

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Marsha Hubner, I live 2 ½ miles north of Avon.

I have come to understand that there is a Sequence to Wind Energy Development.

1. In order to push the Green Energy Agenda, Our ever spending Government gives Tax Incentives to own Wind Turbines (because they can't survive without subsidies)
2. Therefore there are HUGE amounts of MONEY available to those who are in the multimillion dollar tax bracket if they own a wind energy development.
3. To get that development up and working they must convince a community to cooperate. What has worked so far is a page taken out of a playbook we often see. First of all you create a PROBLEM. Then you propose a SOLUTION.
4. The SOLUTION of course is Wind Energy Development.
5. And the problem they came up with was ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
6. They make the case to a community that they indeed have a problem: there is no Economic Development! And they have the solution! An Industrial Wind Complex! They gather up some locals who have dollar signs in their eyes for the big push. Then they wave MONEY in the face of land owners and school boards and county commissioners. They do their very best to drown out the voices of the dissenters, especially those forced to live under them, by insisting loudly, "nothing is more important than 'economic development!'"
7. To have the freedom to place their project wherever they please, the developers and investors begin a warm relationship with the county commissioners and zoning board.

When it became clear to us that the proposed wind tower development would change the lives and welfare of those in our community, we felt it was our duty to bring the truth to our neighbors and also do what we could to protect our way of life. Hoping to alert our local Zoning Board about the unintended consequences of living close to wind turbines, we asked them to please listen to us and read and study the information we gave to them. To consider how wind turbines *have* harmed the health of those living near them, that wild life *do* find other more peaceful places to live, that of course homes near them *are* devalued. All well documented. Because of the very real negatives we asked them to please protect us with setbacks.

Setbacks that would at least make living near them tolerable.

Instead of listening to us, the people they are to represent, they listened to a very polished out of state developer. Even to the point in one of our meetings, he became their expert witness! Seriously! Not once at a meeting did the board address the concerns of the citizens who would be living under or near the turbines. There was no attempt at negotiating the setbacks, we were hoping for at least a mile from a home with wavers for pro wind residents. But we were simply told that if they adopted our setbacks, those setbacks would make the Wind Development UNFEASIBLE. That should have alarmed the zoning board. Because if reasonable

setbacks would prevent the wind development project, it should have then been obvious that the proposed development was clearly where too many people lived! Sadly it became apparent to us that the Zoning Board and Commissioners of Bon Homme County had decided that their *most* important job was not to “protect the health, and welfare of the county’s citizens”, instead their job was to enable an industry to exploit our community. Therefore the Zoning board decided to use ‘the states’ model ordinance, which is **only** a model for setbacks, that was written in 2008, when wind towers were much smaller and negative effects less known. Interestingly enough this model was and I quote, “ *developed by the SDPUC with the ‘help’ of wind industry representatives as well as stakeholders from local, state and **national** organizations and agencies.* ” Unquote. *Notably, there were no representatives on the board that I could find, of people who actually live under or near them.*

Who would have thought that Wind Energy Development has so little to do with wind, electricity or local economies? But instead it has everything to do with the people of South Dakota being used. The money that will be made by Wind Turbines primarily goes to the developers and huge corporations, the largest percentage of them are foreign, for a tax write off. The few farmers who allow the towers on their property get a pittance and the local investors can be a part of something they feel is more important than being a good neighbor.

But. We are hoping, that South Dakota’s PUC will do *its* job diligently, and truly see the unintended consequences of this proposed Industrial Wind Complex that has not only the **most** turbines, but also the **most intrusive** turbines in the state of South Dakota. We have also sent you studies and first hand witness accounts of how wind energy developments actually hurt communities. But it really is quite obvious! People do not want to move TO a wind farm. They do not want to raise children UNDER a wind farm. They do not want to **retire** CLOSE to a wind farm. They do not want to invest in real estate SURROUNDED by a wind farm. Money promised to schools is not as important as having students. What can hurt the economy of a rural community more than people moving out and no one wanting to move in?

Many South Dakotans see wind towers as just another wasteful government program that meant well but ends up hurting more than helping. One that devalues property and diminishes the wellbeing and future of its citizens. But what is just as tragic is that it will *never* be reversed! Who will take them down when their short life cycle is over? You are supposed to TRUST that a company, quite possibly foreign, who is no longer *making* money from them will have the means or even the will to remove them because it is in a “contract”? What will the land owner do then? I have yet to see where the owners of the turbines are bonded to insure their removal.

But if the governor, our leaders and the PUC are assured that they will, I propose that the state of South Dakota be responsible and *guarantee* their removal when the owners of the towers walk away.

I believe that South Dakota's greatest treasures are the land and the people. Clearly **Both** suffer when an Industrial Wind Complex envelopes it. People that choose to live in a rural area do so on purpose, if they wanted to live among huge industrial manufacturing plants with alarming red blinking lights they would live in the city! Truly, wind towers are a Pox on our Prairie. And for who? For South Dakotans and their way of life? No! It is for what! Money! *Money* that will be *most beneficial* for those who *do not* or *ever will live* here. Please don't sell out South Dakotans.

Thank You

Marsha Hubner



Avon, SD