

Testimony from Larry Wunsch who lives in the Forward Energy wind farm near the Town of Byron in Fond du Lac County Wisconsin, given May 12, 2009 Madison, Wisconsin during the Public Hearing on Turbine Siting Reform.

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Larry Wunsch and I live in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin. I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak today.

Today I stand before you as a minority. Yet as a minority, I truly believe I carry a strong voice because I live in a Wind Farm. I have a wind turbine located 1100' from my home and I can almost see all 86 turbines in the project from my back yard. There will be a lot of testimony today stating that there are no ill effects coming from wind turbines. I am here today to tell you that those statements are nothing but lies.

When the PSC permitted project first came to our Town, we had a lot of questions and concerns. We asked about noise and were told that they make very little noise. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are many days where the turbine next to me sounds like a jet engine idling on a taxi-way. There have been many nights where I laid awake from noise generated from these wind turbines.

Think about it. This is a huge, high torque generating device fastened to a 300 foot hollow steel tube mounted to an immense concrete foundation, and you are telling me that this device will not make noise. I am not a sound engineer so I can't agree sound decibel levels. All I can say is that there are times that these turbines are so noisy that they almost drive me out of my home.

We asked about Shadow Flicker. This is the shadow effect you get when the blades pass between the sun and receiving object. The developers stated that this effect is minimal and with proper placement it can be eliminated. I ask then why there is a turbine located 1100' on the west side of my home.

This shadow flicker has the same effect as if someone was switching the light switch on and off in the room. I ask you, would you be bothered by this if you were sitting in your home and someone was switch the light on and off. Would it

be intrusive if someone was to switch the light on and off in this room. You can't imagine the invasion of this effect unless you live in my house.

We asked about property value. The developers stated that they did a study which shows that wind farms don't have any effect on property values. The study submitted is called the REPP Study. The study is based on a 5 mile view shed. I wouldn't have a problem with a wind turbine at 5 miles my home. I wouldn't have a problem with a wind turbine one mile from my home. But 1100 feet is a problem.

Like most people in Wisconsin my wife and I have everything we have invested in our home. When it comes time to sell, will we get our value out of our investment? There are many homes where I live located in the wind farm that have went up for sale since the project went on line and are still sitting because of some of these negative effects.

When we initially asked for a Property Value Protection Plan to protect our investment, we were told that they could not give us such a plan because it would affect the financing of the wind farm. That's not my problem. If you say it does not affect property values, then give it to me in writing.

It's so easy to point the finger at me and call me a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) I would ask these same people like the people from Renew Wisconsin, Clean Wisconsin, American Wind Energy Association, Wind Farm Developers and more if they live in a wind farm.

If you should find such a person that does live in a wind farm and does not receive any monetary stipend, ask him or her if they have one 1100 feet from their home. Then measure that one person against the many that currently live in wind farms and suffer from the irresponsible placement of wind turbines.

My complaints have gone unheard. I have addressed concerns with the developers early on and received nothing. I have complained to my Town Board and have gotten the response that there is nothing they can do because it is a State matter. I have sent my complaints to the PSC and have either heard nothing back or had a response of "We will put your concern on the docket"

I don't know what I can say to convince this committee how important it is for responsible placement of wind turbines, which was not done in PSC approved project where I live.

I can only share those experiences in a nine-minute video that I have made. This video will show what my wife and I go through because of the poor placement of wind turbines. Thank you again for this time.

Larry Wunsch

Town of Byron

Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin