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March 8, 2019

North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-480

RE: Burke Wind, LLC – Burke Wind Transmission Line-Burke and Mountrail Case No. PU-18-302

Dear Commissioners,

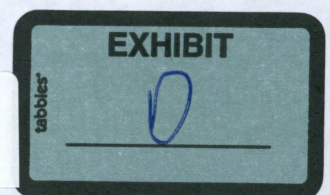
As a resident, landowner, Mountrail County Zoning Board Chairman, Mountrail County Tax Department Soils Committee founding member, and Debing Township Chairman, I am opposed to the transmission line sitting requested by NexEra Energy dba Burke Wind LLC. This line as proposed unnecessarily uses more miles of travel, more poles, and has more impact on the residents, farmers, ranchers, and the environment of Mountrail County while putting unnecessary strain on our public offices and servants in our community. It further has jeopardized the process and speed by which critical public works as well as private utility jobs will be conducted in the future.

I first learned of this transmission line after answering numerous phone calls by concerned landowners prior to a November 27, 2017 Mountrail County Zoning Board meeting. These landowners had expressed their dissatisfaction with the presentation by the company, the company's lack of respect, and the overall unprofessional attitude. After lengthy discussion and testimony at the meeting, the conditional use permit was tabled due to only 6 easements being signed.

Later, on February 26, 2018, Burke Wind LLC approached the Mountrail County Zoning Commission seeking approval of the conditional use permit. Their route had changed and their project had enlarged since the previous meeting. It was decided by the board to table until Burke County had completely approved the project.

On October 22, 2018, Burke Wind LLC again approached Mountrail County Planning and Zoning. The transmission line plan presented was a mile longer than first proposed. Company officials stated that

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Exhibit D - Testimony of Charlie Sorenson



they were unable to obtain an easement in the area they wanted to go. After much discussion about the route as well as the added costs and impacts of extra corners and extra miles of line, the conditional use permit was granted.

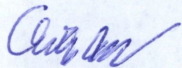
The actions of Burke Wind LLC have resulted in more upset landowner calls to me than any other issue in the last five years that I've been on the county zoning board. These landowners who refused to sign the inadequate easement and most of those who have are left with a sour taste of the entire process. After three longer than average hearings at Mountrail's Planning and Zoning, county employees and zoning commissioners have a different attitude towards conditional use permits regarding transmission lines. Future easements needed for power, telecommunications, water, and oil related pipelines all will face deeper scrutiny under the darkened shadow created by Burke Wind LLC.

I have spent over three months with a well-known oil company routing a proposed pipeline. The line is likely going to be only six miles, but by working with myself and other landowners, almost two miles have been shaved off its length saving the company money and preventing unnecessary environmental damage. This company has not yet offered any easements since its proposed route is not complete, but in the end will have the lowest cost route with the least environmental impact. Burke Wind LLC failed to take these preemptive moves to ensure the most economical line routing with the smallest footprint.

On my farm, I deal with many easements on land I own and that I rent. There are more than 70 miles of pipelines buried on the land I farm and about 10 miles of overhead electrical line that have been added in the last ten years. Because I've reaped the benefits of successful routing while suffering from the consequences of poor routing, I feel that I have a duty to express my dissatisfaction with Burke Wind LLC's easement and routing method.

We will need more transmission lines, rural water lines, telecommunication lines, and oil related pipelines in Mountrail County. In order to ensure the ability to reasonably obtain easements and routes as well as protecting the environment, we must make sure that all routes are selected as efficiently as possible. As humans, we are able utilize the earth for all that it has to offer, but must do so with the utmost prudence, so that future generations can do the same. I urge you to deny Burke Wind LLC's Transmission Line Sitting in Mountrail County and ask for a wiser and more responsible route with the least amount of impact.

Sincerely,



Charlie Sorenson