

November 15, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing you today urging you to deny the Prevailing Wind Park application as it is proposed. You are well aware of the fact that this developer must bear the burden of proving this is a good, a safe project. They have failed to do so. There is clear and compelling evidence in the record that, if built as proposed, there will be adverse health effects caused by both audible and inaudible noise. There is evidence in the record which was brought forth during the evidentiary hearing – oral testimony as well as evidence admitted as exhibits – that shows that there ARE health risks when turbines are built too close to people’s homes. There is evidence in the record. And it is left to the three of you to decide which evidence you will give the greater weight to. Does the preponderance of the evidence show that, if built as proposed, they will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants? The applicant did not prove any such thing! They brought forth no legitimate scientific studies proving their setback distances are safe; and nothing proving that shadow flicker at their proposed levels are safe. Sure, Prevailing Wind Park has noise models and shadow flicker models that claim they will not, but these are models! You heard testimony from real people that are living adjacent to wind farms – and they are suffering! You heard them! You must protect the people of Bon Homme County, Charles Mix County, and Hutchinson County. You can’t throw this back to our legislators or our county commissioners. This decision is yours alone. You have the power and responsibility to protect the citizens of South Dakota. You are our last hope.

As someone who has been part of the Crocker Wind Farm project in Clark County, I remind you that wind developers claim projects cannot be built with what I would call “reasonable” setbacks. If you recall, Crocker brought our County Commissioners to court in an attempt to force them to change their ruling of ¼-mile setbacks from non-participating residences. The story was that without a 2,000-foot setback the project would be unbuildable. Yet on September 26<sup>th</sup> they broke ground. If you deny this permit, or approve with conditions that make it safe for people living in the area, it will still be possible for Prevailing Wind Park to build. They will just be forced to build in a responsible manner. They will be forced to take the welfare of the community and landowners into consideration – something that the PUC Staff admitted concerned about in their Post-Hearing Brief. Please don’t let this keep happening. Like you did with Geronimo Energy in EL17-028, demand that Prevailing Wind Park come back with an application that is acceptable - one that is safe and responsible. Please. Deny this application.

Sincerely,  
Darci Adam