

Dear Chris Nelson,

My name is Jim Kaufman of [REDACTED], Delmont, SD 57330 and with my wife, Julie, live inside the boundaries of the proposed wind farm. I have many concerns.

We are fourth generation farmers in Charles Mix County. Our farm is located six miles south and 3/4 east of Delmont and has been in our family since homesteaded in the 1880's when Julie's great grandfather turned his covered wagon upside down and covered it with earth for his first home as he developed the land. I do believe it was a struggle. Roughly 140 years later, we are still fighting the "good fight" in our struggles to stay on this farm. This year marks our 45th crop here. We have survived with God's help through floods and drought, good times and bad times. We've had times of plenty and we've had little at times. Now, we face what will probably be the toughest fight of our lives. . . to survive the turbines. It's no secret. We don't want them and wish the ones that are here were gone.

Some of our concerns after living in the shadows of the existing turbines are effects on our health and wellbeing, the diminishing natural beauty of our surroundings, and the value of our land should we be forced to relocate. We don't wish to move, however, I don't think we will be able to live under 600 ft. turbines that are 1 mile away. The existing 250 ft. turbines that are two miles east of us now sometimes keep me awake at night with noises and blinking lights that annoy the hell out of me. I have experienced bouts of tinnitus and an inability to focus since the towers have been operational. When I leave the boundaries of the wind farm for a couple of days, all symptoms subside. Julie often speaks of reoccurring vertigo that she had never experienced before. I recently read a wind power article which stated that if we don't like the shadow flicker or the flashing lights, we should just "draw the curtains". When we chose to live here, the main reason for choosing this life style was the fact that it offered peace and tranquility. The prospect of more and larger towers will rob us of what is left of that peace and tranquility.

Another concern is the promise of financial boom for the communities in which these wind farms exist. The wind farm that came in a couple of years ago promised those windfalls which we have yet to experience. Julie and I aren't receiving any benefits from these turbines. The wind people promised us MONEY for our community and schools. Nothing yet. However, our taxes went up dramatically, the Tripp Delmont School got another opt-out due to lack of available finances, and our taxes went up some more. Where is the windfall?? It's been calculated that \$.36 additional tax per acre would more than cover the proposed tax monies claimed by S-Power and Prevailing Winds. I will sign up for that to keep the turbines out.

The wind power people keep saying that the production is low cost electricity and that we need it. Well, that's not exactly true either. We have too much electricity as it is. When a megawatt of wind power is built, a megawatt of other generation (ie. gas or coal power) has to be built to cover the capacity of wind farms should the wind not blow because the grid identifies the capacity of the wind as part of total capacity. . . what a game. Our electric bill has never gone down in 45 years even with the recent addition of the wind turbines. With more wind production, our rates and bills will continue to rise. I would like to see it go the other way for a change.


The wind people assume that we don't know that they are only after the subsidies and don't care about anyone affected by their quest for money. They come into a proposed area and dangle some money in front of people to give easement to build and some people, who don't have blood ties to their land and/or community, take the bait and the wind people are in. No one mentions the fact that this tears communities apart by pitting neighbor against neighbor for the sake of the almighty dollar. These effects will last a lifetime. Someone much wiser than me once said, "The love of money is the root of all evil".

I ask you to view this from our side. Would you allow this to happen over your heads? Would you risk your health, your financial existence, your community for the bottom line of the wind people from Utah? This wind farm will definitely cramp our happiness style. Yet the wind people keep saying the turbines are "relatively" safe and we need not worry. Then, I question why investors five states away want to build here rather than there and if they are so good and safe, why don't they build them in Utah and leave us alone? We are not "fly over" people. We are real people with real dreams and aspirations and want to hold onto our farm for the next generation and those yet to come. The Constitution guarantees the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to all people equally--including us. "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes." John 3: 8 In other words, no human being can understand, govern, or control the winds movement.

I will ask you to add this to the Prevailing Winds docket WL-18-026 to be read at the meeting in Avon on the 12th of July, 2018. I will be in Wisconsin at that time.

Sincerely,

James and Julie Kaufman


Delmont, SD 57330