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To:

The Energy Tax Reform Working Groups

Dear Members of the Energy Tax Reform Working Groups,

I am a citizen of the USA and a resident of the state of Vermont. Our Green Mountain State has been besieged by industrial wind developers whose aim is to collect government subsidies with no regard for the damage this industrialization causes. I write to ask you to please consider halting all funding for the production tax credit and all subsidies that allow this madness to continue.

Vermont's primary industries and economy is based on tourism and the Vermont people have worked diligently to protect the natural beauty and natural resources of this state. People come from all over the world to show their appreciation for those efforts. The Vermont Chamber of Commerce has reported over \$1.6 billion in tourist spending in VT and tourism accounting for at least 60,000 jobs for Vermonters. The tourists do not come here to see the ridgelines blasted apart and peppered with 400ft industrial wind turbines with their constantly blinking red lights.

There are four industrial wind plants in Vermont. The first was constructed in Searsburg, VT (11 Zond turbines). It is currently owned by Green Mountain Power (Canadian owned) and has proven to be expensive failure [www.aweo.org/windsearsburg/html](http://www.aweo.org/windsearsburg/html). On October 16, 2008 high winds in the Searsburg area caused a turbine blade to strike its tower and caused the collapse of the turbine. The blades from this demolished turbine still litter the ground where they fell – wind turbine blades are thermoset plastic and cannot be recycled. In spite of the poor performance of the Searsburg turbines there has been a push by Spanish wind developer, Iberdrola, to expand this wind plant, with 15 more turbines, onto land owned by the US Forest Service.

The second Vermont wind plant is in Sheffield, VT (16 Clipper Liberty turbines). Hundreds of thousands of dollars were spend by locals trying to stop this project by UPC First Wind. A useful article about this project can be found at <https://www.wind-watch.org/documents/lessons-for-sheffield>. Sheffield went on line in Oct 2011 and has never once achieved its minimum capacity for electric generation. Shortly after it went online First Wind filed a \$60 million lawsuit against its turbine manufacturer, Clipper Windpower. Clipper has the worst manufacturing and design record in the industry.

The third wind plant in Vermont was instigated by Gaz Metro (Canada) owned Green Mountain Power (GMP). It was constructed on pristine ridgeline in Lowell, VT and was perversely called Kingdom Community Wind. The fight to stop it was fierce and opposition against it continues to this day. During it's construction the developers changed their plan to a larger Vestas (21 each) turbine which resulted in the refusal of the grid operator, ISO New England, to allow power generation from the plant without the installation of a \$10.5 million synchronous condenser

(voltage regulator system). GMP refused to comply with ISO's demand and filed a complaint with FERC. A hearing was held and GMP lost. The ratepayers will foot the bill for GMP's poor planning for this project. Also, it was never clear why GMP was allowed to collect government subsidies by the Dec. 31, 2012 deadline when technically they weren't in service (the synchronous condenser is still not installed). And even though both Sheffield and Lowell are trickling power into the grid both of these wind plants are being curtailed by ISO due to lack of demand for their intermittent power.

The fourth wind disaster in Vermont was the Georgia Mountain Community Wind project (that had nothing to do with "community" I assure you). This four turbine project was a brutal assault on Georgia Mountain and its neighbors and was fined for its illegal actions : [www.miltonindependent.com/georgia-community-wind-project-fined/](http://www.miltonindependent.com/georgia-community-wind-project-fined/) . This project, owned by David Blittersdorf, had to make a mad rush to finish to meet the deadline to collect government subsidies. In the process Blittersdorf was more than willing to bully, threaten and harass the neighbors and incur fines for illegal blasting.

The unspoiled Northeast Kingdom area of Vermont has been under threat for more than a year by an unscrupulous wind developer known as Eolian Renewable Energy out of Portsmouth, NH. This group of four men claim to be partnered with a turbine maker, Nordex, out of Germany. The opposition to their project, 35ea. 500ft wind turbines, on the Seneca mountain ridgeline has been fierce and has drained the resources of the towns fighting it. To date Eolian has been forced out of projects they wanted to start in Maine and New Hampshire and have not received a permit to build in Vermont (this is mostly due to opposition by intervenors). The local utility, Vermont Electric Cooperative, has openly opposed Eolian's (also called Seneca Mountain Wind) project: [www.windaction.org/news/37979](http://www.windaction.org/news/37979) . Grid instability, caused by the intermittent power generation of wind turbines, along with no demand for their power, has been a real concern of the grid and utility operators.

Vermont's agony doesn't end with these actual and proposed wind projects. Vermont's people have been consistently lied to by developers who insist their projects are "green" and "renewable" when, in fact, Vermont allows the selling of renewable energy credits (RECs) that allow pollution to take place in other states. This means the more "renewable" energy built in Vermont the more pollution can be allowed elsewhere. A terrible deception on Vermont's people who may think wind turbines and massive solar arrays are helping to lessen greenhouse gasses. Many people are also led to believe that wind turbines reduce the use of fossil fuels in Vermont but this is absolutely false. Vermont does not use fossil fuels to generate electricity but does use them for heating and transportation. Vermont is slowly learning that wasting money and ruining precious natural resources on wind turbines is not the way to go.

It will take time to plan for and use our resources wisely and learn to conserve what we already have. In Vermont we have already begun to see the light and are taking a closer look at what will and will not work for us. In the meantime the bully-rush by wind developers, greedy for government subsidies, must cease. Please do not allow this insane production tax credit and subsidy madness to continue.

Thank you for considering my concerns,

Kathleen J. Nelson  
Brighton/Island Pond, Vermont

