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From: Gregg Hubner

Date: 10/07/2015 9:11 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: greg.hanson@state.sd.us, "Fiegen, Kristie"

Subject: NWE rate increase

Mr. Hanson, Ms. Fiegen

I know you are busy, and I have been asked to send a quick e mail to show my opposition to Northwestern Energy customers being made to pay for the Beethoven Wind Farm south of Tripp, as well as a 20% rate hike NWE asked for in May. As I look out my window I can see 43 flashing red lights every night, and I am 12 miles away from the nearest towers. I was fortunate to take a real estate continuing education class 8 years ago that told how wind farms and developers work. The developers get a local group of investors together, they find the most prominent and best liked farmers or business people in the area, and they use these people to promote the project and buy the easements. My neighbor came to my house to buy my easements. He said nothing about it could get sold to a German company (as Beethoven did) he said nothing about an auto renewal (35 year) in the contract. And he certainly didn't say anything about making all of the NWE customers pay for it some day. Industrial Wind Farms are a scam. They start with lobbying groups like the AWEA giving money (like 20K to John Thune) last election cycle, and on December 31 the production tax credit gets reinstated. That's what happened here. I built a new home in 2012 after asking my neighbor who was on the board for Beethoven if anything would be built, he said no, go build your house. I did, and in the fall of 2013 the 43 towers went up because the PTC was voted back in. They don't build these things without the PTC. It's just a transfer of wealth from the middle class taxpayer to the Warren Buffets of the world. And as you well know, they don't reduce electricity rates. They raise them. They don't have any positive economic development

for the small communities like Avon or Tripp. Any extra money the farmer gets goes to Sioux Falls, Mitchell and Yankton.

I could go on forever, as we are fighting the next 100 towers between Tripp and Avon, right where I live. I will have to move. There can be serious noise, shadow flicker and even health problems, as well as property devaluation within 2 miles of a tower, and our county zoning committee, bought out by the developer, is going to put them as close as 550 ft. to your house. Industrial Wind Farms are a scam.

I urge you not to make the NWE customers pay for this \$143 million dollar boondoggle. Wind farms ruin the quality of life for a lot of people while making money for just a few.

(3 attachments)

Gregg C. Hubner
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