

Dear North Dakota Public Service Commissioner,

I am 24 years old, and was born and raised in central ND. I just graduated from college and returned home where I am working on my family's ranch raising cattle and growing crops. Returning to ND was always my plan as I absolutely love the solidarity, open spaces, and simple landscape.

I am very concerned with the direction wind energy is heading in ND. It is my understanding that there are over 50 lobbyists working in favor of wind at the capitol building. They are backed by out of state interests, wind companies, and are trying to dictate the legislation and tell us as North Dakotans what we should do with our state. That is not the North Dakota way.

I want to point out that I am not anti-wind. But I would like these towers placed in the least impacted areas possible. We are losing the natural beauty of this state and pretty soon you won't be able to drive down a road without seeing wind towers. This is already apparent on the drive from Dickinson to Bismarck. I have talked with tourists biking along the roadway by Wilton, ND, and they have expressed their discomfort from the noise of the towers many miles away and the flickering light at night. They said they won't be back to ND. Tourism is a big industry in our state, and if we aren't careful we may lose that.

North Dakota is a central pathway for migratory birds. The ND capitol building is around 240 feet tall. Wind towers can exceed 500 feet tall (twice the height of the capitol building). The blades on wind towers slaughter thousands of birds every month, some even are endangered. It is a proven fact that grouse will move their breeding grounds because of the shadow flicker of a wind tower blade. Grouse only nest in rangeland, and the majority of these towers are being placed on rangeland. We will start to lose wildlife in ND.

As I stated earlier I am 24 years old. The projected lifespan for a wind tower is 50 years. That means myself and my generation are the ones that are going to have to put up with these towers, for the rest of our lives. Why ruin a whole generations landscape and sometimes even livelihoods just for the benefit of a few chosen people? That seems very irresponsible to me.

I would like your support on requiring these wind companies to put up bonds before beginning their wind project. Currently, if the project is started and the company goes broke, or they decide they want to go a different direction, there's nothing in place to ensure the progress made on the sites are removed or returned to their natural state. It is up to us, as landowners living within the project, to take care of these problems at our expense. The wind companies need to be held accountable from the very start.

Also, I believe there should be stricter decommissioning guidelines. There is a huge footprint left after a wind tower comes down. If a wind tower has to be taken down for any reason, the giant concrete pad will remain. Currently, the pad only has to be removed to a depth of 3 feet. I can tell you from my own experiences of building over 30 miles of fence, that isn't even deep enough to sink a railroad tie. Wind companies should mirror the old hiking phrase, "you pack it in, you pack it out". There is no reason the company should not take out 100% of the concrete

pad, and any other material they may have on the site. Again, they need to be held accountable for any and all of their actions.

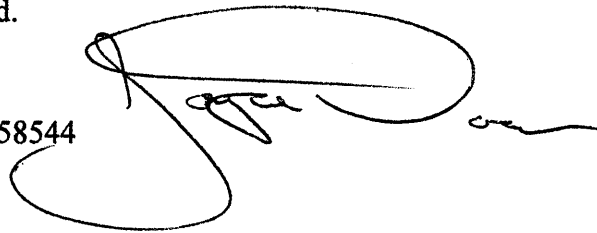
We also need greater setbacks on towers. If you are a non-participating landowner and a wind farm is around you, why should your property rights be infringed upon? A structure as massive as a wind tower will definitely impact property rights, even if the tower is not on your land. Wind towers are relatively new, and there needs to be more studies on the impacts they have on wildlife, tourism, human health (shadow flicker), cattle performance, property value, etc. We need to better understand the long term effect of the wind turbines.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you, as a ND Public Service Commissioner, have our best interests as ND citizens in mind.

Jayne Doan

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jayne Doan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.