

LES GOOCH

SOUX FALLS, SD 57110

My name is Les Gooch

I am a third generation land owner within the boundaries of the Dakota Range Wind project. I grew up in South Shore and Milbank but have not resided within the county since I inherited the land. I currently live in Sioux Falls. As a resident outsider, I am unable to vote on local or county issues, but I'm here now because I want to let you know how I feel about this project.

Wind is a totally free, readily available, and in never ending supply. With wind energy there is a Clean Source of Power, a Renewable Source, which is Cost Effective and in this case with a utility company contracted to purchase the power generated. As a land owner, I have the opportunity to gain more profitability from the land while minimally modifying the available crop land for production.

This is something that will be around for a very long time to come. It's not polluting anything, it isn't causing any damage to anything, and it isn't hurting anyone, and they are under contract to return the land to normal when it ceases operation. Grant County is like many rural counties here in the Midwest, the population is shrinking, while the costs of schools and government continue to rise dramatically. Since time began, this land has had one purpose, agriculture. I believe for the first time ever we have the opportunity to enhance the production of the land through energy, profiting the land owner, the schools and government through a boost in taxation, as well as the involved utility companies through the sale of affordable energy. This will also impact in a positive way during construction through jobs, and benefit the local businesses through those involved spending their pay locally during construction.

There is always concern with what this will do to a neighborhood. If you aren't familiar with the area, please take a drive around. This is very sparsely populated land we are talking about, and many of those living in the affected area are actually signed on in agreement with the project. While I know this is merely my own opinion, I think these turbines are very interesting to see. I love driving the area, seeing across the landscape for many miles, with the ag land at different stages throughout the year, a few abandon houses and farm building struggling to stay standing and not a person in sight. But I also worry about what will become as the population continues to decline, and there is no sign of new progress for the future. This project presents that future progress, and it does it in a positive way for generations to come.

I would like to request that the commission approve the permit for Dakota Range Wind.