

STATE OF MAINE  
LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF DEVELOPMENT )  
APPLICATION DP 4889 )  
CHAMPLAIN WIND, LLC )  
BOWERS WIND PROJECT )

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
KATHLEEN WHITNEY

My name is Kathleen Whitney and I have lived in Lakeville since 1995. Since moving here I have worn a number of hats being a citizen, town clerk, selectperson/assessor and, along with my husband, a devout sportswoman enjoying hunting, fishing, camping and ATVing. We also managed the primitive campground on the southern end of Pleasant Lake for four years and I supervise the manager now. We live within five minutes of Duck and Junior Lake.

I am 67 years old and in my lifetime have seen many changes in the State of Maine. I have seen a nuclear plant come and go, river dams torn down which produced our energy for many years, cell towers go up which seem to take care of millions of cell phones, whereas in my youth we cranked the phone to get the local operator. And now the wind towers – what more natural way of providing electricity for the population. In the past ten or so years alone we have seen major devastation in the Gulf of Mexico due to oil spillage, in Alaska due to a ship spilling oil, in Japan due to an earthquake and probably many more. This country has to learn to be more self sufficient and start providing more for itself instead of looking at other nations for our energy needs.

I personally have no problem with the wind towers coming to our neck of the state. I find them aesthetically pleasing to look at, much more than the cell towers. I think my daughter who lives in Vermont had a great answer to those opposing the wind towers when she told me “Everyone wants green energy as long as it is not in my neighborhood.”

My husband and I took a drive up to Danforth last year and followed the windmills as they wound through the forest. Each was in a small cleared area which we could see had been seeded with clover. Being hunters we got out and looked the ground over. We found signs of deer prints where they had been feeding on the clover. We saw no dead birds and it was very

peaceful. Standing underneath the windmills that were rotating, all we heard was a gentle swoosh, swoosh, swoosh.

We just came home from Lincoln today and if you look at the electrical lines at the beginning of Route 6, they are an ugly mess of wires and poles running everywhere across and along the road. I tried to imagine this road without them and yes it would be beautiful, but the reality is that this "modern" world depends on power and what better and safe way to produce it than the wind.

I have hunted in this state since I was ten years old, growing up on a farm in Corinth. I have hunted in that area, the Jo Mary Lake area and in my beautiful town of Lakeville. There is no question that the deer herd is diminishing, but do I think the wind towers will make it worse? No! I also cannot blame the bad winters that we are having. Winters in my youth were worse than many of you have ever seen and we had a huge deer population. I believe the reason we are seeing the decline is the massive cutting of our forests taking their winter yards and habitat, along with the fact that the state is growing, roads where you could see deer in the fields are now covered with houses, plus they now have coyotes to contend with.

As far as fishing goes, the same clear cutting is definitely draining soil and fungi into the lakes and streams. The lakes of Maine are polluted with acid rains from factories that are not even in our state. I see no way we can blame the windmills for either of these sports venues that have prevailed since Maine has been here and have gone downhill long before the windmills came.

As managers at Maine Wilderness South at Pleasant Lake, we run the campground which consists of 19 lots. The people who use these sites are mainly local people who we call "weekend warriors" who have worked hard all week and want a nearby place to go to relax with their

family. They fish, swim, go water skiing, tubing and visit around campfires at night. I do not see the windmills stopping these people from coming and using the lake. I am good friends with the people at Maine Wilderness who own these campgrounds. Their customers are from further away, out of state, etc. and many have come there for many years. They support the windmills and do not believe it will bother their business in any way. Neil Kiely met with myself and the owners of Maine Wilderness to ask about activities on the lake and a copy of his memorandum of that conversation is attached.

I do not even mind seeing the red lights on the windmills at night. When we are traveling home from a trip, seeing the lights in the distance means we are almost home. Even near the lakes, it seems to be that they are a beacon to a boat out late at night and perhaps have lost their way in the dark.

I am for the Bowers Mountain Project and see no reason it should not go forward. I have no B.S. or statistics to give you, just facts as I see them. As with everything else, power lines, cell towers and other "real" eyesores, in five years people will drive by them and not even notice or care.

Thank you for letting me give you my opinion.

Date: 06-09-11

Kathleen Whitney  
Kathleen Whitney

STATE OF MAINE  
County of Lexington

Date: June 9, 2011

Personally appeared before me the above named Kathleen Whitney, who, being duly sworn, did testify that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Before me,

Christa Drew  
Notary Public

My commission expires: June 8, 2014

## Memorandum

To: David Raphael  
From: Neil Kiely  
Date: May 26, 2011  
Re: Pleasant Lake Recreational Usage

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On Monday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, I met with the owners of Maine Wildness Camps, a sporting camp located on the northeast shore of Pleasant Lake in Kossuth. The owners are Bill Bowes and Charlotte Brooks. Also present was Kathy Whitney who has worked for Bill and Charlotte in the past directly managing a separate set of campgrounds by the boat launch on the south shore. Kathy will be supervising another manager of that campground this year.

Bill and Charlotte have owned their facility for fifteen years. Their primary customers are RV owners who bring in their vehicles, but they also have seven cabins as well as some campsites. The vast majority of their customers come from out of state. The primary activity for their customers is fishing on the lake or relaxing on shore although some customers also ride ATVs and snowmobiles on nearby trails.

Bill and Charlotte also have a master lease on 19 campgrounds surrounding the boat launch on the southern shore of Pleasant Lake. They utilize a manager to lease these sites out primarily to seasonal renters who park their campers on site. There are two outhouses serving the campground. The customers who utilize these sites are primarily individuals from the local area who stay over on the weekends. Their primary activity is fishing, followed by boating generally, but they also engage in a variety of other activities including waterskiing, swimming, cook-outs and other social activities. Guests are allowed, but are charged a fee for each car. In the winter, fishermen also use the boat launch as a base for ice fishing. There are also seven cabins privately owned on the peninsula to the east of the boat launch.

According to Kathy, the lake generally receives low usage compared to other lakes, but gets busier on holidays. Highest use is during July and August. During the week there may be 6-8 boats on the lake with a few more on the weekends. Usage is split between the Wilderness Camps and the boat launch.

I showed Bill, Charlotte and Kathy the two visual sims of the views of the turbines from Pleasant Lake. All three responded that they did not object to the visual sims. In fact, Bill asked for copies that he could frame and hang in their main building. Bill and Charlotte noted that they strongly support renewable energy and support the Bowers project. They did not believe that the views of the turbines would negatively impact the use and enjoyment of the lake by their customers. In fact, they noted that the opportunity to ride up towards the wind farm would be viewed positively by their customers who ride ATVs. Kathy agreed with Bill and Charlotte that she also did not believe that the views of the turbines would negatively impact the use and enjoyment of the lake by the customers who utilized the boat launch campgrounds. They all agreed that people fishing during the summer are much more focused on the fishing than the view and that ice fishermen have no view from their shacks. They added that the views of the turbines would not concern people engaged in swimming or social activities. By comparison, they felt that residential development on the lake would be viewed as a negative.