

South Dakota Aviation Association

January 16, 2018

Dear PUC,

The South Dakota Aviation Association would like to express our opinion on the proposed Crowned Ridge Wind Farm near Milbank, SD.

As Aerial Applicators, our industry depends on air space. Our number one concern for our membership, and any pilot, is safety. Wind turbines, even when properly lit, are an obvious safety risk to everyone in our industry, but even greater are the MET towers and transmission lines that come along with these wind farms. MET towers sneak in under the lighting rules and are extremely hard to see. Transmission lines needed to take the power away are very prominent, earth tones in color and an additional threat.

In addition, those who place wind turbines on their property are limiting the use of spray planes on their own farmland, but also their neighbors. Aerial Applicators need 1 mile or more to turn around safely. A 500 foot setback is not enough for a loaded airplane. If a neighbor's property would be surrounded on one or more sides by wind turbines, the odds of hiring an Aerial Applicator would be extremely difficult.

Unfortunately, our Association knows first hand what happens when airplanes and wind turbines collide. We ask that you please consider the safety of not only our pilots, but all pilots when making your decisions this evening. Please see the attached images of what wind turbines, MET towers and transmission lines look like through our view.

Thank you for your time,

The South Dakota Aviation Association Board of Directors

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🔍 🔒 met tower visibility images

