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NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 408
Bismarck ND 58505

RE: Northern Divide Wind Project (PU-19-376)

Dear Commissioners,

We are residents, farmers, and land owners in Burke County, ND. Our home is located in section 7 of 163-94. We own and operate farm land in that township (Forthun Township) and in township 163-92 (Portal Township). Until recently, we have remained neutral on the topic of building a wind farm in Burke County since our home lies 8 miles north of the proposed project. We reside far enough away so light flash and sound pollution from the turbines will not directly affect us; but we will see most every turbine and the lights from our home. After viewing the hearing on April 17, 2020 and hearing testimonies, we feel compelled to write you this letter in opposition of the project as it is currently proposed.



We are acquaintances with several members of the Burke County Zoning Commission who have expressed regret at not having the foresight to have stricter setback parameters in place to better protect its residents' health and safety from the development of non-agricultural industry. Forthun Township, in which we live, has formed their own Planning and Zoning Commission and adopted their own ordinances addressing a multitude of non-agricultural development to protect the health, safety, morals, public convenience, general prosperity, and public welfare of Forthun Township's residents. We adopted setbacks that closely mirrored Divide County's, which borders us to the west.

Land owner rights have been a heated debate. We strongly believe in landowner rights, but only to the extent that they do not infringe on the rights of others. What one land owner does on his or her property should never adversely affect one's neighbor. We believe the current setbacks do not protect neighbors from unwanted noise and light pollution. Another example of infringements on a neighbor's rights of this proposed wind project has to do with aerial spraying. If a wind turbine is near your field as is allowed in the current setback regulations, you will not be able to use aerial crop spraying as part of your farming practice. Planes need at least one mile of clear space to turn when spraying a specific field, therefore, if a turbine is less than one mile from your field, aerial spraying will not be able to be used as a management practice because of a neighbor's choice.

Many other issues surround this project including wildlife impact, watershed issues, road maintenance, and reclamation of sites once the turbine is no longer in service. The claim that local people will be employed to build this project is not reasonable. We do not have local contractors nor the workforce to supply even a small fraction of labor for such a project. The importing of workers will have a temporary boost to the local

economy, but at what cost? These issues and many more will all need to be weighed with careful consideration.

In conclusion, some have testified that the revenue received from having a wind turbine on their land would be a significant boost to their income. However, this increased income for a few comes at a cost to many. We are in favor of alternative energy sources and research, but we believe this project in its current form is not the answer. We are confident that the Public Service Commission will come to the same conclusion. Thank you for your time and consideration of all of the factors involved in this project. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely, 


Greg and Jessica Busch