From: kmichka@aol.com
To: Todd, Fred
Cc: Carroll, Catherine M.
Subject: Public Hearing Request
Date: Monday, March 28, 2011 4:06:10 PM

Dear Mr. Todd and All Fellow LURC Commissioners,

I am writing to request LURC grant a public hearing in the matter of DP4889, Champlain Wind, LLC's permit application to construct industrial wind turbines in Carroll Plantation and Kossuth TWP, bordering the Downeast Lakes Watershed.

When reading the information gleaned from First Wind's permit application, it reminded me of the old "smoking section" days on the airplanes I worked in the 1980s and 1990s. Non-smoking seats were sold one row in front of the smoking section, as if the smoke just magically stopped at the last designated smoking row. When they complained, the customers who paid for a non-smoking seat were assured they were, indeed, in a non-smoking section, and had absolutely no grounds for their complaint (or legal recourse).
Of course, all of us within the entire aircraft felt the negative effects of the smoking section. After we landed, our clothes and luggage would reek of smoke odor, our noses bled when blown for the first few hours, incidents of respiratory related illness were greater, resulting in documented increases of employee sick time usage, and interior aircraft parts had to routinely be replaced due to layers of nicotine buildup. Finally, flight attendants from several U.S. air carriers formed a group and battled their way through the courts and achieved banning of all forms of smoking on commercial flights within the United States. The benefits are extended to every person who boards one of those flights today.

To think that the Downeast Lakes Watershed and the area's high concentration of Class 1A and 1B Scenic Lakes will somehow magically be exempt from the negative effects of such impactful industrial turbine construction is equally ridiculous. Resulting disturbances of environmental ecosystems, wildlife habitat compromise, tourism related economic loss due to adverse visual impact, and the loss of a dark night sky and its documented physiological effect on all living creatures are all a reality, just as the respiratory illness and nicotine layers on the aircraft were. These concerns warrant a public hearing where your state "customers", or taxpayers, have the chance to present their information and voice their very legitimate issues.

Thank you for your time and service.
Kay Michka
Lexington TWP, ME