

Hubner Auction & Realty Inc.

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JUL 29 2016
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregg C. Hubner, Real Estate Broker & Certified General Appraiser

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July 28, 2016

Dear PUC Commissioners,

I am sending you some information I hope you will take time to read. I have been leading the opposition to the Prevailing Winds project since I heard about it in March of 2015. Since then, understanding they had all the money, lobbyists, lawyers and politicians that it would be very hard to stop them, no matter how senseless this project is. So we tried to at least to get some zoning setbacks that we could live with. Although we vastly outnumbered them at the county zoning meeting in August of 2015, they went with the developers and passed Article 17. This ordinance is the 2008 PUC Draft Model Ordinance. It's not state law and it was drafted by wind developers and a former PUC member to my understanding. In October of 2015, although we outnumbered them again as landowners/residents for or against, they sided with the developer and passed Article 17 into law. The saddest part of that whole episode is that the Bon Homme County Auditor counted letters "for" Article 17 without even opening them. I asked the SD Attorney General to investigate this, and the report and their findings are also included in this package for you to read. They thanked me for finding evidence of corruption but since there was no "criminal intent" there is nothing they can do. Sound familiar? Since 2008 wind turbines went from 300 ft. tall to 500 ft. tall and now if you read the options Prevailing Winds have as to what turbines they can use, and check their specs out on the General Electric website, I see they could possibly be 700 ft. tall. So that is why we feel really unrepresented by our county officials and are virtually scared to death as to what these giant turbines will do to our health, quality of life, and residential property values.

Some of the articles are actual case studies, some are opinion articles, and some local letters to the editors are included. I'm sure you are aware that the tide is turning on the acceptance of industrial wind farms in rural populations. (Davison County, SD, Letcher Township, Sanborn County, SD, Cherry County, Nebraska) all very recently said NO to wind farms. Although the Governor thinks it's a good idea to promote tax subsidized wind farms and destroy our quality of life to send electricity to the east coast, PEOPLE THAT HAVE TO LIVE UNDER WIND TURBINES don't agree. If in fact Congress goes through with the phase out of the PTC, this could be the last wind energy project built in South Dakota. If you read through their application, they say it would be very difficult to build this project even with 80% of the subsidy. Western Bon Homme County could be the dumping ground for wind energy, the biggest, tallest, most expensive, most subsidized wind project in the state. And for what? Economic development? Drive through Tripp and White Lake and see what wind farms did for them. NOTHING. They will drive people out, and it takes local people to keep a small town going, not tax money.

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I understand that I cannot control what my neighbor does with his land. But I also understand that he is liable to a certain extent if what he does affects my quality of life. That is why there are always counties fighting about livestock confinements, large dairies, even nuclear waste. And that's why we have zoning. A zoning board should represent the majority of their people, not out of state wind farm developers, not investors that don't live near the project, and not the promise of money for their county from some developer. We hope that you read through these books, and understand there is a big untold story here. I may be extreme, but I have been studying industrial wind farms, the developers, the tactics, and motives for 8 years. I think they are a big taxpayer scam fueled by the religion of global warming/climate change. Although the climate has always been changing, I am pretty sure the government will not be able to change the weather by building wind turbines and taxing people even more.

Thanks

Sincerely,

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