

STATE OF MAINE

LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
Development Permit DP 4889)
Champlain Wind LLC)
Bowers Mountain Project)
Carroll Plantation, Penobscot County)
Kossuth Township, Washington County)

PREFILED TESTIMONY OF STEVEN A. NORRIS
ON BEHALF OF INTERVENOR, PARTNERSHIP FOR
THE PRESERVATION OF THE DOWNEAST LAKES WATERSHED

My name is Steven Norris. My wife, Nancy, and I own and operate The Pines Lodge sporting camp on Sysladobsis Lake. Presently this lake is classified 1A for its high scenic and resource value. We have owned this sporting camp for 20 years. During these years we have raised two children who have acquired our passion for the outdoor life. I have served multiple terms on the boards of the Maine Sporting Camp Association and the Maine Professional Guides Association. Currently I am a proud member of the Grand Lake Stream Guides Association.

Operating a sporting camp and guiding have been the only profession I have ever known. My parents, siblings, and I have run seven different sporting camps accumulating 107 years of operation for this one family generation. I feel qualified to determine what effects a sporting camp and guiding in Maine.

This project's "viewshed", if you will, stands to strip the Downeast Lakes of its most coveted attribute, Maine wilderness. Our guests travel here from all over the country. Many have the means to go anywhere they wish to find a true wilderness experience. Why do they, and so many others, return year after year to The Pines, Leen's Lodge, Weatherby's, the list goes on? They return because we still have natural wilderness beauty around us. Will we still have it in the future? You commissioners will be entrusted to answer that question.

Since 1884, countless guests have penned entries in The Pines Lodge guestbook. In June of 1905, steel magnate Andrew Carnegie favored us with, "more than pleased with surrounding woods and waters." Later, President Calvin Coolidge chose our lodge for a pristine wilderness vacation in Maine. They all traveled from afar for a reason.

More recent guests, an older couple from Virginia that have cherished this area for years, summed up the feelings of all our guests. "This is the essence of Maine – pristine landscape blanketed with silence; crisp clean air; definitely one of the last treasures on our planet."

The adverse effects of this project, whether you choose to label them "unreasonable" or "undue", would cast a large shadow over our watershed. Should this project be approved, my business will suffer. My guests may be polite and discreetly choose another distant lodge for their wilderness experience. Others have already told me they can stay home to be graced by industrial energy sites on the horizon.

Whether the commissioners choose to exercise a "harmonious fit" test or not – I have. My gut tells me this project fails that test. I can only hope for my sake, my families sake, and everyone in the Downeast Lakes watershed, that the Land Use Regulation Commission fulfills its duty and is responsible to the people of Maine.

Please remember these three words as you decide the fate of this project, Unreasonable, Adverse, Effect. Listen to those of us who live and work in this region. We treasure this priceless piece of Maine.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven A. Norris,
The Pines Lodge

Bowers Mountain DP 4889
Witness Testimony / Public Hearing

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County: Washington

State of Maine 05/26/11

Personally appeared the

above named Steven Norris

who swore the foregoing to be their free act and deed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven A. Norris

Steven A. Norris,

The Pines Lodge

Stacey L. Connolly

STACEY L. CONNOLLY

Notary Public, Maine

My Commission Expires November 9, 2015

