

February 5, 2018

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Fred Obermeier. I live in Ash Township of Clark County. I would like to speak in favor of the Crocker Wind Farm.

My parents, brother, [REDACTED], and I moved to a farm in [REDACTED] in 1964. My Dad worked for 2 brothers on that farm with the hope of one day owning it. In 1976, his dream came true. He and my Mom entered into a contract-for-deed to purchase that farm. My Dad loved the land and he taught us to work the land with love and respect. I have lived on that land the past 53 years working with my parents and brother and family to grow and improve our farm carrying out Dad's wishes that the farm be passed on to future generations. The Crocker Wind Farm will help carry out his wishes. My Dad has since passed but he was a supporter of the Crocker Wind Farm.

Over time, we have seen good times and bad times with the farming and ranching economy. Through the good and the bad, our operating expenses and taxes continue to rise and farm income fluctuates very much. I believe the Crocker Wind Farm will help our farm and the farms in the project with additional income. The project will also bring addition tax revenues to the state, Clark County, the schools and the townships. These additional revenues should help boost the local economy in and around Clark County and perhaps help to stabilize the monies we need to operate and the real estate taxes we pay.

We (my brother and I) have been working with Geronimo Energy for several years. We were the first to sign onto the Crocker Wind Farm project. We have found them to very good to work with. The founder of the company has assured me the he wants fairness in working with all the landowners in the project. Geronimo has reacted to some of the concerns of adjacent landowners of the project by moving or eliminating some of the turbine sites. I believe this shows a willingness to work with all those inside and outside of the project area.

While there is opposition to the Crocker Wind Farm, there is much support from neighbors, business owners, and the school district who won't testify publicly for a variety of reasons. My hope is they will contact you with their support.

We have an opportunity now. It's an opportunity to help our community with a better economic future. It's an opportunity to be involved in renewable energy. It's an opportunity that will help the schools and local government with additional tax monies. Going forward with this project will be good for our area.

In closing, I ask that you approve the Permit for the Crocker Wind Farm.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fred Obermeier

[REDACTED]

Clark SD 57225

[REDACTED]