

To PUC. Public comments:

April 7, 2019

Docket EL 18-053

I feel I need to respond to a letter, from Mr. Dennis Evenson, which was posted to the public comment section of the site for Docket EL18-053. Deuel Harvest North wind energy project.

His interpretation of our one (1) conversation concerning the positives and negatives of industrial wind turbine projects was, just let me call it inaccurate, and containing several mis-quotes. We met once face to face in a meeting room at the offices of **Gunderson, Evenson, and Knight**, in Clear Lake, SD, in 2017

I respect his position with Deuel County Ag Development, an organization established in 2017 to promote these wind energy projects.

He is accurate in his statement that part of my opposition to industrial wind projects is because of concerns for our wildlife, noise concerns, health concerns, flashing nighttime lights, shadow flicker, as well as other reasons.

I did not agree with Mr. Evenson's statement that I was opposed to turbines because I didn't like the looks of the towers. I think my reasons are on the record numerous times.

I certainly did not agree with Mr. Evenson that there are no proven problems with industrial wind turbines. My frustration was not stated in the manner that he proclaims, my frustration is with proponents of wind projects that refuse to do their own research on the problems caused by wind turbines. Of the many reasons that I would be opposed to industrial wind turbines, Mr Evenson's statement that "you just do not like a structure like a tower", is not a reason that I would ever need to use. It is interesting that Dennis Evenson, a self proclaimed promoter of agriculture, would make a statement that he thinks steel buildings and grain bins are ugly. I would never say that I have not used a four letter word in conversations about industrial wind turbines.

I have spent almost 50 years building for and promoting many aspects of the agricultural industry. I think I can speak to the fact that industrial wind turbine projects should not be in any way called farming or agricultural. The wind companies have leased the land to take away many rights from the farmers.

Where is the comparison, between 500' tall spinning, noise producing, shadow flicker producing industrial wind turbines, to grain bins!

I know of no circumstance where people have moved out of the area or abandoned their homes due to grain bins. Mr. Evenson, if you do, let everyone know.

Mr. Evenson made the statement that I should consider the impact on the community and the property rights that we want to strip from the community. That is exactly what we want to prevent from happening. We want to protect the property rights, the property values, and the health and well being of all the current residents and landowners, and their use of their properties that now exist.

In our conversation, Mr. Evenson argued that a wind project would bring a lot of other economic development to the area, I maintained that it would deter any other development, including residential development, from coming into the area. Who would ever choose to move into an industrial wind park considering all the negative affects of the turbines. That is why people leave!

Mr. Evenson also addresses the economic benefits of the project, I will respond to a few here. There are no guaranteed full time jobs to benefit Deuel County, the construction jobs are short term and most would not be based in the county. Is the scholarship fund guaranteed and funded, and by whom? Approximately 42% of tower lease payments are paid out to non- residents. These are just a few of the problems with the economic projections.

I would like to suggest to Mr. Evenson that we, including whoever would like to participate, have an open and public debate about the positives and negatives of this wind project. We could include the health problems, the harm to the environment and wildlife of the region, the harms to the tourism industry, the economic impacts to the county and townships, and other issues discussed in the above paragraph. We would also address the effects on the residents' enjoyment of life as they now have, and yes, even the aesthetics of our rural and beautiful county!

This debate is a subject that I already brought up publicly to our county commissioners. It should be a question and answer session where you can ask people to honestly address all the issues, not just a 3 minute statement after which people are told to sit down and be quiet, as in past public meetings. This kind of a public opportunity to discuss issues has never been provided by our public officials, or by the wind company officials. Do we really need to ask why?

I have taken this opportunity to respond to a letter, in the form of comments to the PUC, from Mr. Dennis Evenson, about what we both thought was a private conversation at his office.

Very truly yours,

John Homan
4114 12th Ave NE
Watertown, SD 57201
PH. 605-520-4992
homan1971@gmail.com.