, but I guaranty you I can take you up there on a
13 nice clear day and you can look around and you will have a
14 hard time finding them. They do not stick out like a sore
15 thumb.

16 I would not be in favor of a project that's in close
17 proximity to homes or communities where these towers
18 towered over your whole community. That isn't the right
19 place for them. This place is the right place for them.

20 And animals, I've heard a lot of talk about animals.
21 Animals are smart, they adapt better than human beings
22 adapt to their environment. I've heard mention of the
23 devastating aspect of the few miles of ridge line that
24 they're going to disrupt and tear down and blow up. What
25 about the hundreds and thousands of miles of forestry

1 operations going on in our community today all throughout
2 this state -- not just this state, every state?

3 There are animals -- I've worked in the woods for 15
4 years. There are all kinds of different animals, wildlife,
5 bird species, moles, lows, whatever you want to call them.
6 They're all there. When these logging operations come in,
7 now they're all mechanical. You talk about noise. When
8 these operations clear those areas, the animals come back.
9 I can take you to places that's been clear-cut 10, 15 years
10 ago, they're thriving with animals. Animals are smart,
11 they adapt.

12 I've heard a lot of talk of the Bicknell's Thrush and
13 the -- and the fir-leaved forests. I wasn't really
14 familiar with them, so I asked a couple retired wildlife
15 people that's worked in the area since the 1950s. They
16 say, yes, they are probably on the endangered species list,
17 but he said, there's a lot of areas that people haven't
18 been to know that they're there now. He said, there's a --
19 they've traveled this area --- I've lived in this area for
20 57 years. There's only two other people that's gotten up
21 here that's spoke that has lived here longer than I have.
22 And I'll tell you, if this was a project that was
23 detrimental to our environment, I would be dead set against
24 it and I know our community would raise tons of money to
25 oppose it. It's not the case.

1 TransCanada is a good company, their environmental
2 practices have been impeccable. You have people bringing
3 -- you have state wildlife people bringing people up to
4 this site to show them what should be done in their area
5 and how it should be done because this has been done the
6 way it should be done. It's been the way -- it's been done
7 the way it's been asked of them and they have done it.

8 Last, stall tactics. I'm getting tired of these
9 organizations that oppose this project that change their
10 spokespersons and say, he no longer represents us, so can
11 we have two or three more weeks to drag this on to get them
12 up to speed on their project? It's pure and simple, it's
13 stall tactics.

14 And lastly, respect. I have a lot of respect for the
15 people who spoke here tonight. Karen Pease has been a
16 friend of mine for years, I have a lot of respect for her
17 opinion and the way she thinks. I don't disrespect her at
18 all. But, please, I'm asking the people not to get up here
19 and -- this doesn't reflect her -- and tell things that
20 aren't the truth. People have been up here -- at the last
21 hearings I've been to -- I've been to every one of them,
22 you've seen me enough, you can't forget my ugly looking
23 face. People have gotten up and said things that they
24 could see these places from their homes, their projects,
25 they can't. And like I said, the visual aspect is minimal.

1 The sound, I don't believe you're going to hear it.

2 A perfect example, Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation at
3 times runs over 150 snow guns up here on the mountain.
4 Have you ever stood next to a snow gun and listened to it
5 howl? It is in no way, shape or form --. I know you
6 people have been to the site, you stood underneath the wind
7 towers. Were you able to talk amongst each other and hear
8 everybody? You couldn't do that next to a snow gun. And
9 when those 150 snow guns are running up here, you cannot
10 hear them at the bottom of the mountain.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 MS. CARROLL: Wendy.

13 MS. WYMAN: Hi. My name is Wendy Wyman and I'm a
14 resident of Stratton. And, basically, I just wanted to get
15 up and tell you that I was in support of the Sisk
16 application. Everything that TransCanada has done so far
17 has been very professional; they've been very forthright
18 with any information that anybody has requested. At times
19 they've come forward before people have even probably
20 thought of asking that question. They've been active in
21 our community.

22 I've been at coffee with my senior citizen lady friends
23 and they'll come in and the ladies will start asking them
24 questions and they'll sit right there and take their time
25 to answer anything anybody wants to know.

1 I feel that they've been very professional in the way
2 they've conducted their business so far. We're looking
3 forward to the towers being built -- or I'm looking forward
4 to the towers being built this summer. And I don't feel
5 that this application is going to be any -- any kind of an
6 impact that's going to be detrimental to the area.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MS. CARROLL: All right. Paul Williamson, who I named,
9 had to leave, so he asked -- he decided not to testify
10 tonight, he will be providing his testimony in writing.

11 I did -- was negligent and skipped over David Maxwell's
12 name. David, do you care to come up and speak next?

13 And then after David, those who have indicated they
14 wish to speak would be Emily Posner, Gilly Hitchcock, Will
15 Neils and I think it's Mr. McKay, Dana or David or Dave. I
16 apologize.

17 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you very much. My name is David
18 Maxwell. And I do want to say a few words tonight as
19 someone who has owned property --

20 MS. HILTON: Where are you from and --?

21 MR. MAXWELL: I own property in Eustis, I have a home
22 on Flagstaff Lake and I own -- I've owned two properties
23 here. I had a property on Eustis Ridge. And I first came
24 to this area in 1969. So when Earl Wyman, Jr. was talking
25 about his father, I knew his father many years ago. I'm

1 not new to the area.

2 What brought me here to these mountains was the fact
3 that they represented a wilderness experience that I
4 couldn't find anywhere else. Living in Boston, I would
5 come up here on the weekends, before I finally bought
6 property up here in 1973 -- I bought property for the first
7 time. I would bring my family, would bring my friends and
8 they would bring other friends to this area.

9 And we came here because of the western mountains and
10 the beauty in these mountains and the experience that these
11 mountains give, which is almost spiritual in a certain way.
12 You cannot find this experience, certainly not down on
13 Beacon Street in Boston.

14 So Maine has always had that kind of an appeal for me.
15 And I have spent lots -- the economics has been discussed.
16 As someone who's been coming up here for this many years
17 and knowing many others who come here -- I'm a member of
18 the Wing Community up here in Stratton -- I can tell you
19 that we come here because of this fact, that this is a
20 beautiful area, it's -- it's relatively unspoiled. We know
21 that wood has been taken out of here that regenerates. But
22 the whole idea of windmills I find rather vile for several
23 reasons.

24 The first reason is that they pretend to be something
25 that they are not. They say they are providing clean

1 energy. But we've already heard testimony tonight contrary
2 to that point. To -- to erect these windmills you have to
3 rape the tops of mountains and disturb the habitat in these
4 areas, threaten the ecology of these areas. And it seems
5 to me that that alone ought to be a pause for LURC's
6 concerns.

7 As I understand that LURC is to be concerned about
8 maintaining the natural resources in Maine. And certainly
9 these mountains are a precious resource. In fact, I think
10 LURC, to my disappointment, has violated its own -- its own
11 policies. Previously you said that sensitive areas above,
12 I think it was, 2,800 feet could not be developed. And
13 certainly these areas are now being considered for
14 development and have been developed.

15 So I question the value of LURC at this point in its
16 decision-making. You let go forward previously this
17 project that destroyed a large portion of a mountain range.
18 And for what reason? There has been no economic data
19 that's been presented thus far to show that this is going
20 to benefit the state of Maine. There has been some
21 temporary benefit that's -- that we've had testimony here
22 tonight, but certainly that's not long-term. There's been
23 a lot of money passed around from one hand to the other in
24 terms of these organizations and groups.

25 And this is a poor area and I can understand the -- the

1 people wanting to have some sort of financial base in this
2 area, but windmills will not provide it. And, in fact,
3 they will be a distraction to economic future development
4 here, certainly in terms of tourism. So that's a major
5 concern.

6 And if you do a little research on this -- and I don't
7 know how -- how much you people have actually investigated
8 wind power and their ultimate impact on the energy needs in
9 this country -- but at best, if all of the areas that
10 potentially could be developed for wind power were
11 developed, they would provide, at best, 2 percent of the
12 energy needs in this country. So I don't think it's worth
13 destroying our mountaintops here in Maine.

14 That's a natural resource that is here, you will not
15 bring it back. And I urge you not to support this proposal
16 to go forward with the development of Sisk Mountain. Thank
17 you.

18 MS. CARROLL: Emily? All right. Ms. Hitchcock. I
19 don't know if I'm pronouncing your first name -- Gilly or
20 Gil.

21 MS. HITCHCOCK: It's Gilly.

22 MS. CARROLL: Gilly.

23 MS. HITCHCOCK: Thank you. And thank you for -- all of
24 you for listening to all of this testimony tonight. This
25 is a lot of work and -- and I really appreciate the

1 process. I have never been a part of it, so I appreciate
2 all of your efforts. This is a lot of work, I'm sure.

3 My name is Gilly Hitchcock and I am -- I speak to you
4 as a resident of Carrabassett Valley. I am a member of the
5 Franklin County Economic Development Board, I am a lifelong
6 resident of Maine, I'm the daughter of a paper maker, I
7 have a small business in Farmington. And maybe more
8 importantly -- or most importantly is I'm a mother of two
9 young sons.

10 My passion is creating opportunities in Maine. I work
11 in an industry, the paper industry, that is downsizing
12 regularly and undergoing major change. Maine had lots of
13 opportunities in the state until the downturn of
14 manufacturing. And now we find that we're educating and
15 training some of the brightest engineers and professionals
16 who are leaving the state in droves for opportunities
17 because they don't have the opportunities here in the state
18 for jobs.

19 Maine was, of course, once a leader in paper making.
20 In fact, it was the job that I was able to get when I
21 graduated from college some years ago. But now we are in a
22 position to be a significant player in creating alternative
23 energy options as a state. We have committed ourselves to
24 helping solve our energy problems in different areas. We
25 have an exciting venture in Old Town, it's producing

1 ethanol out of wood chips, a pulp mill. We're looking up
2 and down the coast at tidal energy, we're investigating
3 offshore wind turbines.

4 Statewide we are making commitments to be part of the
5 solution. We have a national urgency, we have an
6 administration nationally that is encouraging us to create
7 alternative energy. We have a state that has become
8 committed to do so in the alternative energy field. We
9 have a corporate citizen, such as TransCanada, who has
10 proven to be committed to the community. Our colleges, our
11 vocational institutions, our high schools are working to
12 train our young people in composite building, which is a
13 component of wind and turbine technology.

14 We have a great opportunity here as a state to become a
15 part of the planning and the construction, a part of the
16 manufacturing. These are all such important ramifications
17 of becoming an alternative energy leader in the nation. My
18 passion is jobs and my passion is the youth of Maine,
19 including my very own two young sons who, I hope, will also
20 be able to find an opportunity to live and work
21 successfully in the state.

22 I hope that we will allow TransCanada to continue their
23 wind power projects. They are responsible, committed
24 community members. We've heard that time and again
25 tonight. Their industry is a soft clean industry and it

1 does support our national energy crisis.

2 I am proud to be a resident of a community that is part
3 of the solution to the national energy crisis and not part
4 of the problem.

5 I -- I applaud you and thank you very much for having
6 the original foresight to see the benefits of the Kibby
7 Project. And I hope that we'll continue to allow this
8 company the flexibility to expand and add more jobs and
9 benefit Franklin County. And I hope that you will approve
10 their petition.

11 I thank you for the opportunity to speak.

12 MS. CARROLL: Will. And after Will is McKay, Friends
13 of Saddleback, and after McKay is Kevin Clark.

14 Is Emily back? Okay. Emily, I'm sorry, I kind of took
15 you out of order. We'll get you up here.

16 MR. NEILS: My name is Will Neils, I'm a lifetime
17 resident of Knox and Waldo Counties, 23 years in Appleton,
18 10 in Lincolnville, now in Hope.

19 I've heard a lot of conscientious citizens, people who,
20 apparently, grew up here and live here, tonight. I've also
21 heard some people who have transitioned here from other
22 places. And I myself, of course, come from the other side
23 of the state. I fully recognize that, but I also think
24 it's important when we think about these things to
25 recognize that there are repercussions which may be very

1 long lasting and deep-seated in Maine that have effects all
2 over the state, if we do things without thinking them
3 through clearly and recognizing the potential long-term
4 effects.

5 Tourism, coming from the coast, of course, tourism is a
6 big thing down there. We've been experiencing a major
7 plummet, actually, in the tourism dollars due to the bad
8 economy and all. And so, therefore, it becomes even more
9 competitive, needless to say, to get the little cash that's
10 still left around.

11 We're also seeing, it's interesting, in a lot of the
12 smaller coastal communities down there, we're also seeing a
13 lot of predatory businesses that come in now because they
14 have financial resources. And while local business owners
15 may be failing and their businesses may be up for grabs,
16 their buildings are up for grabs, people are taking
17 advantage of the opportunity to move in. We've seen that a
18 lot. And, of course, Linda Bean and her lobster rolls.

19 So, anyways, I guess what I'm getting at here is this
20 whole good citizenship thing. I heard some people say very
21 good corporate citizens when they were describing these
22 folks from Canada here. And I think that the problem with
23 words is that it's not enough to just say something is the
24 way it is, you have to actually quantify it with facts and
25 with actions.

1 And, once again, I'd like to call attention to the fact
2 that these people, this company from Canada, TransCanada,
3 is doing the tar sands project. And in the tar sands
4 project they have, basically, had to remove indigenous
5 people, members of the Cree nation who have lived there for
6 hundreds, if not possibly thousands of years, in a pristine
7 area, a very small community, 500 people, who were
8 displaced to build this giant pipeline. It was a billion
9 dollar project. I know it may seem gargantuan by our
10 standards, this is just a million dollar project -- or a
11 \$100 million project.

12 But still, the point is if we're going to talk about
13 good citizenship, then we have to evaluate whether or not
14 they actually are good citizens. And it's very, very
15 important that we recognize when we're talking about what
16 our children need in this state and the vision that we
17 would like to articulate to our children -- I have no
18 children at this time, I hope some day to have children,
19 but I want to clarify I am not a parent. But, nonetheless,
20 I have many friends who have children and I've helped many,
21 many times with my buddies and their younger siblings
22 trying to instill values and respect, the community ways,
23 some say the old ways, and recognize our reliance in this
24 state, at least, because it's rural, on what we can
25 effectively work with from nature in a sustainable fashion.

1 That's the key, of course, is the sustainable fashion part.

2 And I think what is -- is most concerning to me with
3 some of the -- I guess it was interesting in the
4 presentation that Toby, I think, made earlier because I
5 counted up around \$650,000 on the board there. And that's
6 a \$100 million project. And, of course, a lot of that,
7 like, 60 -- 50, \$60 million is going to be the taxpayer
8 cash, the federal stimulus money for the green jobs and
9 stuff. So, I mean, really when you think about it -- well,
10 600,000 out of 60 million is -- it's not really that much
11 trickling down here to the local community. Though, I do
12 understand that it no doubt would have a very, very
13 positive effect. And I'm sure that that must have
14 motivated the testimony of the people tonight.

15 And I appreciate that, growing up in Appleton where
16 there were 12 people in my graduating class and grade
17 school. Needless to say, I can recognize what it's like to
18 grow up in a small town without a lot of economic
19 opportunities. It's very hard for poor people and rural
20 people to survive in the state. And so I fully recognize
21 that.

22 But I also feel like, unfortunately, when we become
23 addicted to hand-me-downs, cash or otherwise, from people
24 and companies from away, it doesn't actually maintain the
25 sustainable self-reliance skills which this state is, of

1 course, known for and which many of us pride ourselves on.
2 In fact, it is sort of counterintuitive to teaching the
3 traditional values and the traditional ways.

4 But back to that tourism thing, if it's tourism and if
5 we can make a bunch of money -- though, of course,
6 Mr. Carter claims they figured out in the UK you couldn't
7 really make any money off the tourism of the wind power
8 over there and they had to shut down their sites. But
9 let's say, for example, you could do that, I was thinking
10 another potential tourist site nearby, though, it's a
11 little bit away, of course, would be the mill down in
12 Madison. Potentially that would have similar tourists'
13 quality for people if -- if they want to go see industrial
14 sites.

15 I guess I'm just going to -- I'm going to try to wrap
16 up with a basic, basic point. For the taxpayers of this
17 country and this state right now, I think it's fair to say
18 that a lot of people are scared. I think most people, to
19 one degree or another, are scared, I think a lot of people
20 are desperate. And desperation is a really bad time to
21 make crucial life decisions.

22 I think there's probably a lot of people who got
23 married at the wrong time because they got pregnant, so
24 then they're desperate. Well, geez, how did that go?
25 Maybe it worked great for some, but I think quite a few

1 people it hasn't worked out so well with. And that's the
2 thing about desperation is that, of course, when you find
3 communities that are desperate for economic development --
4 any economic development, any money trickling into the
5 community at all, then it's much easier, I think, to -- to
6 manipulate them.

7 And I think what's really scary for me personally right
8 now is that it's extremely physically irresponsibility and
9 really it's -- it's fundamentally unpatriotic, actually, to
10 enable a giant corporation from Canada to suck up this
11 giant bonus of federal green -- which I dispute the use of
12 also -- green energy stimulus funds and distribute them to
13 the stockowners and the loaded CEO salaries and executive
14 salaries of a company that isn't in from this country.

15 I think it's fundamentally irresponsible. I think it's
16 really, really a precise kind of practice which we have
17 to evaluate as a community, not just in this state, but
18 around the nation and recognize that this is how we've
19 gotten into this mess is giving away the hard-earned
20 dollars of the taxpayers of this country and this state to
21 people who fundamentally don't deserve them.

22 And I think it -- it is a scam and I think it's a
23 really, really cynical scam and manipulation of
24 communities, which, obviously, need inspiration at this
25 time. I feel that these communities need inspiration

1 that's generated from their communities, not from
2 corporations which have a proven track record to disrespect
3 the needs of the local community as they do with the
4 indigenous in northern Alberta in the tar sands projects.

5 What these communities need is self-initiated economic
6 development. They do not need economic development which
7 comes from away, comes here, dictates the terms and the
8 engagement and then goes away when the money has been made
9 and the tax dollars have been skimmed and scammed and
10 leaves people wondering where all the jobs were and why it
11 is things didn't work out like those folks from away said.

12 And the last thing is I heard quite a few people at the
13 beginning say we need energy. That's true. With the
14 addictive personality of the American consumer at this
15 time, we do need energy. Unfortunately, we do not actually
16 need as much as we think we need. It is extremely
17 irresponsible for the citizens of this country, for that
18 matter, the citizens of Europe, to be exploiting the
19 natural resources of the world at the rate at which we are.
20 I consider myself part of this process despite the fact
21 I've lived my whole life without running water and the
22 majority of it without any electricity and have tried as
23 hard as I can to not create more of a dependence on things
24 from outside of this state. But we do need energy, that's
25 correct. What we most need is to learn how to adapt to not

1 needing as much energy.

2 And, you know, I've done a lot of political acts from
3 around this country, I have stood on tops of mountain
4 ranges that have been totally decimated by mountaintop
5 removal in the western part of the state of Virginia, I've
6 watched retired people who live their whole lives, worked
7 hard and retired to their family lands, cry because of what
8 coal companies had done down there to their family
9 cemeteries that have been there for 150 years. I've seen
10 the desert scapes.

11 And I know it's different because it's not the same
12 thing. But the reality of it is it's a manifestation of
13 the same attitude, it's a manifestation of the same
14 disregard for what, obviously, we need to regard much more,
15 which is what nature has done in our absence for thousands
16 of years, which is self-regulate.

17 And I feel like if we continue to just plod on through
18 this world and through this beautiful state and destroy as
19 much as we can for the almighty buck, we're going to have
20 more fiascos and extremely, extremely dangerous situations,
21 similar to the offshore drilling disaster which we're
22 facing right now.

23 Realistically, the wind turbines are not that, but we
24 have to recognize that we are responsible for the mistakes
25 we make. And I believe continuing with this scale of

1 industrial wind turbine exploitation and destruction to
2 otherwise not destroy natural wildlife and important
3 environmental corridors is fundamentally irresponsible.
4 Thank you.

5 MS. CARROLL: Emily.

6 MS. POSNER: I would like to thank the Commission for
7 letting me come a little late. I drove a long way and I
8 was tremendously hungry, I couldn't -- I could not wait.

9 My name is Emily Posner, I am here on behalf of Maine
10 Earth First and the Defending Water for Life campaign. I
11 come from Montville, Maine, which is bordering the town of
12 Freedom, Maine, where there are three large wind turbines
13 that have now displaced a few of my neighbors who have
14 moved away from Freedom as a result of the devastation that
15 that project has brought to our community.

16 And I'm here to speak on a couple of different points.
17 First I'd like to sort of read an adoption of something
18 that I wrote when my town was considering, and has since
19 passed, a very strict regulatory wind development ordinance
20 in our town. And as well, I'd like to read a letter to the
21 editor that was published in Alaska from a man who has
22 traveled to Alberta, Canada, which is the home of
23 TransCanada, that talks a little bit about their corporate
24 citizenship, or lack thereof, in that community with the
25 indigenous population of the region.

1 So I -- I'll begin with the short piece that I wrote
2 for my community in Montville. Off and on for the past
3 many years I often find myself overcome by a sadness about
4 the ecological condition of the planet and barriers we face
5 to heal our sick mother earth. I recently downloaded and
6 read much of the University of Maine's report Maine's
7 Climate Future. And to be honest, the findings do not
8 necessarily make me super excited to be a
9 20-something-year-old in these times.

10 When I let my brain really assess the realities of the
11 changing climate, I get really upset and at times scared
12 about what our future may bring. I do not want to see my
13 friends in New Orleans collectively forced to relocate
14 because their city is sinking into the ocean, nor do I want
15 to get Lyme's Disease or see my Maine communities flood
16 during the spring or lose the short winter of maple syrup.

17 These are emotions that I think many of us have felt
18 before proposed wind projects have come to our communities
19 and it's hard to figure out exactly what to do. But today
20 the residents of this state must make some very tough
21 decisions. We have to make serious decisions that will
22 impact the natural and human communities of our town and
23 our areas for generations to come. And instead they --
24 they must be sufficient, they must reflect a growing
25 paradigm that recognizes the global implications of acting

1 locally.

2 We have all heard the phrase think global and act
3 local. And most messaging that goes with economic activity
4 is the phrase that's often associated with using our
5 purchase powers to front international free trade policies
6 by supporting the local enterprise by buying produce at the
7 farmers' market or shopping at the local hardware store.
8 But today I hope that LURC can use this phrase as a
9 backbone to its land use decisions.

10 For the better part of my life I have worked to
11 confront an economic agenda that sacrifices the health and
12 well-being of our communities throughout the world in order
13 to consolidate wealth and power amongst a select few. I
14 also have worked to develop strategies and local
15 initiatives that find solutions to an economic system that
16 is undermined with local businesses, farming and the
17 environment.

18 MR. NADEAU: Can you slow down just a little bit?

19 MS. POSNER: I certainly can. I'm a firm believer in
20 the ideology of thinking globally and acting locally and
21 believe that our culture must develop diverse
22 locally-specific solutions to the great many global
23 problems that impact our lives.

24 Because we are dealing with the production of energy, I
25 more strongly believe that our community needs to actively

1 explore land use decisions that address how this form of
2 development can benefit our entire community and state. I
3 believe that energy, like, food, water and shelter, is a
4 basic human right. And, subsequently, the production,
5 distribution and the economic benefits should be governed
6 from this principal and all land use decisions should be
7 made from this principal as well.

8 The possibilities of massive profit can corrupt what
9 may be good intentions from the development of this
10 essential service. It is for this reason that many
11 utilities used to be publicly owned and why thousands of
12 rural electrical cooperatives were created during the Great
13 Depression when there was a giant federal push to bring
14 electricity to every American, very similar to the federal
15 push right now to convert our energy.

16 While I'm not a professional economist -- I think today
17 we heard a lot of different perspectives on what kind of
18 economic benefits these projects may or may not bring.
19 However, for the better part of the last ten years I have
20 studied the impacts of the liberal free trade economic
21 policies, the parabolic growth and development of the
22 global economy over the last four centuries is paralleled
23 by the emergence and subsequent conglomeration of major
24 domestic and transnational corporations.

25 From the days of the East Indian Trade Company and

1 Pacific Railroad to today's Shell, Monsanto, Coca-Cola,
2 Nestle and TransCanada, large corporate forces have played
3 an extraordinary role in our economy and our society. We
4 face some serious challenges today as global economic
5 forces have left much of our state's economy in utter
6 shambles.

7 The international free trade economic agenda has
8 decimated Maine's manufacturing industries. And today this
9 is the same economic agenda and also the same corporate
10 players that are coming after what we have left in this
11 great state, our land, our fiber, our wind and our water.
12 Subsequently, small and relatively poor communities
13 throughout our state are regularly having to make decisions
14 in the face of this kind of power, of major profit-driven
15 institution.

16 The development of the wind industry cannot be exempt
17 from this discussion. Small towns throughout this region
18 have been approached by wind development companies and from
19 my understanding it is this model of development that's no
20 different from models that leave the everyday person
21 fighting over the jobs that might trickle down. This
22 political economic model is flawed and it is these major
23 insufficiencies and concentration of power that has allowed
24 serious and complex global forces to disstablize and
25 threaten international water supplies, international

1 climatic systems and the global economy.

2 Today our community is at an enormous moment of
3 opportunity to chose a new economic path and our
4 communities throughout our state and nation have been
5 forced to talk about what restructuring our economy would
6 be like at this time of great change. A small group of
7 shareholders stand -- stand to profit greatly from this
8 type of proposal.

9 Equitable development must be the foundation for a
10 truly sustainable future and your decisions today must
11 reflect the available economic, environmental and social
12 evidence that clearly demonstrates the need for new models.
13 I begin attempting -- and, however, so -- I'm going to
14 probably close off right there.

15 And the other thing that I would like to read was first
16 published in the Juno Empire, which is a newspaper in
17 Alaska. And I find this really interesting because this
18 guy is nowhere near Alberta and he decided to write this
19 letter to the editor about the role that TransCanada has
20 played in the communities in Alberta.

21 In July 2001, I drove my rental -- his name is William
22 Cox -- I drove my rental car into the village of Little
23 Buffalo capital of the Lubicon Cree Indian Nation in the
24 vast boreal forest of northern Alberta. They fed me lunch
25 and never gave me a bill. Elder Renee Jobin gave me a tour

1 of their lands and I met Chief Bernard Ominayak. And I
2 learned of a nation under siege.

3 Overlooked when a treaty was signed with other
4 aboriginals in 1899, the Lubicon were promised a reserve 40
5 years later that never materialized. They never ceded
6 their ancestral lands or signed a treaty with Alberta or
7 Canada.

8 Industry laid siege and during the past 25 years,
9 billions of dollars of oil and gas and timber have been
10 taken from their traditional lands, leaving the Lubicon
11 decimated with a compromised water supply, third-world
12 diseases, birth defects and an epidemic of suicides and
13 other social ills. With unwavering government support, it
14 is proving easier and vastly more profitable for industry
15 to simply continue the siege --

16 MR. NADEAU: Emily, you need to slow down just a little
17 bit.

18 MS. POSNER: -- and wear them down over time than to
19 sincerely negotiate. Yes, a slow genocide-by-attrition is
20 taking place in our so-called civilized neighbor of Canada.

21 A couple years ago, TransCanada Corporation joined the
22 fray with a proposed 42-inch natural gas pipeline across
23 unceded and disputed Lubicon land. It would supply natural
24 gas to cook the vast tar sands for oil, the most
25 environmentally destructive project on earth. The Lubicon

1 were denied standing before the Alberta Utilities
2 Commission, which ultimately issued the license.

3 A political-business duopoly rules Alberta, supported
4 for the most part by a compliant Judiciary. Advisors to
5 the Lubicon have their telephone calls monitored, mail
6 opened and e-mails diverted. With the deck stacked against
7 them, the Lubicon appealed to the United Nations. Three
8 separate U.N. bodies, the U.N. Human Rights Committee, the
9 U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and
10 the U.N. Special Rapportuer on Housing, have told
11 TransCanada to cease and desist and respect international
12 covenants.

13 During the AGIA hearings in the summer of 2008, I was
14 able to arrange a conference call with TransCanada's vice
15 president Tony Palmer. Patty Bielaski sat in with Palmer
16 in Juneau, I was up in Nome. On the line from Calgary
17 headquarters were Art Cunningham, Eric Mohan and Mel
18 Johnson. I listened patiently to a rather long-winded
19 overview from the Calgary staff about the people-friendly
20 and culture-sensitive policies of TransCanada.

21 Then I asked my first question, If things are as you
22 say, why have three U.N. bodies intervened and condemned
23 TransCanada's treatment of the Lubicon, as well as Amnesty
24 International, multiple European human and indigenous
25 rights groups and an umbrella group of Canadian churches

1 and shareholder protests? They had no answer and retreated
2 behind the laws of Alberta and Canada.

3 Unocal responded the same, retreating behind the laws
4 of Burma while slave laborers were worked to death on their
5 Burmese gas pipeline. Shell Oil responded the same while
6 the Ogoni people of Nigeria suffered environmental and
7 social catastrophe and their leader, Ken Saro-Wiwa, was
8 hanged -- was hung by a Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha.
9 I've been to Burma and also met Saro-Wiwa's son.

10 Verbal cues told me Tony Palmer was getting restless
11 and wanted to get back to the hearings. I asked my
12 question --

13 MS. HILTON: How much time --

14 MR. NADEAU: You've got to slow down, too, because
15 she's having a hard time trying to follow you.

16 MS. POSNER: All right.

17 MS. HILTON: Maybe you could e-mail --

18 MS. POSNER: I will e-mail it to you. I will certainly
19 e-mail it to you.

20 Verbal cues told me Tony Palmer was getting restless
21 and wanted to get back to the hearings. I asked my final
22 question: Will you build the North Central Corridor
23 Pipeline across unceded and contested Lubicon lands over
24 the objection of the Lubicon and three United Nations
25 bodies?

1 Their answer was an unequivocal, yes. But they added
2 an ominous qualifier, we will not build a pipeline in an
3 unsafe environment. I was stunned into silence. And it
4 was not mosquitoes or bears they were worried about, it was
5 clearly physical violence.

6 In summary, TransCanada's reputation in Alberta is
7 atrocious, riding roughshod over human and indigenous
8 rights. Alaska demeans itself and dishonors its Native
9 people by partnering with TransCanada. All ties with
10 TransCanada should be severed.

11 I really hope that you make serious -- have serious,
12 serious thoughts about doing any kind of business with this
13 corporation. Thank you.

14 MS. CARROLL: Mr. or Mrs. McKay, Friends of Saddleback.
15 I apologize, I cannot read the first name. Sorry, sir.
16 Dave?

17 MR. MCKAY: That's a good guess. But my real name is
18 Dan McKay and I live in Dixfield, Maine.

19 MS. CARROLL: It does sort of look like Dan.

20 MR. MCKAY: It does?

21 MS. CARROLL: Yeah.

22 MR. MCKAY: I'm a graduate civil engineer from the
23 University of Maine. I would say my major interest is in
24 soils, where I've spent practically all my life. As a
25 matter of fact, today we put a well in and a septic tank.

1 I have worked in the area of Sisk Mountain. In, I
2 believe, the year 2004 when Route 27 was reconstructed,
3 that was from the Canadian border right down along the
4 Chain of Ponds -- I'm sure you're familiar with it, you
5 were probably up there today -- and I was involved with a
6 lot of earth moving on that project.

7 They tried to take a lot of the twists and turns out of
8 the road and the dips and humps and --. We did manage to
9 move a lot of dirt, I saw a lot of dirt, representative of,
10 I believe, will be Sisk Mountain itself, because we
11 actually worked at the foot of these mountains.

12 One day the state engineer came to us and asked us --
13 told us about a maintenance problem he was having; every
14 year they were picking up rocks that would tumble down off
15 of the mountain onto the road and that they had to run out,
16 pick them up before they got run over by the logging trucks
17 from Canada. He said, is there any way you can widen this
18 road out in this particular area into the toe of that
19 mountain so that when the rocks fall they'll fall into the
20 ditch and not onto the hot top? And he thought it over and
21 he said, perhaps, we could carve into the toe of the
22 mountain and put a boulder wall up, 12, 16 feet high, a
23 vertical wall giving us room to put a ditch in. It sounded
24 reasonable, we've built them before.

25 So we brought the excavator over and dump trucks to

1 haul our dirt off with. And he started digging into the
2 toe of the mountain. Well, he'd take a bucket out and he'd
3 swing around, all the way around to fill his truck, and as
4 he's swinging around, more dirt would fall right down where
5 he just dug before. And he'd turn around and he'd see a
6 pile of dirt that wasn't there before. But he was intent
7 on getting that dug out, so he kept bailing. And the more
8 he bailed, the more the dirt just seemed to want to fall
9 right down in front of him.

10 Well, eventually we had to stop because upslope for
11 about 60 feet the whole earth gave way and left a big
12 crater there. They brought down boulders, they brought
13 down trees and it brought a halt to this operation because
14 there was no way we could repair that, our backhoe wouldn't
15 reach 60 feet up. Well, we went and got the state
16 engineer.

17 And while he was on his way there, I kind of glanced
18 over to the right because they wanted to build this road
19 for about a couple hundred feet -- this wall for a couple
20 hundred feet. And I happened to glance to the right up in
21 the woods and I do believe I saw the biggest boulder I have
22 ever seen in my life, it was the size of this building.
23 The trees in front of this boulder didn't grow vertical,
24 they grew horizontal. This boulder had been creeping.

25 And I thank God to this day that that excavator

1 operator wasn't digging in the toe of that mountain
2 directory below that boulder because he would no longer be
3 alive.

4 Well, I guess the point I'm trying to say is this soil
5 is a loose soil, it's sandy, it's full of boulders. It's a
6 very loose soil, something you don't dare touch, but she
7 wants to fall. And I'm sure to this day they've still got
8 rocks falling in the road all during the year. I know they
9 do. It's just a maintenance problem for them and there's
10 no way to correct it by carving into that mountain.

11 And what I'm afraid -- I don't know if you would call
12 this erosion, I call it kind of a form of erosion, sudden
13 erosion. Maybe we can call it landslides. But I do
14 believe of all the places in Maine I've worked, I've never
15 seen a soil so quick to react as this soil was when it was
16 disturbed below it. And believe me, that mountain is
17 steep.

18 When you do make side cuts in that mountain or if
19 you're blasting and shaking that soil or if you have a
20 turbine running which does vibrate, these soils are not
21 stable, they will fall in a sudden fashion.

22 If, in carving into the side of this mountain, you
23 change the water course of a spring -- we encountered many
24 springs in our cuts up there on Route 27. If you change
25 the course of these springs, it will go back down in the

1 ground. And I -- on such steep slopes, I'm just afraid
2 that you're going to -- your stability issues are going to
3 be a big factor on this project. I really believe that.
4 And only because I have never seen soils quite like the
5 soils on this mountain. And I've worked throughout this
6 state and I've worked in -- on mountains, I've worked
7 Saddleback Mountain, I've worked this mountain. These
8 soils are completely different. They're very loose, very
9 loose soils.

10 So I came up here today just to impart that story to
11 you for what it's worth. And thank you for listening.

12 MS. CARROLL: Kevin.

13 MR. CLARK: Hello. I'm Kevin Clark. And I didn't -- a
14 woman earlier asked to be sworn in. I -- I was a little
15 late that's why I'm probably one of the last on the list.
16 I came out about 6:30. I don't know if I need to --

17 MS. HILTON: You do.

18 MR. CLARK: Okay.

19 MS. HILTON: So raise your right hand and repeat after
20 me. Do you solemnly swear to tell the whole truth and
21 nothing but the truth?

22 MR. CLARK: I solemnly swear to tell the truth, the
23 whole truth and nothing but the truth.

24 I'm a resident of Eustis. I've lived in Maine all my
25 life and born in Waterville. But it's -- I've been up here

1 -- I moved up here with my family a number of years ago.
2 And we've been building up on Eustis Ridge. And I abut Jay
3 Wyman. And it's been interesting hearing some of the
4 things that were said. And I'll try and be as concise as I
5 can.

6 I have a -- a photograph, but I don't have a means of
7 presenting it. So I was wondering if I could give you the
8 photograph? Because what my -- just even if it's temporary
9 is why I'm holding it like this. Because I'm one of the
10 people who can see the existing -- I can see 11 of the
11 existing wind towers. And I believe I'll probably -- based
12 on TransCanada's projections, I think I'm going to see most
13 of the next Phase 2.

14 And my -- my thought is I said, well, I really should
15 go up and say something because I'm looking at this every
16 day. And -- and so if it's okay, can I give you just a
17 handout? I just don't know how to show it to all you --.

18 (Off the record discussion held while distributing
19 photograph.)

20 MR. CLARK: And all I'm showing is, like I say, what I
21 see from where I am on Eustis Ridge. That's -- you can see
22 a little tower on the top. And that was the existing
23 meteorological tower that's been up there. And when Kibby
24 -- Kibby was talking about -- or when they were talking
25 about putting these towers on the Kibby Range, I said,

1 well, maybe the impact won't be so much because it's kind
2 of hard to see that tower for me on a clear day, you even
3 have to look at it on a photo. And the only thing I was
4 concerned about was going to be the blinking red lights,
5 you know, because I heard that that was going to be part of
6 it.

7 But the reason I brought the photo in is because it's,
8 basically, what's occurred on the ground as opposed to what
9 I thought was coming, I guess you'd say. The towers, if
10 they're on top of a mountain ridge, they do kind of get
11 lost in the background, especially in the winter it's not
12 quite so bad. But what's happened, if you look at the
13 existing development, there -- I should have brought more
14 photos -- there's -- they are all kind of backlit. You
15 know, there's a setting of a mountain behind them so you
16 get this white tower in front of a thing like that.

17 So much to my surprise, I said, wow, are those -- you
18 can really see those. And, like I say, I have seen about
19 11 of those existing ones. And the next phase will be on
20 my side, the south side, so I'll be looking at, I believe,
21 probably most of the next group. And it's, basically, to
22 -- you know, everybody talked about, I don't really care
23 for the visual impact. And that's -- that's what the photo
24 is about.

25 I happen to like taking photos. And so one of those

1 photos was to -- you know, I've taken the top photo there
2 from 2006 shows, you know, what I saw before they started
3 working on the hillside, as the previous speaker said. And
4 I understand to get the long blades and all that hardware
5 up there you need a pretty significant road.

6 And I guess my concern is that right now when you look
7 up there from Earl Wyman, Jr.'s land or my land or anybody
8 up on Eustis Ridge, an entire bear development, a skunk
9 household and everywhere else, you've kind of got a
10 continuous flow of mountains on that side, Round Mountain,
11 Snow Mountain, Bag Pond Mountain, Chain of Ponds. And then
12 you've get where it hits 27 where Sisk starts, it's --
13 you've got this big chunk now. Between -- you know, most
14 of your due north view will be wind towers from the ridge.

15 And it's -- it's most -- my whole point is -- based on
16 that photo is that's what's always going to be there from
17 my perspective is -- is just quite a bit more marring than
18 I ever expected. It looks like -- and I know that a
19 clear-cut is one thing because it will come back, but the
20 marring of the significant roads that have to go in --.
21 Obviously, you can see it in the photo. And that's just to
22 get to the existing project where those roads were made, I
23 believe. So where they're planning on putting the new
24 ones, I believe it's just going to continue, unfortunately.

25 And the sheer number of roads I read in -- just read

1 about going on Sisk was like, wow, you're going to be --
2 just doing a lot more. So that was what my biggest concern
3 is as far as the use of the land and sort of the permanence
4 of that kind of scarring and marring. I don't mean to use
5 strong terms, but it's what it is, you can see it in the
6 photo.

7 So that's why I wanted to present that because it's --
8 it shows a before and after. You know, whether you like it
9 or not, it's, like, well, that's what it is, you know. And
10 my concern being that -- again, I go fishing on the Chain
11 of Ponds, I go out on Flagstaff. You can see that blinking
12 light as you go through the S-turns and Flagstaff and all
13 that. We all know it and --.

14 But even just with the power line -- I try to -- the
15 only thing I've been upset with TransCanada on is people
16 couldn't get it together on going through Coplin Plantation
17 having to double the width of the -- you know, the
18 transmission lines. I thought that was kind of -- so now
19 over Porcupine Hill, you know, in downtown Stratton, Coplin
20 Plantation you see this massive swath cutting across that,
21 which, you know, you see them on major transmission lines
22 around the state. I just wish they could have doubled up
23 their poles or something, but --.

24 So I guess my concern is mostly on the visual impact.
25 And I thought I would just say, hey, here is what I see

1 because I'm up there. And when my son falls asleep, we're
2 looking at blinking red lights now. You've got this thing
3 and then blink, blink, you know. And it's just going to
4 increase.

5 And my hope is that -- you know, I think the goal is to
6 build the second half, but then these next -- this next one
7 that's -- that's being proposed here for Sisk, maybe it's
8 because some of the financial impact that it's been good in
9 the local community for the short term, like people have
10 said, but I think they're doing it because they can. And,
11 you know, why not? Because it's been cordoned off as wind
12 territory by the governor and whatnot, but --.

13 It's -- like I say, I -- I'm one of the people who
14 actually looks at it all day long, so -- . There's a lot
15 of other good stuff. I could turn around and look at
16 preserved Bigelow, that's good news. I feel lucky. People
17 come up and say, this is God's country. And I say, yeah,
18 but now in God's country there's a wind farm showing up.
19 So it's kind of a shame. People are curious when they come
20 up they -- oh, are you going to see those --? And then
21 they come right up and, oh, yeah, there they are. So it's
22 -- so I just wanted to give you the visual impact of what I
23 see.

24 And I appreciate your time and sticking through all of
25 this all night. So I don't know if you want me to take

1 those away as if it's the poster board or you can hold onto
2 them whatever you would like.

3 MS. MILLS: That's fine. If you want them back, that's
4 fine.

5 MR. CLARK: Oh, no, that's okay. I was going to give
6 you another shot of what I see of the existing towers, but
7 --. And I was going to ask if that's something -- just as
8 an existing -- as a secondary submission to say, here is
9 what I see of the existing towers. I don't know if that's
10 another photo I could present. It's kind of last minute,
11 but I was, like, digging through photos of all --. It's a
12 beautiful zone out there. So I've taking lots of photos, I
13 just have to go find, this is what I'm looking at because I
14 want to say --

15 MS. HILTON: You can submit more information if you
16 want I think up until the 10th.

17 MR. CLARK: Okay. That sounds great. Well, thank you
18 very much for your time. And, like I say, I appreciate you
19 guys having these hearings and weeding through all the
20 information. Thank you.

21 MS. CARROLL: That's all I have on the list here, Gwen.
22 I don't know if there's others who wish to testify. Is
23 there anyone else who would like to testify? I guess
24 seeing none -- .

25 Now I have to read a statement here, if I can find it.

1 This hearing will be continued tomorrow morning, May 12th
2 at 8 o'clock in the morning to hear testimony from the
3 applicant, the intervenors and government agencies. A
4 second session to hear testimony from the public will be
5 held tomorrow evening May 12th starting at 6:00 p.m.

6 And I think that's all. Okay. So I adjourn this
7 meeting. Thank you all for coming.

8 (Concluded this hearing at 9:27 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 May 11, 2010, a hearing was held regarding Development Permit DP 4860; and that this hearing was stenographically reported by me 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 27th day of May, 2010.

ANGELLA D. CLUKEY, NOTARY PUBLIC
Court Reporter

My commission expires: March 17, 2017

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