

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,

I would like to introduce myself. I am Wanda Ely from Columbus, ND. My husband Mike and I reside in Forthun Township. We bought our farm in Forthun Township in 1988 where we raised our two children. Mike is a 3rd generation farmer and his family homesteaded in Keller Township near the projected tower site. Mike has been farming for 49 years and we have for a couple farmed for 46 years. Our son joined our farm operation after college 20 years ago and has since married and his wife and family of 3 children reside next to us on the farm. Our daughter is also in the agricultural field and her husband farms.

We own various quarters in the projected wind site:

Keller Township – Sections 10, 15, 21,3

Fay Township- Sections 1, 23, 5, 6

Leaf Mountain Township- Section 3

We also rent the following quarters in this proposed area:

Keller Township – Sections 27, 28,22,26,33,34,13,9,3

Fay Township- Sections 2, 5, 28, 32

Harmonious Township- Section 10

I only listed land that pertains to the projected wind tower area.

Northern Divide Wind, LLC has put much emphasis on how much money will be coming back to the Burke County area with the wind tower construction. I have a list of the proposed towers and alternate towers that Northern Divide wants to construct. Many of the towers have various numbers of people to each family unit or trust. As I was going through the list I realized only 3

families live in the tower area year round, 3 families live in the area of the towers 6 months or less out of the year, 1 lives in Columbus, 1 lives north of Columbus, 1 lives in Powers Lake, 4 live in Divide County, and the rest of these recipients live at least 100 miles from the proposed site or out of state. Burke County is definitely not going to benefit much! The benefit to Burke County is minimal compared to other cities and states. Northern Divide knows where all the people live and where the money is going because they have contracts and need to know where to send the checks; therefore they know the majority of the money will NOT be benefiting Burke County but will be sent far from our county border.

Our area of Burke County does not have representation of either the Burke County Commissioners or Burke County Zoning and Equalization Boards. Our closest board members are one near Portal, ND, one south of Lignite, ND and the rest all being east of Lignite. Yes, we have their names and phone numbers to talk to them, but it does not affect their area homes and ranching or farming operations. There are members of each of these boards that has a conflict of interest concerning the wind tower project. They did not abstain from voting on the project due to various relative financial gain. It is easy to say something is fine for someone else when it does not affect you!

Spraying crops at the tower locations is going to be a major problem! The speaker for Northern Divide asked Pat Ely if he had ever talked with a representative to answer his concerns about spraying. At the PSC meeting in Bowbells, NextEra said they only needed 24 hours noticed to shut down the towers so farmers could spray when needed. It is very evident that NextEra/Northern Divide Wind knows nothing about North Dakota wind or farming! We spray from the end of May through the middle of July. There is a small window for crop spraying a certain crop at a certain time. There is no time to be waiting around for blades to be shut off. You may think it is a perfectly calm day until you get to the foothills where the towers would be. You may get to spray the middle of a field and have to return at dusk, the next day or the next week when the wind changes to spray by a neighbor's crop. Spraying is a wait and see agenda. It goes on and on for weeks. Is Northern Divide willing to shut the blades off for the 6-8 week spray window? We have our canola sprayed for fungicide by Great Plains Aero, Inc to minimize damage to our crop. Our spray pilot has stated he will not do any of our spraying in areas of wind turbines. The safety issue is too great and no matter what representatives from Northern Divide want to expound, our spray pilot will not endanger his life for spraying a crop near any tower!

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us. We have been very vigilant in social distancing but mostly just staying home away from everyone. How do you bring workers from out of our area and prevent this pandemic from spreading to us? Northern Divide can not know where or who these workers have been around or with. Why should it be ok to take a chance with our health in this rural area? Burke County has an aging population and of course we are at the most risk. It is impossible for these workers to have social distancing when they are working on a project of this magnitude. Where will these workers stay? Where will these workers get their food?

I strongly urge you to vote NO on the Northern Divide Wind project! We have so much to lose in property values, the peace and quiet of our area, harm to wildlife, harm to our land and our farming operations, and our health with the COVID-19 pandemic due to the influx of workers out of our area. Turbines become outdated usually within 10 years or less and need to be torn down with the expense being left to our county. IS THAT FAIR?

Thank you, commissioners of the PSC, for your time and service to our great state of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanda Ely".

Wanda Ely

9825 Highway 5

Columbus, ND 58727

Forthun Township, Burke County, North Dakota