
BURKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PHONE 701-377-2875 FAX 701-377-2020
PO BOX 310 BOWBELLS ND 58721

April 11, 2020

- Submitted For the record April 23, 2020

North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol
600 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Rick Owings. I am a Burke County Commissioner and voted twice to approve the Burke County wind farm that has been before the Commission this past year. The wind farm, which is called Northern Divide is in my district and will be good for our district and the people of Burke County, which is why I supported it.

The County will get somewhere around \$1,000,000 in new property tax revenue each year, which will benefit the schools, the ambulance service, fire departments and other services in the county. This should help restrain the pressure on property taxes that is so important to people these days. The new revenue is especially helpful since all of North Dakota is feeling the pressure from the huge decline in oil prices and oil activity in the region. Burke County doesn't have a ton of oil activity anyway----since we aren't in the heart of the Bakken. It has gotten very quiet in the last month or so.

My biggest reason for supporting the wind project is private property rights and the benefit to the landowners. If the landowners want to rent or sell their property to a coal company, an oil company, a wind farm, or a out of state hunter they should have the right to do so, so long as they aren't a danger or health threat to their neighbors. That seems to be a fundamental part of our country. The long-term benefits to the landowner will also help his operation to be more economic, and will help transfer the farm or ranch to the next generation. This should also be a benefit to our county by keeping a few more of our young people coming back to the farm or ranch they grew up on.

I would like you to look at the wind farm from our perspective. If they have followed all of the rules, then they should be approved. I hope you will give the Northern Divide wind farm a green light and approve it.

Thank you.

Rick Owings

9321 84th Ave NW Cell

Rick Owings
Burke County Commissioner

Highway N-D, 701-339-1425

BURKE COUNTY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, RELIGION, AGE OR DISABILITY IN EMPLOYMENT OR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES. ANY SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS REQUIRED. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE IN ADVANCE.

76 PU-19-377 Filed 04/23/2020 Pages: 1
Post-hearing Comments
Rick Owings

79 PU-19-376 Filed 04/23/2020 Pages: 1
Post-hearing Comments
Rick Owings