

Hamre, John G.

From: Eberl, Stacy L.
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 8:18 AM
To: Hamre, John G.
Subject: FW: Comments concerning wind project psc case#PU-19-376

John, please docket the comments below for PU-19-376 and PU-19-377. Thanks!

From: Roberta Helseth <Roberta.Helseth@k12.nd.us>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2020 3:36 PM
To: -Info-Public Service Commission <ndpsc@nd.gov>
Cc: Roger Helseth <rhelseth1@hotmail.com>
Subject: Comments concerning wind project psc case#PU-19-376

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My husband was having technical difficulties sending this email, so he asked me to transcribe it on his behalf.

Transmission PSC #PU-19-377

Dear PSC Members,

My comments are concerning the northern divide wind project. The public hearing was on April 17, via remote technologies.

First of all, I am not in the "footprint" of this proposed project, but I was in the original Burke wind project that was disallowed. My comments are concerning the various "wildlife" entities involved-both state and federal. I have an avid interest in wildlife and hunting and have had my whole life. And so did my late Father. I operate a 100 year farm/ranch that my Grandfather had, and my Father had for 50 years, and now myself for 40+ years. Over all of those years I could not venture a guess of the thousands of water fowl and upland game birds this farm has produced-it would probably be in the 100 of thousands and more. I do not post this farm and enjoy those that love to hunt experience success on the property. As previously stated, I have made my living here for 40+ years on this land, and recently (this year) I have retired from crop farming and will continue ranching. When the first Burke project was proposed, I looked at it favorably that perhaps my land could work a little for me instead of vice versa. But, because of this "Prairie Potholes" region that I am in, the game and fish and US Fish and Wildlife had the final say on what I am allowed to do with my own land. That is not right and these entities have way too much clout and power. It's almost like they are their own political party. If they can dictate this issue, then they should have a program to pay me equivalently so I would never even consider a wind farm lease in this area. I do not believe a project like this would have ruined or decimated the wildlife ecosystem. Wildlife adapt and deal with it, like we all should.

As a side note to my rant, I want you to know that I have utilized "wildlife" programs and grassland easements. I also have a good relationship with ALL the people that I have dealt with, they are my friends. But I had property that would have fit this project nicely but they encountered grouse, so no way.

I also am on the Township board (Leaf Mountain Township) and I have been approached more than once about setting up our own zoning, so a project like this could not possibly have happened. I am a firm believer in not telling people what they can, and cannot do with their property. That is not my place as a Township officer. Another board member agrees, so the zoning did not happen.

Sincerely

Roger Helseth
9143 92nd Ave NW
Columbus, ND 58727
701.705.6222

Thank you for your time and consideration. Stay safe and healthy and have a great day!

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