

Vera H. Trafton
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Dear Representative Brady, Representative Thompson
and Members of the Energy Tax Reform Working Group,

I greet you on a spectacular stormy day in the Mountains of Western Maine! My husband and I retired here in 1999 because of the area's rural character and the genuine sense of wildness our area still has. This "sense of place" is what the Brookings Institute says is the key to the region's future.

Soon after our arrival news of a proposed wind power plant which would be put on the ridges of two high mountains, smack dab in the middle of what is called the High Peaks Region, began to circulate. We learned about wind power, largely in those days from English groups who were also trying to protect their natural heritage, and from a few US research groups who had analyzed the claims of the wind industry **and had shown that the claims of this "green" industry were a sham.**

With our petition (local residents, merchants, guides, part-time residents who have come for generations to this area, hikers, fishermen, etc.); the testimony of experts in physics, natural resources, construction in sensitive zones, environmental groups, outdoor recreation groups, energy consultants with decades of experience, and the Park Service we were able to keep turbines off the delicate ridges of some of the state's highest peaks.

All of us who opposed the wind plant had done the research and understood that there are reasons why we no longer ship cargo via sailboats! Elegant turbines cannot operate unless Mother Nature decides to let the wind blow - and at the right speeds. Power can be stored for slack times in batteries, but these are so expensive that the economics rule out dependence on them. Wind plants **must be backed up by reliable, instantly available power** and that means two systems, wind and the back-up one (generally fossil fuel) kept running at all times, producing the CO2 which the wind industry claims to lessen the amount of.

But you know all this. The wind industry depends on ignorance (as to how - and whether - it works), wishful thinking (the ideal of green renewable power) coupled with ignorance, and the Production Tax Credit. We think that we taxpayers should not be paying to prop up the wind industry, any more than we should have footed the bill for Solyndra or the Fisker car. Look at Europe for a lesson in the failure of wind power. Political pressure is the only reason it persists there - and here.

Please make the rational and responsible decision to end the PTC!

Thank you for looking into this modern Emperor who has no Clothes.

