

Ms. Julie Fedorchak
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Brian Kroshus
Public Service Commissioner

Mr. Randy Christmann
Public Service Commissioner

Re: PROPOSED NORTHERN DIVIDE WIND, LLC

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking time to read this testimony. I would strongly encourage you to vote NO against Northern Divide Wind, Inc. coming to Burke County, North Dakota.

As I sit writing this letter, I look toward the rolling hills and plains that are just south of Larson, ND in Burke County. The beauty is breath taking on this clear crisp morning that allows you to see for miles. All is calm as farmers get ready to make their way into the fields. The geese are migrating and can be seen flying overhead. I am extremely grateful and fortunate to call rural North Dakota my home. I am the daughter of a fifth-generation farmer and I am also the wife of a 4th generation farmer. I was taught at a young age to value and respect the land God created. Our family has put their blood, sweat, and tears into the farms the previous generations before us have created and passed down to us.

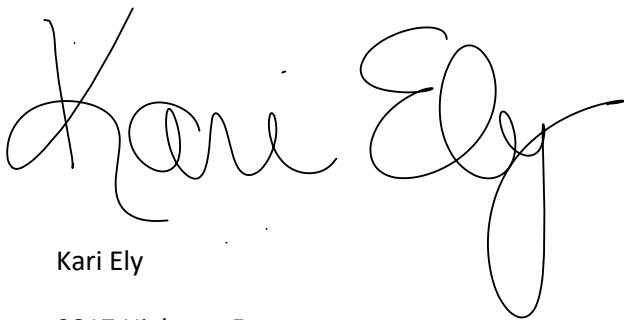
I would urge you to vote NO simply because of the serene beauty of North Dakota. The quietness and stillness of this spring day brings a sense of calm into our lives. With the possibility of these wind towers being built just to the south of us I will no longer have this rare opportunity to be able to look out my window and not see the signs of man-made structures. Would you go to a beach with man-made structures hindering your view of the beauty of the ocean? This is my sacred place. A place I look towards for comfort and to help calm my mind when talking to God. This is the place where generations before us took on the responsibility to preserve the land.

If these wind towers are built, I keep thinking about future generations. My children have it in their blood to want to be farmers already at such a young age. Will it be the responsibility of my children and many others in the county to have to deal with the cleanup of these wind towers if they no longer function? Will my children appreciate and value the land with having manmade structures all over? How will this affect the way they farm around the wind towers one day? I want to be able to provide my children the same farming opportunities that our previous generations allowed us.

I work as a Registered Nurse at St Luke's Medical Center in Crosby, ND. It is one of many critical access hospitals located in the western part of North Dakota. My concern with Northern Divide Wind coming into our area is that they will be bringing hundreds of employees from out of state. My concern is that if compliance is not met by Northern Divide Wind our rural hospitals systems on the western side of North Dakota will possibly become inundated. Our nearest hospitals are Minot (approximately 100 miles), Williston (approximately 90 miles), Crosby (approximately 24 miles), Tioga (approximately 50 miles), and Stanley (approximately 60 miles). Four of these 5 hospitals are critical access hospitals and do not have the capabilities or infrastructure that a larger facility like Minot has available. With many possible COVID-19 cases our hospitals will be pushed to the max. **Why are we willing to put our rural healthcare in North Dakota at higher risk during a worldly pandemic?** What happens if they do not comply with current guidelines to quarantine for 2 weeks? What happens if they come from a state with a "stay at home" order? Between Burke and Divide County we do not have the lifesaving equipment needed for multiple patients in respiratory distress. Did you know between Burke and Divide counties we only have 2 ventilators readily available?

Thank you for taking time to read my testimony. Once again, I will urge you to please vote NO against the proposed Northern Divide Wind, Inc in Burke County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari Ely". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Kari" is written in a more compact, rounded script, while "Ely" is written with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Kari Ely

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Burke County Resident