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EL18-053

I am asking the PUC to deny the Deuel Harvest Wind project as proposed for the following reasons:

Finding hours-old baby deer snuggled in the grass, whipping out the binoculars to watch the local bird population, watching a flock of migratory birds borrow our sloughs, spying the eagles and hawks perching on the tall oaks, witnessing the awe of unbelievable swarms of heavenly monarchs, as if in a dream . . . Honestly, movie makers would salivate at the beauty of our land!

My parents and siblings and I, along with our spouses, and now our children, have spent 30 years working to preserve the unique habitats on our beautiful land in Deuel County, and to support the wildlife that uses this land. We have tried to create a HAVEN for wildlife (built dams, developed orchards, planted 1000's of trees, planted food plots), and in so doing, have created a special place where we also long to be-- a place where we (my siblings and their children included) spend the majority of our vacation time and weekends "away," and a place where my parents for 30 years have thought they'd spend much of their time in retirement.

Not only would the construction of monstrous wind towers and their massive foundations hugely and negatively affect our enjoyment of this special place we have worked so hard to build, it will RUIN crucial habitats for many animals. Ruining their habitats will either force them to leave and seek a forever shrinking habitat, or for their population to be harmed.

Having so many huge wind towers so close to this special land not only denies the animals a safe and supportive environment, but denies my family and me the dream we have shared for so long. Why do we not have the right to preserve our land and our dreams? 18 wind towers within 2 miles of our family farm, 9 of those within 1 mile, and some just beyond the current 1000 foot set-back, will unequivocally and absolutely ruin what we have spent 30 years creating.

Please ponder this. It's devastating to the highest degree.

Turning this land into an industrial project is not the right or best way to use this precious resource. How will the construction process of 112 of these 500 foot wind towers affect the animals who call this land home and their habitats? Additionally, I think many people don't or can't fathom the immensity of the concrete foundation needed for each tower. How will the construction of, and the existence of, these foundations affect the local wildlife populations and their habitats? The negative effects the foundations create need to be added to the negative effects of the above-ground parts of the towers, and can't just be lumped together and "dealt with" in a general sense.

WHY do others have the right to affect our land in this way? Why are not the customary regulations and procedures for similar "expansion" projects being used? Why are there not more questions being answered? I often struggle to explain the travesty of the situation because many who are not closely involved operate under the typical American way of thinking that there should be laws to protect us. There are, but for some reason when it comes to wind towers, just enough of these laws are ignored to allow this to happen.

I am not a rare individual feeling like this.

I want to remind everyone that once a land owner signed a paper of intent or interest with the wind company, they have been denied all rights to change their mind, to voice any negative opinions, or even to simply ask truth-seeking questions. (There's no return policy. What else in our modern society works this way?) Unlike the local zoning board or PUC, these individuals were not given the chance to learn about or research the many negative impacts these wind towers have on people's, animals' or the environment's health. Most importantly, this gag order creates a large silent (or a false, forced pro-wind) entity whose honest opinions can only be guessed. One moment, one interaction with a seemingly friendly representative, should be something someone can "return." These cumulative uniformed moments are creating a dire situation for the wildlife that share this beautiful and unique land, will deny many people their rights to their agricultural (not industrial) land, and are pitting neighbor against neighbor.

Please deny this project! Thank you!

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