From: Carroll, Catherine M.
To: Todd, Fred
Subject: FW: Request for Public Hearing Bowers Mt. Project DP4889
Date: Monday, March 28, 2011 7:46:12 AM

Catherine M. Carroll
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From: zacariss [mailto:zacariss@tdstelme.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 12:57 PM
To: Carroll, Catherine M.
Subject: Request for Public Hearing Bowers Mt. Project DP4889

Dear LURC Commissioners,
This letter is a formal request for a public hearing in regards to DP4889, First Wind's proposed Bowers Mt. project.
Wind turbines may have a place in the overall alternative energy picture as a band-aid approach to reduce the arterial bleeding dependencies of imported energy and intensified fossil fuel consumption but it is not in the Bowers Mt. area of Maine. Nor is it anywhere that the scope of their permanent and devastating footprint overwhelms the ecological benefit of their procurement. Contrary to delusive propaganda, their cost to efficiency ratio is at best poor and they will not reduce the number of fossil fuel plants kept on line as their constant backup. Neither are they a bonafide ecological substitute, especially when one considers the immensity of their geographical impact. Their short life span will not allow enough time to lower Maine's energy consumption costs or provide the general public a return on their original investment and all this haphazard imprudent upheaval in a state that already exports excess power generation. Conservation of energy use through weatherization and advances in energy allocation thru smart meters and appliance upgrades would provide everyone in Maine with an instant return on investment. There are no immediate advantages worth permanently destroying natural environment. The farming and logging industries while removing trees have not forever altered ridgeline topography in the process. To argue that local geography has already been somewhat altered and therefore invites further exploitation is like admitting that whatever we have done wrong in the past supports our right to continue to do so in the future.

Realistically, not everyone wishes to live or work in Maine and wind power will have no positive impact on changing people's minds. It may however influence those who live here to leave before their chosen way of life is corrupted and their property values plummet. Rational observation of the state's all but stagnant population growth indicates that not everyone is willing to experience the state's remoteness, severe weather, rural work ethic, lack of state wide cultural amenities, and short growing seasons. What Maine has always been able to attribute to its unique albeit limited success, is its people's independent spirit and its ample untainted scenery. Maine's license plate says it all "Vacationland". From Maine's pristine coast to its undeveloped mountains, the state's innate beauty is what continually brings back tourists from areas not as visually blessed. When studies of visual impact are measured from distances of 3 to 8 miles and only from areas that experience the

most frequent visitations, they lead us to believe only minimal destruction has been committed. To experience the real cataclysm of this mountaintop devastation, one needs only to stand at ground zero. Many of us who call this our home, do not stick to the beaten path. We hunt, hike, forage and explore the areas that surround where we live. If devastation is only measured by what we wish to perceive from a distance versus what we have fully impacted, then there is little hope of achieving a harmonious existence with our environment. In order to warrant the balance that is needed for symbiotic perpetuation, nature will eventually have its way with us.

If for no other reason than to ensure the longevity of what nature has endowed us with, those who actually live, work and die here should respect this great gift. Compromise of stewardship is a ruse of ignorance when the means in no ways justifies the catastrophic end result. Destroying what nature has taken so long to perfect is reprehensible and retrogressive. Mountaintop wind turbines will not create enough new jobs to justify their damage. They will not keep our children here. They will not narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. They will not make us a global player. Since their purpose is to satisfy industrial energy demands elsewhere, they will not guarantee that new factories will be built here. They will not improve our schools and fill our classrooms with better teachers and smarter pupils. But, for those of us who will live in their shadows, they will forever remind us of our folly and the great irreparable injustice we have done to our environment in the name of paltry progress.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Short
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