

**From:** Erik Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 2, 2018 11:47 AM  
**To:** PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Comments on Docket EL18-026

PUC Commissioners and Staff – I’m sure you are aware that it is much easier to get people to come out and speak against something they’ve been told to fear than to get people to stick their neck out to speak in favor of something they support. It seems the opponents of Prevailing Wind Park have a goal to get at least one person from all 50 states to speak against our project! I’m sure it can be hard for the PUC to know how the greater community in the area where the wind farm will be built feels about it, so please consider the following:

There have already been four referenda on the Prevailing Wind Park project. Some time ago, [REDACTED] ran for the Bon Homme County commission seat from the Avon precinct as the anti-wind candidate, against [REDACTED], who is on the board of Prevailing Winds, LLC. [REDACTED] lost that election. [REDACTED] then tried to make last June’s Springfield precinct commission race about wind energy, strongly backing the opponent of [REDACTED], whom [REDACTED] characterizes as pro-wind. [REDACTED] was re-elected. In that same election, [REDACTED] himself ran for precinct committeeman for the Avon precinct, but was defeated by a 2-1 margin. But the most important “vote” was of the landowners in the project footprint, who voted their acres about 80% positive for development of the wind farm.

In your own experience, you saw over 300 people turn out for the hearing in August 2016 at Prevailing Winds’ first application for the state permit. In hindsight, we were probably too early with that application – people in our area had not had time to get used to the idea, and the few opponents had circulated a lot of misinformation about health effects and property values, and people didn’t know who to believe. Over the last two years, we have had a chance, through meetings with landowners and through “editorials” in the local papers, to explain to people why wind power is a good thing and to answer their questions. Last month, less than half as many people attended the hearing for sPower’s current application, and you were able to head home at a much more reasonable hour! You have also gone from 47 intervenors last time to 7 for this application.

On balance, the landowners in the project footprint want the project to proceed, and the greater community also does not want to see the project blocked. Please consider this while evaluating the permit application.

Sincerely,

Erik



**Enk Johnson**



**Avon, SD 57315**

