

October 5, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

My name is David Mogck and I farm & raise cattle near Tripp, SD. I'm 63 years old and have been living on a farm in this area my whole life. In my youth I remember the vast numbers of windmills in this area that we utilized to pump water for our households and livestock. Times change and eventually an improved electrical grid allowed us to phase out the windmill for technology that is less labor intensive. However, as the wind continued to howl in this area year after year I always wondered why we could not develop technology to capture and utilize the powerful force that wind generates. With continued progress we now have the technology to harness wind energy and to reap the amazing benefits wind has to offer! The benefits are countless and have the potential to positively impact so many people in our rural area of South Dakota. An area which is in need of economic development to sustain our farmers, landowners, towns, schools, counties and townships.

When one attempts to quantify the importance of Prevailing Winds let me start with our farmers and landowners. I was fortunate enough to have a tower from the Beethoven wind farm erected on a piece of my pasture land and I receive a substantial yearly payment from Northwestern Public Service. My brother has towers adjacent to his farmland and receives a very nice annual payment for only the wind rights. There are cyclical economics involved with farming where profits may be very slim depending on commodity prices, weather and interest rates. (the list is many) When tough times come it's a relief to know that these financial pitfalls of farming can be offset with the yearly wind farm payment. Our rural towns are in a financial crisis now more than ever with a lack of jobs being one of the main culprits. The Beethoven wind project brought several full-time jobs to our area as well as generated tens of thousands of dollars from project workers that rented houses, ate out at restaurants and shopped in our community the year the project was built. The Prevailing Wind Project would provide the same economic windfall for our community! Our schools, counties and townships benefit a great deal from the substantial tax dollars they receive as well. My son is a board member of Oak Hollow township and they receive a tax payment from the Beethoven project which is a tremendous source of revenue for their budget and ultimately their bottom line.

A subject that isn't mentioned often is how wind farms help preserve our natural resources in a way that no other power source can. I use the word sustainable often because I am committed to making our environment safer for my children and grandchildren and I will continue looking for ways to achieve that within my farming and ranching practices including no till farming, use of cover crops and rotational grazing. My nephew enjoys deer hunting within the footprint of the Beethoven farm and has witnessed, with the aid of trail cameras, the population of deer and other species flourish and is proof that the wildlife presence hasn't been negatively impacted since the farm was built. Personally, I have witnessed my cows positively respond to the tower that's in our pasture. They not only use the tower for shade when it's hot but often I will find them just in the presence of the tower more often than not.

I humbly ask the commission to allow S-Power to build Prevailing Wind Park for the good of rural America. Warm Regards,

David Mogck



Tripp, SD 57376

