

FROM THE DESK OF

JANICE PEASE

June 20, 2018

Honorable Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary to the PSC Re: Case 16-F-0268, Application of Atlantic Wind LLC for a certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article 10 for Construction of the North Ridge Wind Energy Project in the Towns of Parishville and Hopkinton, St. Lawrence County.

Dear Secretary Burgess,

The North Ridge wind facility has been an assault on the community of Hopkinton and the surrounding towns. Hopkinton has property on both sides of the border of the Adirondack Park. The blue line only exists as a boundary on maps. In reality the wild extends far past that imaginary “line in the sand”.

Hopkinton passed the 2018 wind law to provide protections for the residents and environment of this area. We believe in protecting our natural resources, habitat, and beauty that are major draws for folks living here. The company has signed leases within the ADK border, demonstrating a lack of respect for our way of life and our wilderness.

Residents of Hopkinton are not alone in the belief that the industrial turbines should be distanced from the Adirondack Park.

John F. Sheehan, the director of Communication for the Adirondack Council Defenders of the East's Greatest Wilderness, wrote a letter expressing the need to protect the park. He also explains plainly that there is no need to "lean on the greatest wilderness park in the world to produce more" energy, considering we are already exporting hydro.

"Those residents then created a local law to protect themselves and the park from the project by declaring where in their town wind power could be developed and where it could not. They chose to keep it miles away from the park border.

We also have some concerns over the visual impact of major solar farm development on the park's wild character. "

"Finally, don't forget, the park's rivers already produce more hydropower than its residents and visitors use. We are already exporting clean energy to the rest of the state. There is no good reason to lean on the greatest wilderness park in the world to produce more." **-John Sheehan, Director of Communications Adirondack Council Defenders of the East's Greatest Wilderness**

We have done our fair share, there is no public need, and this project would harm the environment we are trying desperately to protect.

Respectfully,

Janice Pease

Janice Pease

*electronically signed

Dear Gerald:

Thank you for your question about wind power.

We have worked closely with the Public Service Commission and Adirondack Park Agency to review and comment upon all commercial wind power projects that have been proposed in, and right next to, the Adirondack Park. We have also commented upon major projects that were somewhat farther away when it appeared that the project would affect the park's linkages to migratory bird routes or the homes of endangered species.

We assisted Adirondack Park residents and their neighbors in the Town of Hopkinton in understanding a large project proposed just north of the park in St. Lawrence County. Those residents then created a local law to protect themselves and the park from the project by declaring where in their town wind power could be developed and where it could not. They chose to keep it miles away from the park border.

We also have some concerns over the visual impact of major solar farm development on the park's wild character. These are less critical than our concerns over wildlife impacts from wind power, but still give us reason to think twice. We do support solar panels on private homes and businesses and believe it can reduce or eliminate the need for additional commercial power production to support the park's needs. We also have supported small-scale wind power for private homes and businesses using towers of 100 feet or less. We are seeking state policy changes that would begin the development of an electric vehicle support network in the park as well.

Most important of all, we are constantly seeking state support and expertise for local energy

conservation efforts. We all save fuel and money -- and curb pollution -- by buttoning up municipal buildings and schools and replacing inefficient heating and cooling systems.

Finally, don't forget, the park's rivers already produce more hydropower than its residents and visitors use. We are already exporting clean energy to the rest of the state. There is no good reason to lean on the greatest wilderness park in the world to produce more.

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