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Wind project liked in Lowell

I felt the need to respond after reading the recent letter from Justin Lindholm misrepresenting the Kingdom Community Wind plant in Lowell. As chairman of the Lowell Select Board, I have visited the site many times and have always been impressed with the care and maintenance Green Mountain Power does at the facility. Mr. Lindholm's comments are not accurate and do not reflect my community.

My community strongly supported the building of this project twice, with 75 percent voting to build it and 80 percent voting in support after it was built. I suspect if we were to hold another vote, the results would be even more favorable. Why is that? Simple — of all the terrible things opponents threatened would happen, none materialized. None. Property values have not been hurt, wildlife is thriving, tourism has increased thanks to the regular summer public tours, and the claims about sound mirror the false claims made by Mr. Lindholm. The project was well built and maintained to protect the local environment. Ongoing inspections of the water demonstrate that the mountain is healthy and stormwater features are working. Furthermore, the taxes GMP pays to Lowell have eliminated our municipal taxes. I know of several instances where this has enabled people to stay in their homes. This is a meaningful benefit to the people of Lowell.

Opponents claim that wind projects divide a community. I can tell you that the vast majority of people who live in Lowell are happy to welcome the wind project into our community. The only ones who claim it is divisive are those who oppose it. It is time to stop trying to create angst and fear where there is no basis for it. We are proud to have done our part to support the development of wind energy in Lowell.

RICHARD PION

(chairman,

Select Board)

Lowell
