

March 8, 2019

Public Service Commissioners

Ms. Julie Fedorchak

Mr. Brian Kroshus

Mr. Randy Christmann

RE: Proposed Burke Wind Project

Dear Commissioners:

First, I would like to thank you for being here today.

My name is Cody Beard, 5th generation farmer of the John & Maude Beard farm which was started in 1902. I am reading this letter for my dad, Doug Beard, resident and landowner in Burke County, because he is not comfortable speaking in a big group. Here it goes:

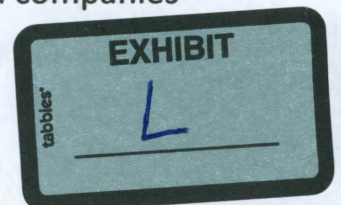
My name is Douglas Beard. I am not reading this but would like for you to hear what is on my mind. I was born and raised in the Coteau hills, ~~Clayton Township~~, Burke County. I farm and ranch along with my family. This native prairie that we graze our cattle on is very precious to us. We take care of it and cherish it. We have a tremendous population of wildlife here. We certainly appreciate the peacefulness this area offers us. You can sit on the open prairie in the evenings and only hear coyotes talking. As I will tell you many times over, this IS God's country.

I've never been too much about politics until these wind farms started popping up all over the place. I've done a lot of research on the articles I have found. I soon realized how crooked politics are, not only at our Federal level, but our State and County as well. Wind energy is heavily subsidized by our Federal government and that is the only reason the wind companies can make this work. Ask yourself, if you had a business that could not support itself, should it even exist? Your answer is more than likely, "of course not". We have these outside companies coming into our state making millions.

on a previous project
It is my understanding that the North Dakota Game and Fish Department stepped up to try to save our grasslands. They set some guidelines for the wind companies

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Exhibit L - Testimony of Cody Beard
Cody Beard

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Cody Beard



to follow but NextEra decided that they could not follow these guidelines because it would cost them too much money. So instead of following our states guidelines, the Governor of North Dakota stepped in and granted a waiver to NextEra so they do not need to follow our states guidelines. That's interesting, isn't it. Let's see, ~~did NextEra contribute funds to our Governor's campaign?~~ NextEra's next step was to slither into our county, wining and dining our county officials. Our Planning and Zoning Board, whose job it is to make recommendations to our County Commissioners voted the Burke Wind Project down 5 to 1. Did our County Commissioners even take into consideration the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board? In my opinion, they didn't. OUR County Commissioners, Allan Ryberg, Jarret Van Berkom and Debbie Kuryn didn't give it a second thought and voted to approve this project. In my opinion, is very questionable. Another sketchy decision, as it seems to me, is knowing that our Commissioners went against everything in Burke County's Comprehensive Plan to the Future/ Why? It's all about the money and ~~who got their pockets padded,~~ why else would anybody vote to destroy the peaceful, scenic, serenity of our landscape, God's Country.

The State of North Dakota needs to take a step back and rethink their decisions, as they pretty much let all of the big corporations do what they want because its all about the almighty dollar. I'm referring to the oil companies as well as wind. North Dakota needs to put boundaries in place and enforce them before it is too late.

A lot of the grasslands these towers are proposed to be placed is native ground never disturbed or broken up, which is something special, and we will never get that back. Again, God's Country. I do not want this project approved because once it is approved, wind energy will only continue to peck away at the rest of the county. They will come back and put up turbines, collection lines and transmission lines where they have omitted them from the original plan regardless if they must go through the application process again or not. Allowing this project is only opening a huge hornet's nest, we will all get stung.

It is my understanding that the PSC reached out to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for information to help make their decision. I commend the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for helping to try and save the native grass that we have left in our state. But there are people that are employed by

the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that have been very quiet as they are afraid for their jobs. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be jumping up and down trying to get this project denied. They know it is in the best interest of the wildlife in this state, but for some reason they are afraid to step up and talk because they either could lose their job or have they been paid to keep quiet. If so, it is extremely sad to see. NextEra even put confidentiality clauses in the contracts to keep neighbors from talking to other neighbors. Why? It is pathetic for an outside company to come into our state and divide communities, neighbors against neighbors, friends against friends. ~~I think it sucks!~~

I had a neighbor ask me one day why I felt like I should be able to stop them from putting wind towers on their land. I understand his point, but why, by him putting wind towers on their land, should this be able to affect my life, my family's lives? MY family's lives will be affected and I have no say about it. The beautiful scenery will change, the peacefulness will be gone, wildlife will decrease, so our lives will be greatly affected if my neighbor has these towers, why is that fair? Life as we know it will change drastically. We will lose the tranquility of the land that our family has farmed since 1902. Our children and grandchildren are planning on keeping the land in the Beard name, something we are extremely proud of and have worked extremely hard for. My son, Cody, planned on moving out to his grandparent's farm, building a house and raising his family here, as he believes this is the most beautiful, enjoyable place in the world to live. His plans are on hold, pending the Burke Wind Project decision.

In closing, I would like to thank you, the PSC, for listening and I hope you vote this project down, for the sake of our grasslands, our wildlife, and the people that are opposed to this project and want to preserve what we have in God's Country.

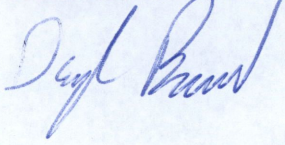
It is time for our state to take a good look at how it is being destroyed by big corporations, and, try to preserve what we still have. Once it is gone, it is GONE. Let's look out for future generations when making your decision and ask yourself, "Would I want one of those towers in my backyard?"

I ask that you DO NOT approve the Burke Wind Project.

Thank you for your time.

Douglas D. Beard

Resident and Landowner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Beard", written in a cursive style.