

February 27, 2017

N.D. Public Service Commission: reference PU-16-775 PU-17-23

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Jerry Doan from McKenzie, N.D. My family has ranched in southern Burleigh county N.D. since before N.D. was a state. My Great Grandfather homesteaded here in 1882 after coming here from Canada.

My family has a lot of pride in Agriculture and we work hard to improve the natural resources including wildlife. We have been fortunate to win the inaugural Aldo Leopold Award in N.D. for conservation, and the National Environmental Stewardship Award for improving our cropland, rangeland, and wildlife resources to better protect our environment.

Besides our long history in agriculture, we also operate Rolling Plains Adventures, a hunting/outfitting business, and operate an agri-tourism business on the ranch. We were awarded the Governor's award for best tourism package in N.D.

Because of these ventures and our working with thousands of people visiting our ranch through many different events, we realize how extremely important our vast open country and natural resources are to our lively hood. We are not opposed to wind electrical generation. However, we are very concerned with the lack of a state plan to site wind farms in the least impacted areas. It is imperative to develop long term plans so we don't ruin our strong economic driver, the tourism industry. It is also imperative to have a plan so we don't cause severe degradation of our wildlife assets. We continue to lose native rangeland at an alarming rate in N.D. and we must be concerned that we don't overly impact grassland wildlife. The hunting industry is also a huge economic driver for N.D. The last point would be to protect our states beauty for the next generation. If we place wind towers that are twice as tall as the N.D. capitol, on our tallest hills we will ruin our landscape. We must develop long term plans to protect our state and site wind farms where they will impact our state the least.

I feel very strong that wind companies need to have the top-rated bonding. A rated bond or higher like other sources of energy. We must insure that wind companies are held accountable for our N.D. interests. This is very important as out of the country wind farms now working in N.D., have stated publicly, they have no intention of operating many of these wind farms. Only breaking ground to collect wind credits and move on. These bonds must be done up front at the onset to protect the landowners.

I also feel very strong about wind companies having a very thorough decommissioning plan. This plan must require them to remove all concrete and other material. If not the land value has diminished. It will be hard if not impossible to build, do fencing or put in a well or water pipelines etc. We have a lot of experience with many wells and miles and miles of pipeline and fencing on our ranch. We know if concrete is left only three feet underground it would make most of these projects impossible. That would mean the land value has been compromised. We must protect the value and property for the next generation. These companies have a history of selling quickly so having assurance that the land and landowner is protected is very critical.

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It is also important to have strong language to determine when the wind farm is abandoned. It is far too easy to make it appear the wind farm is in operation and avoid any decommissioning plan. This type of protection is crucial so the wind company is not taking advantage of the land owner.

Lighting of wind towers is a huge problem. The many people from across the world that visit our operation love the beauty of the night sky. Polluting that with wind generation blinking red lights is going to severely degrade tourist economic benefit to our state. The lights that are turned on by radar are a help. However, in certain areas such as the wind farm proposed south of Bismarck, which is in a flight path, they will not be approved by the FFA.

I am also concerned with improving the setbacks for non-participating landowners. If wind towers are next to your land, the realtors I have visited with tell me your land values will fall. They have shown me numbers to back that up on specific cases. Setbacks need to increase to help with that problem. We must use common sense to not let one landowner's property rights to allow wind towers, overshadow another land owner's rites to have his beauty, silence, and wide open space.

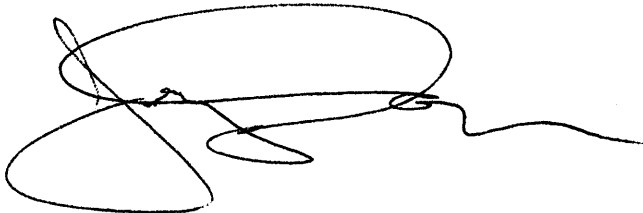
In closing I challenge the N.D. PSC to develop regulation and a long-term vision for N.D. wind energy that protects our beautiful state and our agriculture, tourism, and wildlife, industries. I encourage you to require wind to be developed responsibly with proper land owner protection in the least impacted areas.

Thank You,

Jerry Doan

24401 62 Ave. SE

McKenzie, N.D. 58572

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Doan", is written over the typed name and address. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long tail extending to the right.