

April 9, 2019

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capital Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Regarding PUC Docket EL18-053 – Deuel Harvest North Wind Farm

Dear Commissioners Hansen, Nelson and Fiegen,

As nonparticipating landowners and lifelong residents of Deuel County we feel compelled to share a few thoughts and observations with you regarding proposed industrial wind development in our county. We now rent out our land and as former ag-producers for 25+ years we understand the farm economy can occasionally be challenging. We were approached repeatedly by a wind developer to sign up our property and after many hours of research concluded there are too many harmful effects, such as infrasound, shadow flicker, property devaluation, health issues, potential fires and ice throw to name a few, that we chose to not participate for concern for our well-being and that of our fellow citizens. For us the potential additional revenue did not outweigh the negative effects.

We have read with interest the many letters posted on the PUC site. We do not believe the majority of Deuel County residents support the proposed wind projects in our county. We know of and have been personally told by many they are opposed to these projects but will not publicly speak out for fear of losing their jobs or being subjected to criticism.

It is NOT an elected official's responsibility to promote wind development so some ag-producers can make additional money on their farms or make energy companies profitable. Our understanding is an elected official's responsibility is to protect the health, safety and welfare of all citizens regardless of being an ag-producer or not. Please give consideration to the content of the lawsuits.

At previous meetings held in our county the concerns expressed by nonparticipating landowners and personal testimonials from those already adversely affected by wind turbines were not given the legitimacy or respect they deserved. Instead, they have been explained away by wind developers and THEIR credibility is not questioned or even disputed. There are well-documented facts about why the integrity and trustworthiness of wind companies is questionable.

Small acreage owners don't have the luxury of increased tower distance to their home like many participating farmers because they lack sufficient acres and are forced to abide by the zoning ordinance. Our attorney advised us it is a violation of property rights to measure setbacks from a residence instead of the property line. This is called 'trespass zoning' as it allows use of the adjoining property without permission or compensation. This will also infringe on the SAFE use of this property if it is within the turbine manufacturer's 'safety zone'.

In our younger years Science classes taught us there is a delicate 'balance' in the ecosystem. Eagles and bats dying in the blades of the turbines and loss of other wildlife species leaving the area is a disruption of this ecosystem.

It is disheartening and sad to see how the wind developers have successfully divided and pitted neighbors, friends and family against one another.

We urge you to protect the health, safety and welfare of Deuel County citizens by giving careful consideration to the concerns regarding the Deuel Harvest North Wind project and deny the permit.

Sincerely,

Duane & Sue Thompson


Gary, SD 57237