

April 23, 2020

Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Brian Kroshus, Chairman
Randy Christmann, Commissioner
Julie Fedorcek, Commissioner

Reference; Northern Divide Wind, LLC Case No. PU-19-376 and PU-19-377

I have been going to my Grandparents farm and now mine and my siblings for over 50 years I am a lifelong 58 year old North Dakota raised resident of West Fargo with land in Burke county the Northwest corner in Forthun Plat T164N & T163 N our Families have land on quarts in sections 30, 29, 31, 32, 6, 4 and we hunt and visit the area as much as we can.

I run to mechanical contracting business in Fargo of which we employee between both companies from 140 to 200 depending on the time of year, with Wrigley Mechanical, Inc. mainly in the power industry and Sugar plants and Grant's Mechanical, LLC in HVAC to large commercial buildings and hospitals all this work I have been doing for over 40 years.

I am in opposition of the windfarm going up in this area for the following notes;

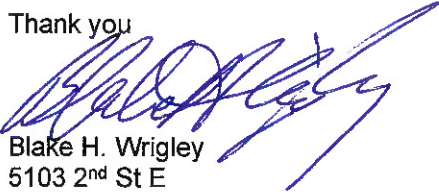
- First off what they look like in the skyline and how they close in the wide open feeling of what is left in North Dakota, I go up to the area to get away from that feeling and when I drive by the sites on HWY 83 and other places in the state I feel bad for what they have done to the looks of the landscape and open feeling that is lost. I feel with around 16 windfarm locations and 1,500 turbines we have enough and do not need yet another location to look at for years to come.
- The other part is without all the subsidies, people pay higher prices on there electric bill and whatever else there are with greenhouse buy back credits etc., these windfarms would not exist on their own, not to say now that some older windfarms are coming down what to do with the waste and the cost that goes with that I have heard to demo and dispose a tower in the range of \$500,000.00 to \$570,000.00 per tower.
- As a contractor in the state the workforce the last 15 years has been hard to support I would guess that the jobs on this project will not be filled by local workers as there are not that many up in Burke county to fill this type of work and now with the Covid-19 that means there will be workers coming from all over the country and this is not a good time for that to happen.
- I did not read much to address the waterfowl flyway in any of the reports I read to see how this was addressed, I see geese and ducks fly in large flocks from Minot to the Montana border all spring and fall when I am in the area and believe this to be yet another large obstacle in their path.
- My other note comes with the damage that windfarms and solar farms, are doing to the coal industry in North Dakota I know this is another typic but it is really not these plants are out of site have been good stewards to the area provided countless solid jobs since they where build and now are struggling to hang on to keep operating yet if there is no wind or sun are the cheapest cost for base load electricity that has a proven record to be reliable. With the low oil prices that have happened the next thing coming will be the increase cost of Natural Gas that is the only help for peaking power plants to operate if there is no wind or sun and then what if that happens to the cost of electricity.

- I feel North Dakota has all the windfarms it needs and feel we can do without this project because we are just sending this electricity to someone else far away who does not want wind turbines in their back yard but they want a windfarm to make them feel good about doing something for the environment will then they should have it there.

I realize that the North Dakota Public Service Commission has the best interests of all North Dakota residents at heart. And I thank you for your service to the State and the people here, but I strongly oppose this windfarm and yet another location that makes us all feel open and free and the closing in that comes with windfarms and turning this into another man altered space like rest of the country feels.

I thank you for your time and look forward to a favorable outcome,

Thank you



Blake H. Wrigley
5103 2nd St E
West Fargo, ND 58078
701-361-4591