

Dear Public Service Board:

My home of 30-plus years, built on land our family has owned since the 1960's, is located on Kidder Hill in Irasburg. Last August, David Blittersdorf announced his proposal to build two 499 ft. wind turbines on this hill. Kidder Hill Ridge is a dirt road slightly more than 1.5 miles long. The site of the turbines is half way down the road, in what is now a cow pasture, just a few hundred feet from the road. Two homes are about ½ mile away from the proposed turbines. My home is less than a mile away. There are 37 permanent or seasonal homes within a one mile radius of the site, 109 homes within two miles, 297 within three miles. I find it unconscionable that anyone would be allowed to put two industrial-sized turbines right in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

Knowing that you are in the process of setting temporary sound standards for turbine projects and also will be considering permanent standards in the ensuing months, I implore you to consider the following three points:

**1) Listen to the Governor:** In his veto statement regarding S.230 (leading to S.260) Governor Shumlin wrote that the part of the S.230 bill allowing wind turbine noise to be no louder than ten decibels above ambient sound in an area was too restrictive and could inadvertently push wind development toward urban areas, where the background noise is already higher.

What is he saying here? That wind turbines make A LOT of noise.

His statement also infers that having turbines in urban areas would be a bad thing. Why is that? From an economic standpoint, it makes sense to have the source of power closer to where it is needed. Same is true from a conservation standpoint—much less line loss and less energy wasted. So why does Gov. Shumlin imply that it would be bad to have turbines in urban areas where it is already noisier? Because the complaints from people living there would increase a thousand-fold in comparison to the number of complaints received from people living in rural areas of the state. There would be such an uproar about NOISE, aesthetics, property devaluation that it would endanger his entire renewable energy plan.

**2) Listen to the people:** Vermonters who have experienced, first hand, the impacts of industrial wind have been speaking out and we need to listen to them. They are not the “anti-renewable energy nutcases” that wind developers make them out to be. They are honest, good people whose lives have been negatively impacted and forever changed living near industrial wind projects. And they are the rare human beings who are speaking out, putting in their time, undergoing ridicule, not for any gain of their own—in most cases, barring taking down existing turbines, their own personal situations can never be fixed, they cannot be made right. These people are speaking out because they care about Vermont and they don't want other Vermonters to have to experience the negative impacts that they are facing due to industrial wind. As a potential industrial wind victim on Kidder Hill in Irasburg, I am thankful for these people. ALL Vermonters should be thankful... and listen to what they have to say.

**3) Listen to your minds and to your hearts:** As members of the Public Service Board you are charged with weighing the consequences of projects with the benefits for the public good. The public good is not advanced when people are being harmed.

Moving into the renewable energy age is a challenge that requires study, thought and time. Very rarely in life, do decisions made in a hurry turn out well. Mistakes get made and although mistakes are made to be corrected, it is next to impossible to take wind turbines down and completely impossible to correct the harm done to our hills and ridgelines in the process of their construction. Technology advances every day. There are better choices for Vermont. If developers are sincere in their statements that their projects are for the good of this earth and the future, then they, too, should value the time to investigate and choose the best of all possibilities.

We all feel that Vermont is a special place for many reasons: its beautiful landscape, its way of life, its people. Vermont can be a responsible leader in renewable energy with a thoughtful, studied process, but all of the things we value in our hearts must also be a part of those decisions. Please make them part of yours.

Sincerely,

Rebecca J. Boulanger