

Thank you, commissioners, for taking the time to listen to our comments tonight.

Let me address Items 2 and 4 as outlined by the PUC,s Applicant's Burden of Proof:

I have studied Wind Energy for 8 years, written the book "Paradise Destroyed: The Destruction of Rural Living by the Wind Energy Scam" and have testified in several settings in South Dakota and Nebraska including the Nebraska State Legislature. I live 10 miles from the Beethoven Wind Farm between Tripp and Avon, built in 2013

So, what can we expect the Crocker Wind Farm to do for the social and economic condition of inhabitants in the siting area or the orderly development of the region?

I can tell you exactly what to expect.

Just recently in the Mitchell Daily Republic the headlines were: "Economic troubles in Tripp." When the Beethoven Wind Farm was built in the Tripp area in 2013, the Tripp community was promised this "economic boon". Before the wind farm was even finished, they sold it to a German corporation, who then sold it to Northwestern Energy, who then went to the PUC and got a 15.5% rate hike which included 9 million dollars annually to pay for the wind farm. These are mostly older people on fixed incomes.

What has happened since then? The Tripp School District is on life support with an opt out, the grocery store has closed for good, and in March the Nursing Home is closing. Tripp had a lot more jobs before the wind farm than after. But it gets worse: According to the PUC website, after the production tax credit runs out in Year 10, the cost of service increases by about another 6 million dollars a year. Their bills will go even higher. In Avon the office building for the wind farm has a 10-year lease and the people that work there are on a 10-year contract.

What a coincidence that the production tax credit runs out in 10 years also. What happens then? Only a couple things can happen, either the electric rates go up, the wind farm gets sold at a huge discount, or the landowner payments get negotiated down, because this thing called a wind farm in now 6 million dollars a year short.

What has the Crocker Wind Farm already done for the social and economic condition of the area? In Lincoln County after 3 years of fighting over setbacks, a county commissioner said the pro wind people sit on one side of his church and the opposition on the other. Wind Energy splits communities.

Drive to Delmont, Tripp or White Lake to see all the economic development they were promised. You'd be disappointed, because there is none. Will people want to move into a wind farm? One of the SD Real Estate commissioners has proposed having to declare "presence or known future presence of a wind farm" on the South Dakota property disclosure statement, so buyers will not find out after they buy a property that they will be surrounded by wind turbines. There will be no lasting growth or jobs, only the promise. Real growth must come from something that works, it can't come from something that's 35% efficient, and it can't just come from taxpayer dollars. And that's what wind energy is, a transfer of tax dollars from the middle class to the multinational corporations that control our governments.

Now, on another note:

The last time I was here I talked about the 10-year-old draft model ordinance. Since then I've discovered SDCL 43-13.24, placed into law in 2009, the same year as the ordinance, which was written by the wind industry. Why did they write our laws?

Why is it that the wind industry has proposed HB 1164 which takes away the authority of the PUC commissioners, transfers it to the PUC staff which can only advocate for the state?

Why is it that these folks on this side of the room must spend tens of thousands of dollars to defend their property against these multinational corporations with unlimited funds?

How can it be that the county commissioner in my district is on the Board of Managers of Prevailing Winds?

How can zoning people or commissioners hold land easements with wind developers and still hold their position?

When did everything turn upside down?

Who is protecting us? Who tied the hands of the PUC from protecting us before the multinational corporations?

Why does the Coalition for Rural Property Rights in Iowa have to gather up hundreds of thousands of dollars to sue Mid-American Energy for breaking the law?

Why are we told wind energy is the cheapest form of energy when it's the highest and without subsidies it wouldn't exist at all?

Why do the hydroelectric dams in South Dakota have to shut down when the wind blows and ramp up when it quits? Why does wind have preference?

Why is there a stigma associated with being against industrial wind projects, even though all you are trying to do is protect your property rights.

There's a lot of questions and I don't expect you to have the answers. I just want you to know there's a movement out here and it's growing, and we're not going away.

At this point I was out of time, and the last paragraph below was not given, but I had planned to read it also:

Right now, Big Wind is running the show, but that's all about to change as more people hear the truth. The invasion of all these wind projects to collect the production tax credit before it phases out is an injustice to our people, it's the rape of our land and it's the destruction of rural living. Don't be part of it. I urge you to deny this application.