

Public Utilities Commission  
Capitol Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
500 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

3 May 2019

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**MAY 06 2019**

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Subject: PUC Docket Number EL19-012

My name is Craig V. Halen, trustee of the Craig V. Halen and Mary L. Halen trust farm property in Rose Hill Township, Hand County, SD. It is a 308 acre property located adjacent to the southern boundary of the proposed Sweetland Wind Farm with the northern portion of the property located within a half mile of the boundary.

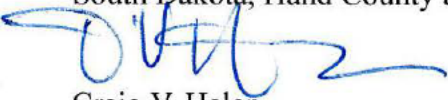
This farm property was homesteaded by my Great Grandfather, [REDACTED], in 1883 and has been in my family ever since. My intent, and that of my co-trustee wife, [REDACTED], is to keep the property in the family for the benefit of future family generations. Namely, my son [REDACTED] and his wife [REDACTED] and two grandchildren, [REDACTED].

I believe the future generations of all families are subject to the existential threat of runaway climate change in the form of global warming, the vast majority of which is scientifically attributed to increases in carbon dioxide released and stored in the atmosphere from human activity and little by any natural causes. The human caused effect of which, burning fossil fuels, now puts us into an epoch of massive species die offs that is accelerating and humans cannot expect to avoid similar existential consequences absent massive changes in how our species powers our human world.

We live in Minnesota and our local electric energy utility, Xcel Energy, recognizes the existential threat and is planning to be 80% carbon free in power generation by 2030 and 100% carbon free by 2045. Utilities around the country are rapidly moving toward ever more clean energy production and storage, including wind and solar because it is increasingly cheaper than either coal or gas generation and is carbon free. Moreover, more companies recognize the need for an ESG (Environmental, Sustainability and Governance) focus to business survival in a future of massive upheaval in the energy transition process upon us, which is necessary to survival if we have hopes to save a sustainable future for the lives our children and grandchildren.

The world, and especially the people and the corporate world, are slowly adapting to the reality of the threat with action to reduce carbon emissions, even if local, state and the national governments are slow in coming to their senses on the threat. Hence a massive growing demand for carbon free energy.

We wholeheartedly support the Sweetland Wind Farm because it can provide my family and yours with the benefit of doing the right environmental and sustainability thing to support clean energy. Moreover, we believe it will provide economic benefit to supporters in the project area as well as to the State of South Dakota, Hand County and Rose Hill Township.

  
Craig V. Halen

[REDACTED]  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-2853