From: Maryann John
To: Murphy, Donald;
Subject: comments Bull Hill/First Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:03:14 PM

Mr. Murphy:
Below are my comments to LURC regarding the Bull Hill/First Wind Project. Please see that they are passed on to the group making the decisions. Thank you.

I am very concerned about the siting of industrial wind turbines by First Wind in Township 16. I am concerned about the loss of Maine's natural beauty. Our pristine natural areas are what draw visitors--our economic lifeblood--to Hancock County. To sacrifice them for a short-term energy fix is a recipe for economic disaster going forward.
That being said, recently Eastbrook passed an ordinance that regulates this major corporate enterprise with a different set of rules and standards from what is currently in use by the State of Maine's LURC. The distance and sound setbacks are more strict to protect residents and other property owners living nearby from a disruption of their way of life. It has been said during the course of crafting the wind ordinance that LURC usually will accept the abutting town's local ordinance (in this case Eastbrook's) as guidance in what is allowable in an unorganized township. I attended the meeting of the Hancock Co. Commissioners when the go-ahead for First Wind to continue with its application was given with a vote of yes, yes, abstain. I was assured at that time that LURC would not do anything that the Commissioners did not sanction at some future point in time.
Now that the wind ordinance has passed in Eastbrook, we are hoping that LURC will indeed use the Eastbrook ordinance to regulate the industrial wind corporation's plans for Twp. 16. This would protect Eastbrook residents who live near the townline. First Wind's Dave Fowler says First Wind will fight with lawyers against any such use of the Eastbrook ordinance in Twp.16. (As an aside, I have great difficulty with First Wind using Stimulus money to pay attorneys to fight the government of the State of Maine!) But the larger question is, Who's in charge here? Those entrusted with caring for the land and citizenry of the State of Maine or a multinational energy corporation? A company (First Wind) whose CEO and other top executives are former Enron employees.
I hope that you state employees at LURC will protect the people of Twp.16 and Eastbrook and all those who enjoy time in Hancock County from an invasion of gross industry into a pristine natural environment that is the real wealth of Maine.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,
Mary Ann John