

Dear Dubie Family:

Thank you for accepting our invitation for dialogue about our proposal to bring clean, wind-powered electrical generation to our region of the state. We too are sorry that you were not able to attend our earlier informational meeting. Because we are neighbors, our hope is that we can connect in person in the near future to discuss project details in greater detail.

As you know from our attendance at the Fairfield Pond Association Meeting, with our project adjacent to the Town of Fairfield we are committed to keeping the Town's residents and elected and appointed representatives updated and engaged. In fact, we attended the May 18th Selectboard meeting to introduce the project and answer initial questions, however the selectboard did not have a quorum. Thus, we look forward to coming back when the entire selectboard is convened.

We appreciate your questions about Georgia Mountain Wind because that successful project serves as an inspiration and model for our effort here in Swanton. In 2009, Lieutenant Governor Dubie will recall writing a letter of support, attached for your reference, to Jim Harrison and family, owners of Georgia Mountain Community Wind, expressing encouragement for "Vermonters who are working to expand our energy horizon with Vermont-based solutions that expand our energy independence and security." Brian's letter further recognizes that efforts like Georgia Mountain Community Wind are the "right thing for Vermonters" and the "right thing for our planet." The letter also notes Brian's support for the passage of Vermont laws that commit our electricity providers to securing more renewable energy from sources like Georgia Mountain Community Wind.

We are proposing Swanton Wind to accomplish the same objectives that Brian so eloquently articulated in his letter and to help the state's utilities comply with the legal mandates Brian rightly supported during his tenure as Lieutenant Governor. Like Jim Harrison, we too are local business-owners who understand the need for locally-produced, clean, sustainable, and affordable energy.

In addressing your question about property values, please remember this project is in our backyard too. Gerry built our home and lived in it for years. He now lives just around the corner. We're all staying in our homes. What's more, Ashley's career as a local realtor depends on the health of the community real estate market overall. We wouldn't do this project if it would make our own homes and our community less healthy and attractive places to live.

With respect to the property values discussion in Georgia, it is important to separate fact from fiction. As a realtor, Ashley has reviewed home sales data for homes near the project in Georgia and Milton. On both sides of the mountain, homes continue to sell within a relatively short time of going on the market, at or near asking price.

After the project went up in Georgia, property assessments by the town remained stable except for a couple of isolated cases. The cases involved longstanding project opponents who fought, through the grievance process, to have their property values lowered. It's telling, however, that all other Georgia property owners accepted the lister's undiminished assessments. And it's more telling that homes in the area continue to sell quickly at or near asking price. Fair market value, as indicated by actual sales, is a much more accurate barometer of how the wind farm affects—or in this case does not affect—property values.

We are disappointed by the misinformation spread about the experience of properties neighboring Georgia Mountain Community Wind. In fact, Jim Harrison recently published a letter in the Saint Albans Messenger refuting those false claims and setting the record straight. We have attached that letter for your information.

The actual experience of the real estate market in Georgia and Milton is consistent with a national study conducted for the U.S. Department of Energy finding “no statistical evidence that home prices near wind turbines were affected in either the post-construction or post-announcement/pre-construction periods.” This study, along with much more detailed information pertaining to your other questions is available on our website <http://swantonwindvt.com/permitting/>. We've worked hard to post the most accurate and up to date project information on our website and we encourage you to use it as a resource to get fact-based information.

Again, as homeowners who will have this project in our backyard we too have a strong incentive to ensure that the project-generated sound is within the limits set by Vermont officials to protect public health. We are working hard to conduct a sound monitoring program before we apply for our permit. This will inform the existing conditions and guide the wind turbine selection process which is still ongoing.

We are including our project fact sheet with this letter in hopes that it, along with the link to the project website, answers the other important questions you have. We want to make you aware of our upcoming informational meeting being planned in Swanton. As soon as that date and location are confirmed, we will forward along the information and post it on our website. The purpose of this meeting is to provide factual information and allow you and other interested community members to talk directly with us and our team and we can listen and share information on numerous aspects of our project and how it will comply with all state standards designed to protect the environment and public health, while benefiting us all. We hope you will come to this informational meeting and/or to future Fairfield presentations with an open mind. Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns and to provide us with the opportunity to help inform you on the project. We look forward to further dialogue as the process continues.

Sincerely,

The Belisles