

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE PSC CONCERNING EMMONS- LOGAN WIND, LLC

Members of the Public Service Commission, Senators and Representatives, County and City Officials, landowners and guests, my name is Blanche Schumacher; I serve as a Logan County Commissioner, and I am here to support the landowners from Logan County who are in favor of the NextEra Energy Resources proposed development of the Emmons-Logan Wind Project.

Prior to being elected as a County Commissioner, I served as Logan County Auditor for nearly thirty years. During that time, it was my duty to spread the tax levies throughout the county, and during my very first year, I witnessed the fact that Logan County had absolutely no pipeline revenue compared to some of our other neighboring counties--the only revenue from utility taxes was a small amount from electric utility companies and the railroad that passes through the county, so the majority of the taxes that are required to operate our county, townships, schools, cities, fire and ambulance service districts comes directly from the landowners. There is also very little new development in Logan County and almost no economic growth—we are an agricultural county, so when NextEra Energy Resources Representatives, Ashley, Clay and Josh initially came to meet with us stating that they were looking at developing a Wind Farm in Emmons and Logan Counties, we were hopeful for the opportunity that our taxpayers may have some assistance in paying taxes to provide the services that are so desperately needed in this area.

The Emmons-Logan Wind project will bring jobs and economic growth to the counties—payments will be made to landowners and the tax revenue will benefit all county residents. The company is looking at having the wind generation towers producing electricity for the next thirty years. Plus, Next Era Energy Resources has already shown their interest and support in the communities where they are working by making various donations to our 4-H Clubs, schools and other civic and community organizations. In our experience, we have found that Next Era and their representatives have been honest, trustworthy, diligent and cooperative in working with the county and that they have honored all their commitments to us.

In my opinion, I believe that one day our coal and oil resources will become depleted, and I strongly feel that the coal, oil, wind and solar energy companies should all work together to lengthen the life expectancy of those resources well into the future for the benefit of our children and our grandchildren as well.

While not everyone wants to look at the wind towers, I am not so sure that everyone was in favor of seeing the huge electrical towers that were strung across our vast plains, but everyone needs electricity, and the wind towers will produce that much needed electricity not only for us but for our friends and neighbors as well, in addition to providing tax revenue that will be returned to our public entities for the much needed improvement of our schools, roads, etc.

When the public hearing for the Conditional Use Permit was held before the Board of Logan County Commissioners, we noticed that in addition to the affected landowners, their friends and neighbors were present to support the project as well, as they could see the benefits for all county citizens and taxpayers.

At the conclusion of the hearing in Logan County, the Board of County Commissioners considered the purpose and intent of our County Zoning Regulations; the project appeared to pose no threat to public health; it appeared to promote the orderly development of the county's resources, and there appeared to be no conflict among land uses and structures, and since the landowners were the persons who would be most directly affected by having to work around the towers and these same ***landowners were willing to allow their lands to be utilized for this purpose*** and the schools, county, fire and ambulance service districts would benefit as well, it was for these reasons that we as a Board decided that we, too, should support our landowners and the majority of the persons who were in favor of the project.

I would like to thank the Public Service Commission for giving us the opportunity to be present here today to be heard at this public hearing,

and I respectfully request that the North Dakota Public Service Commission consider casting a favorable vote in support of the application of the Emmons-Logan Wind Project.

Thank You.

Blanche Schumacher

Blanche Schumacher,
Logan County Commissioner