

From: William [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 10:02 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXT] Input on PUC Docket EL18-026, Prevailing Winds Park

To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission,

I have had the opportunity and great privilege to enjoy pheasant hunting in South Dakota over the past decade. I am one of a group of 8 to 10 friends who have regularly traveled to your great state to the Charles Mix County area for this annual event. We are a diverse group of business professionals who are also avid sportsman and landowners with the upmost respect for the environment. We understand the impact; economic, social and environmental, that an initiative like the proposed Prevailing Wind Park, EL18-026, can have on the Wagner/Avon area.

I understand that in 2017 over 30% of South Dakota's in-state power generation came from wind energy sources and wind energy projects have contributed roughly \$2 billion in capital investment to SD in the past decade. However, based on information contained on the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks web site, **pheasant hunting also generated over \$208 million in revenues for SD in 2017. Spending in Charles Mix County alone was over \$7 million!** My friends and I each contribute to this spending in the Wagner/Avon area through our purchases at local stores, restaurants, motels, gas stations and on hunting licenses. I estimate that we each spend roughly \$2000 annually to enjoy hunting in a state that has openly advertised it's desire to be the pheasant hunting capital of the world and which offers an experience second to none! EL18-026 will destroy this vision and an important source of revenue for the local merchants and communities.

In the past couple years, as wind turbines have been erected in the Wagner/Avon area, we have seen the lands we previously hunted be greatly impacted. Habitat that is so important to pheasant survival and reproduction has been bulldozed. The quiet natural surroundings have become overwhelmed by the

continuous whine of turbines and the "swish" of blades. No Pheasants are to be found in those areas and local residents/businessmen like [REDACTED] are quickly losing their source of livelihood. A few people may benefit financially from the business investment by the wind power companies like Prevailing Wind Park, LLC, at least until the subsidies run out. However, the long term negative impact to the local economies, residents and to the environment is too large of a price to pay.

The Wagner/Avon area of South Dakota has been blessed with great natural beauty and a healthy environment for both humans and one of nature's most beautiful birds, the Ringneck Pheasant. I urge you to stop any further windmill construction in this area.

Best Regards,

William Hopkins

[REDACTED]

Stoughton, WI 53589

[REDACTED]