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*I am a 5th generation rancher who came back to ND after working in corporate America for a fortune 500 company in Arizona, California and Texas. The beauty of the state, the open prairies and lifestyle is important to me and my family. Wind production is changing the look of our state. I have seen the 100's of wind towers littered throughout those southern states.

There are several points that I feel are very important when considering wind as energy.

*wind development has been going too fast in the state with little or no restrictions

*some wind farms get started and are then abandoned - there needs to be guidelines that identify when such a wind production has been abandoned.

*when abandoned, it is very important to the landowner that all equipment be removed from the sight. Currently foundations are to be removed to a depth of 3 feet, this is not deep enough for us as landowners wanting to put fences up in these areas as the strength is not enough at this depth. It would be best to require complete removal of all concrete to insure optimum future use of the land such as for fences, putting buildings, etc.

*feel it is very important for wind companies to bond before any construction on each project starts as some may get started and then quit and the landowner is left with the cost of material removal. we need to have a bond in place prior to starting so this cost is covered. Landowners cannot afford to cover these costs, especially young farmers and ranchers like myself.

The state needs to get a handle on wind energy before we are completely overrun by wind towers and the beauty of our airspace is gone and wildlife has vanished. Guests come to our state because of the beauty - tourism and agri tourism is very important to me. some of my guests have told me that they will not return to our state if everywhere they look are blinking red lights at night and big wind towers. This is not how our state is advertised.