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MAR 12 2018

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

To: The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

RE: EL17-055 Crocker Wind Farm Application

My name is Richard Rasmussen, I farm with my Son and Grandson in the Crocker Wind Farm. We are farming land that has been in the family over 100 years. How can a person tell us what we can do or cannot do with our land? Do we not have any rights to decide how to manage our land holdings?

We are very concerned about how two families in the Southwest corner of the Crocker Wind Farm proposal by the names of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can fight the project all the way on virtually every item. Understandably they have personal rights but attempting to impose their will and biases in the various methods they have chosen does not seem fair nor ethical.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] each inherited a small farm and subsequently moved in from out-of-State, built nice homes subject to the South Dakota Agricultural Easement Act of 2004, which they signed and is recorded at the Clark County Register of Deeds Office in Clark, SD. They and their followers have been to every Clark Commission meeting, every SD PUC Hearing sitting in front rows to spiel all the negative things they can find on the Internet, most which have been discredited by much more creditable long term studies about wind farms' impact on economies and the environment.

Geronimo Energy has already moved setbacks to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile after the Clark County Commissioners ignored a compromise proposal of a 2000 foot setback offered by Developer (3/4 mile or 3960 feet is 4 times the legal ordinance set back of 1000 feet in Clark County). This eliminated approximately 50% of the planned wind towers causing a large loss to Landowners, many of which lost all towers, not to mention the lost financial benefits to the County, School District and the State!

The Oak Tree 11-tower Wind Farm just to the North of Clark has 1000 foot setbacks. The Day County Wind Farm (aka, Conde Wind Farm), adjacent to the Northwest corner of Clark County, has 1000 foot setbacks. These 66 towers, operating since 2011, have not produced any negativity that we are aware of.

Now the protesters are not happy with the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile setbacks.

The Watertown Public Opinion newspaper had an article on page 1 of the February 15th issue about a proposed 100-tower Wind Farm North of Watertown for Excel Energy. [REDACTED] was at this meeting and was one of the negative protestors. Evidently a 50-to-60 mile setback is ^{NOT} enough – for six months now it is clearly apparent the negatives do not want any more wind farms in South Dakota, period!

It seem to me that most of the protestors pay little if any County taxes while the active farmers and ranchers pay the vast majority of the taxes in rural South Dakota counties.

If you can see fit to approve the permit of the Crocker Wind Farm it would surely help to keep the younger generation on the farm, which I have a very personal interest in enhancing. And it would certainly be a big financial benefit to roads, schools, the County and the State budgets.

Thank you for your time,

Richard Rasmussen

Richard Rasmussen

[REDACTED]

Bradley, SD 57217

[REDACTED]

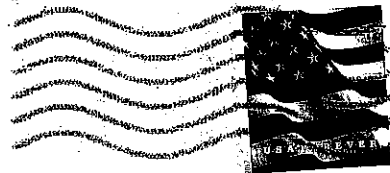
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