

MAR 29 2019

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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Regarding PUC Docket EL18-053- Deuel Harvest North Wind Farm

To whom it may concern:

I would like to offer my support for the Deuel Harvest Wind Farm. This is a great opportunity for Deuel County to generate jobs and add to the economy of Clear Lake and the surrounding area. I am old enough to remember the vibrant community that existed in the 60s and 70s. There were several car and farm machinery dealerships and supporting businesses that created jobs and allowed the city of Clear Lake to be alive and thrive. Since then, like many towns, it has slowly deteriorated. The Wind Farm will underpin the economy of the county and help stabilize the area. Opposition to this project is nothing more than an admission that you would rather see continued deterioration and negative population growth of Deuel County because of lack of opportunity for the younger people.

The wind turbines will greatly increase the tax base of Deuel County and can be of help to attract additional businesses and preserve the ones that are already here. The Wind Farm is tossing Deuel County a life preserver. Whether it is taken advantage of or not will be telling of what kind of community it has chosen to be. Do we choose to be optimistic and forward looking, pulling in the same direction with each other, and creating opportunity and stability for all the residents of Deuel County? Or do we just let this opportunity drift away from us, which would most assuredly let Clear Lake and Deuel County continue down its present path of deterioration like so many towns in rural America? It is a shame that the younger people of Deuel County were not able to witness the vibrant community that Clear Lake once was. It is our responsibility to do the best we can to turn that trend around and at least preserve what economy the Clear lake area has. Adopting a position of "no" to the Wind Farm is taking a position of hopelessness and giving up on Clear Lake and Deuel County. Instead, take a position of "yes", that Deuel County is an industrious, forward looking county that embraces opportunity and benefits from the fruits of its resources.

A Wind Farm would have been of great help to me and many others in the past during periods of low commodity prices. The income diversity would have improved the balance sheet at the local banks and helped many family farmers stay on the farm and pass it down. A strong Clear Lake is incumbent on a strong local economy. Please don't let this opportunity pass us by.

In listening to the opposition of the Wind Farm they love to read material off the internet. They love to point out all the risks involved with Wind Farming. They love to read the material off the internet and quote it like it was Gospel. The people they read it to should be aware that what they are witnessing is called "Outcome Determination Bias". They are quoting so called "studies" done by groups that already know what they want the answer or outcome to be prior to doing the actual study. In other words their "study" is flawed from the start. They know what they want the answer to be and work backwards from there. This is hardly something that has any real scientific evidence.

There may very well be some risks in Wind Farming. However the risks in Wind Farming are no different than any other industry and could very well be less also. There is "inherent risk" in ALL industries and workplaces and opponents to the Wind Industry need to take a very hard and long look at the industry they work in before they go making accusation and pointing fingers at the Wind Industry.

For example: Take a look at the automotive and trucking industry. Cars and trucks can certainly be perceived as dangerous. There are people that make cars, mechanics that fix cars, truckers that haul cars and people that use cars to haul others around. There are small trucks, big trucks and semis that haul much needed goods throughout Deuel County and America. There is just lots and lots of risk when it come to cars, trucks and semis. We all know somebody that got hurt or killed in a car accident. However does that mean that everybody associated with the car and truck industry should cease to work in that industry? Should they stop building cars and fixing cars because there is a chance that the car they make or fix might be involved in an accident as soon as it leaves the lot? No, absolutely not. People should be allowed to work in that industry if they choose. Yes the public is at risk whenever you are on the road. It is called "inherent risk" and the public generally accepts that type of risk. Inherent risk is in ALL industries.

Let's look at the aviation industry. There are factory workers that make planes, mechanics that fix planes and baggage people that load planes. The list goes on and on. The jobs created by the aviation industry is a net positive for the economy. We have all heard of plane accidents. We all know that when we step into a plane there is a risk that things might not go as planned. People weigh that risk out and decide for themselves whether or not that type of risk is acceptable for them. Should there be opposition to the aviation industry because flying is risky? I suppose they have that right but they probably won't gain much traction with their arguments. The risk is called "inherent risk" and people generally accept that type of risk.

Let's take a look at the grain bin industry. Grain bins provide a much necessary tool for the farmer to store the grain they raise. They allow for a smoother harvest and a chance to capture some of the basis that widens out during harvest. Grain bins and bin building are good for the economy. Bin building has been a good job creator for Deuel and surrounding counties and many have made good careers out of it. However, grain bins are dangerous also. Most of us have heard of somebody that has died while unloading a grain bin. There are grain molds that are hazardous to people's health. Grain dust is dangerous also. My own father lost a lung partially to grain dust. Most of us have heard of grain explosions. But knowing all the dangers of grain bins should there be a huge resistance to grain bin dealers and grain bin builders? I think not. The benefits outweigh the risk and if a person chooses, they should be allowed to work and thrive in that industry.

The point is that people should take a good hard look in the mirror at themselves and the industry they are in. Does the industry they are working in have any less risk to society than the Wind Farm does? Do those people have the right to point fingers at somebody else that is promoting the Wind Farm? I think not.

The opposition to the Wind Farm has to do Google searches on the internet looking for material to support their narrative of great risk and preach it to the residents of Deuel County. The above three examples of risk I just gave requires absolutely no Google search whatsoever in order to prove it. It is common knowledge that we all know and accept a certain amount of risk in our daily lives. To single out and go to great lengths to prevent one industry from thriving while being completely oblivious to

their own industry and the risks involved with them is hypocrisy. They are obsessed with stopping others without looking at themselves first.

I understand that one or more opponents to the Wind Farm is using the excuse that there should not be wind towers built because they might build an airstrip. There is nothing wrong with building an airstrip, however there is nothing wrong with building a wind turbine either. Since when did an airstrip take precedence over a wind tower? They seem to preach that it does. The case can be made that the wind turbine should take precedence over a private airstrip just as easily. I find it comical that the people that are opposed to Wind Farming because of the risk would want to build an airstrip and crawl into a small plane. To do so would be suggesting that Wind Farms are a risk and that flying a small plane is not risky. To suggest that a neighbor shouldn't be allowed to build a wind turbine because they themselves might build a private airstrip reeks of selfish arrogance and is the epitome of hypocrisy.

Lastly, when a person buys land in the United States you receive with that land "Ownership Privileges" given to us by the US Constitution. These are privileges that should not be questioned or taken away by any opposition group, board or commission. I would hope that the decision makers in charge see through the hypocrisy of the opposition and vote to protect and preserve the Landownership Rights that have served our nation so well for 200 years.

Sincerely,

Monte Johnson

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Sincerely,

Monte Johnson

[REDACTED]

Florence, Arizona 85132

[REDACTED]