

Hamre, John G.

From: Eberl, Stacy L.
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 10:52 AM
To: Hamre, John G.
Subject: FW: Northern Divide Wind Project

John, please docket the comments below for PU-19-376 and PU-19-377. Thanks!

From: Shelley Jacobson <shelleyj4@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:45 AM
To: -Info-Public Service Commission <ndpsc@nd.gov>
Subject: Northern Divide Wind Project

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To the members of the Public Service Commission: 4/21/20

Responsible – a characteristic to which we should all strive to be.

Before you is a project that as members of the PSC you have the ability to, to use a phrase of today, “flatten the curve of environmental change”. The world is changing quickly, and not in a good way. Whole ecosystems are changing as a result of an ever increasingly warmer world, which is changing weather to a more severe state. Weather events are producing more rain, droughts are lasting longer, and waters are warming causing levels to rise which deepens weather patterns feeding into the volatility. This results in large scale flooding and fires, along with the displacement and extinction of plant and animal species. These effects are just the tip of the iceberg, which are also melting at alarming rates. The negative effects of man’s increasing greenhouse gas emissions from fossil carbon could fill volumes, but this is just a letter to make a point.

Going from a world scale to a state one, this project represents a very stable tax base to benefit the state and county. This in turn will also add additional money to the state. North Dakota has grown accustomed to oil revenue, which has taken a severe down-turn as of late. It has always been subject to great volatility.

Let’s shrink the scale further, Burke County. The school system here in Bowbells has taken a big hit with a 10% loss of children this school year, to bring K-12 down to 65 children; a loss of seven children. How long is that sustainable? Bringing in a new project like this brings young people to the local communities. It takes the younger generation to do these jobs due the physical nature of the work involved. These individuals might be bringing families and children to fill some of the school vacancies, buy some of the many houses that are for sale, and be energizing citizens to these aging communities. And we should not forget the direct payments to residents directly affected by infrastructure, which will support incomes and, in some cases,

keep additional people from leaving. After all, agriculture is certainly very volatile, and usually in a bad way.

The need for energy is not going away and this is currently a viable alternative. As a footnote to this, directly across our border in Canada, to replace an aging coal plant, nuclear is being considered!!!! The byproducts of nuclear energy have never found a permanent solution for storage. In reality, they never will due to the long radioactive half-life of spent uranium. Let's see, a potentially radioactive problem on our doorstep or a wind tower which has played a significant role in the modern history of this country. We as a state also have aging coal plants, what are their options?

North Dakota has a tremendous appetite for electricity, from its infrastructure to support the oil industry right down to all those thousands of electric fans drying the crops North Dakota is known for. Wouldn't it be nice to know that local wind production could aid in those needs instead of fossil fuels further worsening climate change? Why are we not taking into consideration the smaller footprint of each tower, the lack of oil or brine spills contaminating the environment, and roads not being damaged by the endless volume of truck traffic supporting the wells if we have wind as an alternative? Why are we not using the abundant natural resource of wind to produce the energy the world continues to consume?

In summary, everyone has younger people in their lives and the world we are handing over to them is deteriorating at an alarming rate. This is a project that will slow that down turn, create quality jobs for our local communities, help to slow the need for personal tax increases, and provide some stability to the area. A win-win solution!!

As members of the PSC, you have the ability to demonstrate that characteristic – Responsibility – and approve this project. We, as residents and tax payers of Burke County, support the development of the Northern Divide Wind, LLC project.

Thank-you for your consideration. Please note, that we are also mailing you a copy of this email with signatures.

Shelley, Alan, Alex, Tilmer and Anita Jacobson

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