

Since we met nearly 2 years ago in Avon, we can agree on this: You have learned a lot about wind energy and wind developers and I have learned a lot about politics. Let's get right to the point:

The Governor wants to cover the state with wind turbines because they bring in millions in taxes to the state. All this other stuff like local economic development, money to the farmers, counties and schools is just bribe money and a mere pittance to what the owner of this project and the state of South Dakota will receive in taxes, which are products of other taxes. You start by giving the developer or owner millions in taxpayer subsidies that entices him to build this tax machine, and when these 30% efficient wind turbines start putting out the electricity that they forced the utility companies to buy, the meter starts running. The meter, or the wind turbine measures the production tax credit the developer gets and the money the county, school and state get. That's what it's about, and you're fully aware of that.

You folks are in a precarious position. You are seeing increased opposition to these projects across the state and the Midwest because of health reasons, property values, wildlife issues and safety. It took decades to link the coverup that tobacco caused lung cancer. They covered up agent orange and asbestos insulation for decades until the lawsuits finally proved the corporations and the government were covering it up. There's a similar coverup going on with wind energy. The low frequency vibrations from wind turbines make some people very sick. Sleep deprivation is a big problem that causes all kinds of issues with health. You've already heard from some and you're going to hear from a lot more. The wind companies put confidentiality clauses in their contracts to keep people from complaining. Then as the non-participants start having problems, they come in with a neighbor or good neighbor agreement to pay those people to keep quiet. If there weren't problems, why would they be doing this?

Your choice is either to please the Governor and the "State", or to protect the people. There's a way to do both through SAFE setbacks.

A: The PUC should solicit unrestricted complaints from anybody with problems from wind turbines, either participants or not. Make sure everybody that has a complaint can freely express it. Be prepared for a bombardment of form letters from the wind industry showing there are no complaints. That's the way they do things.

B: The participants need to be told that their confidentiality clause will not be in effect for health concerns. I'm not talking about investors or absentee landowners. I'm talking about people that live within 3 miles of a wind turbine. C: Determine from those complaints the longest distance from which people are complaining. But remember, the first turbines were 300 ft. tall or less, and now they are 600 ft. tall. The generators started below 2 MW and now can be over 4MW.

From all the research I've done in 8 years, I believe that distance to be 2 miles from a residence and the minimum setback from a property/right of way line should be the minimum safety setback in the owner's manual of the turbine, usually 500 meters from a property line. Then allow waivers for participants if the non-participant still has his allowed setbacks.

There should be no health concerns or ban on complaints in the confidentiality clause.

This should result in a large reduction in the amount of contested wind projects. Millions of dollars will be saved by both the taxpayer and the developer that were spent on evidentiary hearings.

You, as PUC Commissioners can have a clear conscious that you have protected the people. Right now, with any setback less than 2 miles from a residence, there is no protection. Like my neighbor just into Nebraska was told by the wind developer "We're sorry, but you're the collateral damage of wind energy". She lives 1 1/3 miles away from the nearest of 72 turbines and has had very serious health issues since the turbines started turning. When you leave office or retire, I am sure you want to feel good about what you accomplished while in office instead of feeling responsible as you read about people having to leave their homes because of illness, not sleeping, or not being able to sell their homes. Wind turbines are going to turn South Dakota into something it has never been before, and your autograph is going to be on every wind turbine.

Again, we've all learned a lot the last 2 years, and I ask you that if you're not sure about these things (health, property values, safety, wildlife issues) and if you need more evidence and more time, then you should put every wind project on hold for at least a year (as they did in Tennessee and North Carolina). People can quit smoking, or they can hire somebody to take the asbestos out of their basement, but nobody can or will move a 600 ft. wind turbine. I beg you to give the benefit of the doubt to the people, not the

corporations. They can still build their wind farms, still make millions, and the Governor can still collect his taxes, and it can all work out. Please protect the people.

Gregg Hubner

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Avon, SD 57315

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