

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY NORTH BEND WIND  
PROJECT, LLC FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THE  
NORTH BEND WIND PROJECT IN HYDE COUNTY AND HUGHES  
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

SD PUC DOCKET EL21-018

**PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF CORBIN KORZAN**

**Q. State your name and address.**

A. Corbin Korzan. My address is PO Box 203, Kimball, South Dakota 57355.

**Q. State your educational background.**

A. I have a degree in graphic communication and business administration.

**Q. State your employment.**

A. I have been involved with the family hunting operation, Grand Slam Pheasant Hunts, my entire life. I am 37 years old.

**Q. Tell us about the range of duties you perform at Grand Slam Pheasant Hunts.**

A. I've dealt with construction, farming, marketing, guiding, personal relations, predator control.

**Q. On whose behalf was this testimony prepared.**

A. This testimony was prepared on behalf of Michael Bollweg, Judi Bollweg, Bollweg Family, LLLP, and Tumbleweed Lodge.

**Q. Why were you contacted by the Bollweg family.**

A. I was contacted by Michael Bollweg because my family's hunting lodge/hunting ground was affected when wind turbines were erected.

**Q. What year was Grand Slam Pheasant Hunts started?**

A. It was started in 1982 and we started building the lodge in 1999.

**Q. Where is your lodge/land located?**

A. We are located 4 miles southeast of Kimball, South Dakota. A map is attached as Exhibit A.

**Q. Is it a family business and do you work closely with your family?**

A. Yes. I worked practically every day with my dad, Curt Korzan. We discussed problems we observed in the operation.

**Q. Did you notice any problems in particular?**

A. Yes, in particular we noticed a major decline in the pheasant population ever since wind turbines were put up 2½ miles east of the lodge. Also, there has been a decline in the number of deer in the area.

**Q. How long after the turbines were erected did it take to notice the changes?**

A. We noticed the changes within 6 months of the towers being up and operational.

**Q. What observations did you make as to how your pheasant hunting changed?**

A. A huge loss in the number of birds on the property along with deer and ducks. We do a lot of trapping for predator control and numbers still decreased in the pheasant population.

**Q. Did you observe some fields were affected more than others?**

A. Yes.

**Q. What fields were affected?**

A. In particular, the first piece of property my dad purchased was affected (Section 24, T103 N, R68W). Also, everything within ¾ mile away (T103N, R67W).

**Q. Did you observe a relationship between the distance from the turbines and the number of pheasants in the fields?**

A. Yes, the closer to the turbines you are the higher the drop in the population of pheasants.

**Q. What did you observe about the location of the pheasants near the turbines?**

A. Birds would not stick around if they were scared, it was as if someone would be driving by all the time. Even pheasants we planted for our customers acted this way.

**Q. Did you try to figure out if there were other variables to explain the decrease in bird populations in the fields having problems?**

A. Yes.

**Q. What did you look at?**

A. We looked at predators, but we have numerous traps set up on our grounds. There is a small probability it has to do with farming, but our farming practices are the same on all ground and we have never experienced this type of decline in bird numbers ever.

**Q. Did anyone do any research in your area regarding predators?**

A. Marlin Dart, who was at the time working with South Dakota State University, did a predator study. He observed, recorded, and researched the number of predators on our property.

**Q. At the same time you were seeing a drop in pheasants, did you also see a drop in other game numbers?**

A. Yes. In deer and ducks.

**Q. How were your other hunting sites doing at the time you were having problems near the turbines?**

A. They were doing well.

**Q. What did your family do with the property near the wind turbines?**

A. We ultimately ended up selling the property as we were unable to use it. It was heartbreaking as the piece sold was the first piece of property my dad had purchased.

Dated this 31 of January, 2022.

  
CORBIN KORZAN