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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter regarding the proposed wind farm development in Burke County, North Dakota. A particular concern for me is the placement of turbines south of Columbus, near Wildwood Park.

Wildwood Park is located in a pristine wooded coulee that encompasses 240 acres. The park was founded in 1919, and has a lengthy history. North Dakota governor Lynn Frazier spoke at Wildwood in 1921.

Wildwood Park is home to an abundance of wildlife including moose, deer, and more important to this discussion, many species of birds. A quick perusal of ebird.org a website where birders log the birds they see, shows a total of 112 different species of birds have been recorded at Wildwood Park. This is quite a diverse number for a park of that size. I myself am not a birder. I am a volunteer trail builder, who with the blessing of the Columbus Park board have built 1.3 miles of multi-use trail in Wildwood Park with more in development. This trail has been designed for hikers, and mountain bikers. I was not aware of the birders using the park, until I started working on the trails, nor was I aware of the sheer numbers of birds they are seeing there.

The area where these wind turbines are proposed is in the central flyway, and is a major duck breeding area. Wind turbines kill an estimated 140,000 to 328,000 birds each year in North America, according to Audubon.

The rolling hills and vast prairie of Burke County are stunningly beautiful. The aesthetics of a series of towering behemoths speckling the hillsides are not a good fit for Burke County in the daylight, let alone the hundreds of blinking red lights at night overtaking the spectacular heavens seen in this part of the world.

My voice is but one, but I say no to this project.

Sincerely,

Jason Durick

Lignite, ND

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