

Town of Swanton
OFFICE of the SELECTBOARD
P.O. Box 711, 1 Academy Street
Swanton, VT 05488

January 17, 2017

The Honorable Phil Scott
Governor, State of Vermont
109 State Street, Pavilion
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Scott,

First, we would like to congratulate you on your election and wish you the best in serving as our state's 82nd Governor. This letter is asking for an update on where you stand on ridgeline development of industrial wind and if we can expect a ban on ridgeline development in the near future. During your campaign, you made it clear that you supported "a complete ban on ridgeline development." We know you visited the Rocky Ridge site in September and are familiar with most of the issues with that site.

An application for a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) has been submitted to the Public Service Board by the development company Swanton Wind LLC for the installation of seven 499 foot industrial wind turbines on the southeastern side of Swanton known as Rocky Ridge. The purpose of this letter is to make you aware that we are opposed to this project. By a special vote on the subject in the fall of 2015 Swanton voters disapproved of this project by a 5:1 margin. We are working with our Town Attorney and town officials from Fairfield and St. Albans in our opposition to the CPG application. The opposition process is costing citizens of the three towns tens of thousands of tax dollars that could be better spent on other needs such as road and facility improvements.

A few of our reasons for opposing the CPG application include finding it incredulous that it does not specify the exact number of turbines to be installed and it does not specify the turbine model being purchased nor the expected electrical generation. We also find it disturbing that Vermont utilities do not want to purchase the power and the developer has recently stated that they are looking to sell it in Connecticut. It is obvious to us that, if successful, this project will damage precious natural resources and wildlife habitat, lower the value of adjacent properties, adversely affect the health and quality of life for those living in close proximity and diminish the scenic beauty of the ridgeline

and surrounding landscape - all for power that is being sold to Connecticut!

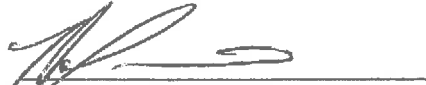
We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing where you stand with regards to this project specifically and ridgeline development overall.

Very Respectfully,

The Swanton Selectboard



Joel A. Clark, Chair



John Lavoie, Vice Chair



Daniel Billado, Selectman



James Guilmette, Selectman



Jeffrey Raleigh, Selectman

Town of Swanton
OFFICE of the SELECTBOARD
P.O. Box 711, 1 Academy Street
Swanton, VT 05488

February 7, 2017

Secretary Julie Moore
Agency of Natural Resources
1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Secretary Moore:

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources. We wish you all the best in your new position. This letter is a formal request from the Town of Swanton Selectboard for your agency to oppose the Swanton Wind LLC application for a Certificate of Public Good (CPG). The developer's CPG application is for the construction of up to seven 500 foot tall industrial wind turbine generators to be located in the eastern side of Swanton on a natural area known as Rocky Ridge.

The Town of Swanton opposes this project for several reasons. We have serious concerns with the irreversible damage that will impact the natural resources of the wild and scenic Rocky Ridge environment as noted below:

- We are concerned about the permanent change that will be made to the water resources brought about by the extensive clear cutting and blasting required to install the towers.
- We are concerned about the displacement of the deer from their deer yards.
- We are concerned about the visual and environmental impact of these large structures on the neighboring town's Fairfield Pond.
- We are concerned about all the people who will no longer be able to enjoy the scenic views and the local fishing and hunting that takes place in the Rocky Ridge natural resource area.
- We are concerned about the migratory birds and waterfowl that will be injured and killed by these huge turbines.

While we fully support the State's renewable energy goals, we only support renewable energy projects that promote the public good by complimenting and saving our natural resources. We are convinced that this proposed project does not meet that purpose. We are even more concerned about the developer's public statement that he plans to sell the energy produced by this project to Connecticut. We find it disturbing and unacceptable that our state's and town's natural resources would be irreversibly harmed to produce power sold to another State.

We are respectfully asking your agency to aggressively review and oppose Swanton Wind LLC's CPG application because it is not good for the public, not good for Swanton's residents, and not good for our state's natural resources. The Towns of Fairfield and St. Albans strongly support us in our opposition to this project.

We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Very Respectfully,

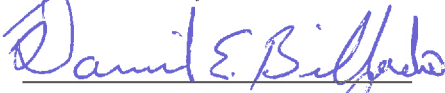
The Swanton Selectboard



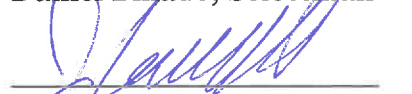
Joel A. Clark, Chair




John Lavoie, Vice Chair



Daniel Billado, Selectman



James Guilmette, Selectman



Jeffrey Raleigh, Selectman

CC:

Governor Phil Scott

Commissioner June Tierney

Town of Swanton
OFFICE of the SELECTBOARD
P.O. Box 711, 1 Academy Street
Swanton, VT 05488

February 7, 2017

Commissioner June Tierney
Department of Public Service
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Commissioner Tierney,

Congratulations on your appointment as Commissioner Department of Public Service. We wish you all the best in your new position. This letter is a formal request for your agency to oppose the Swanton Wind LLC application for a Certificate of Public Good (CPG). The CPG application is for up to seven 500 foot tall industrial wind turbine generators of 2 to 3 megawatts capacity each to be located in the eastern side of Swanton known as Rocky Ridge.

The Town of Swanton's Selectboard and citizens are opposed to this project for several reasons as noted below:

- We are concerned with what this power generation will do to increase the electric rates for consumers if the power is sold in Vermont. Several utility companies oppose this project for that reason.
- We are concerned about the developer's public statement that he plans to sell the energy produced by this project to Connecticut. We find it disturbing and unacceptable that our state's and town's natural resources would be irreversibly harmed to produce power sold to another State. We fail to see how that is in the public interest of Vermont citizens.
- We are concerned that this proposed project would be located on a scenic ridge on the eastern side of Swanton and seven 500 foot tall industrial wind turbines will have an irreversible impact on the scenic values and natural resources of the surrounding area.
- The 500 foot tall industrial wind turbines will also have a negative effect on the property values of the more than 100 homeowners who live nearby in three towns that are in close proximity to this project.

- We are also concerned that this is not a well thought out project. The CPG application refers to up to seven industrial wind towers. It also does not state a specific capacity of power to be generated. It is impossible for the Town of Swanton to tell whether the benefits proposed in the application are accurate. The application states \$150,000 per year but gives no details. We have to assume that is for the largest of projects. What happens to the projections if the developer constructs a smaller-sized project? Also, regardless of size, will the benefits outweigh any negative impacts of the development?
- The Public Service Board's *Temporary Rules on Sound Levels from Wind Generators*, effective 28 July 2016, states that the sound model shall be based on the technical specifications of the turbines proposed for use at the facility. The applicant states that the "facility will consist of up to 7 industrial wind turbines of 2 to 3 megawatts of capacity." We are concerned that if the applicant has not determined the generation capacity of the proposed project, how can a noise study be accomplished?


While we fully support the State's renewable energy goals, we only support renewable energy projects that promote the public good by complimenting and saving our natural resources. We are convinced that this proposed project does not meet that purpose. We are even more concerned about the developer's public statement that he plans to sell the energy produced by this project to Connecticut. We find it disturbing and unacceptable that a project of this magnitude with all its negative effects on our community could be approved with the power being sold to another state.

We are respectfully asking your agency to aggressively review and oppose Swanton Wind LLC's CPG application because it is not good for the public, not good for Swanton's citizens, and not good for our state's natural resources. The Towns of Fairfield and St. Albans strongly support us in our opposition to this project.

We thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you.

Very Respectfully,

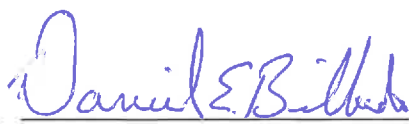
The Swanton Selectboard



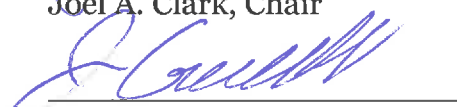
 Joel A. Clark, Chair



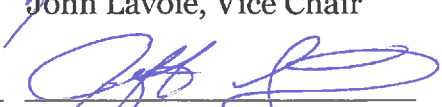
 John Lavoie, Vice Chair



 Daniel Billado, Selectman



 James Guilmette, Selectman



 Jeffrey Raleigh, Selectman

Cc: Governor Phil Scott