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ENERGY GENERATION SITING POLICY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING

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held on the 3rd day of April, at 5:00 p.m., in the

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Rutland Middle School Auditorium, 67 Library Avenue,

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Rutland, Vermont.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

13

Jan Eastman, Chair

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Tom Bodett

15

Louise McCarren

16

Gaye Symington

17

Chris Recchia

18

Deborah Markowitz

19

Linda McGinnis

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AMANDA J. WENRICH - REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER

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223 Killington Avenue

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1 P U B L I C H E A R I N G

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3 JAN EASTMAN: Good evening. So everyone
4 can hear me. Right? Um, my name is Jan
5 Eastman. I'm Chair of the Energy Generation
6 Siting Policy Commission. And we're here
7 tonight to have our fourth public hearing. Um,
8 there is now a sign-up sheet in the back of the
9 room for those of you who wish to make some
10 comments tonight. I have a few people who did
11 it early and I have those first five or six or
12 so right here before me now.

13 Um, we have two hours. Looking at the
14 number of people obviously continue to come
15 in -- but looking at the numbers that are here
16 right now, I think we may be able to give
17 you -- I'm going to go for each for three
18 minutes. If, um, if you don't need that time,
19 you don't need to take it. Um, if it looks
20 like we're going to have a lot more people
21 coming in, I may have to cut people back to

22 two.

23 Um, I'd also like to say before I
24 introduce the siting commission, we do have an
25 interpreter here. And so just want to be sure

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1 that anyone who needs her services, um, be put
2 in a place where you can participate. So, um,
3 with me tonight are Louise McCarren, Tom
4 Bodett, I'm Jan Eastman, Scott Johnson, Gay
5 Symington and Chris Recchia. Chris is the
6 commissioner of the Department of Public
7 Service. The rest of us have simply been
8 appointed by the Governor to do this task.

9 So, um, by way of introduction, we were
10 appointed by Governor Peter Shumlin in October
11 2012 to provide recommendations to the governor
12 and the legislature on best practices for
13 improving the processes surrounding site
14 approval of electric generation projects and
15 for public participation and representation in
16 the siting process.

17 For this purpose, electric generation
18 projects relate to all facilities other than

19 net metered and group net metered facilities.
20 Specific information on the charges of the
21 commission are available in an executive order,
22 copies of which are available at the door. And
23 additional information on the meeting held
24 today can be found online at
25 sitingcommission.vermont.gov. Also, full

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1 transcripts are available online.
2 As I said, this is our fourth public
3 hearing. Um, in late January, early February
4 we had, um, public hearing in Lowell, Vermont.
5 We went to Brattleboro and we where else did we
6 go? Burlington. Um, this is to give you an
7 opportunity to abide input into the
8 commission's deliberations on the energy siting
9 process in Vermont. The public is asked to
10 focus, if you can, on the charges and draft
11 recommendations of the commission as they
12 relate to electric generation facilities siting
13 only.
14 Um, draft recommendations the commission
15 is now considering are available at

16 sitting commission.vermont.gov. Um, you can also
17 provide additional written comments on the
18 website. Um, our schedule now is we have
19 another public hearing scheduled for Monday,
20 um, October 8th from 5:30 to 7:30. Excuse me.
21 April 8th, which is this coming Monday. We're
22 doing those through Vermont Interactive
23 Television. So if you go to the website I
24 referred to you, you can get the locations that
25 will be available, so people don't have to come

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1 to one spot. Um, we then have another full day
2 of deliberations on Tuesday, April 9th, which
3 will be held in Montpelier. We currently have
4 another day scheduled for April 16th and we're
5 trying to work on a schedule that has those,
6 um, submitting a final report to the
7 legislature and Governor on April 25th.

8 Um, as I say, if you go to the website,
9 you can see where we are in the process. For
10 instance, we met this afternoon for three hours
11 going over the most recent recommendations
12 which were available on the website and we'll

13 be changing them as we speak. As we hear from
14 people and review and try to come to a
15 consensus, um, things do change.

16 So thanks so much for coming here, um,
17 tonight and it's to listen to you. On a side
18 note, I do have to say, I graduated from this
19 high school and this was the high school. So
20 my memories of this stage, you know, I should
21 be performing or losing class elections. One
22 or the other so... So here we are. I'm sure
23 the seats have changed because it was a long
24 time ago.

25 So, first up and, um, Ann has a

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1 microphone and will bring it to people. So I'm
2 sure I'm going to mispronounce your names. So
3 please, um, introduce yourselves and the time
4 now is three minutes. There's a court reporter
5 sitting here, so we need to speak slow enough
6 so she can get all that you wish to say,
7 because we want to be sure everybody is able to
8 hear what your concerns and comments are. So
9 first up is Elizabeth Frost.

10 ELIZABETH FROST: I'm Elizabeth Frost
11 from Pittsford and I have two comments. One
12 is, um, for several weeks, I was in the
13 hospital and had a north facing room and
14 observed all that time the beautiful Pittsford
15 ridge. To have that destroyed or to have, um,
16 windmills which, from the west when the sun is
17 setting would be flashing lights into the
18 hospital seems absurd. Um, I have always loved
19 that ridge. It's one of the reasons I moved
20 back up to Vermont.

21 Um, the second is, this part right here
22 seems the most democratic of this whole
23 situation where, um, we are allowed to speak to
24 you directly. But what happened to the town,
25 um, plans? Where does that fit in if you have

1 the right to just eradicate our wishes that we
2 have voted for? Thank you.

3 JAN EASTMAN: Um, yes. We're here -- as
4 you understand, we're not the Board who will be
5 ultimately making decisions about projects.

6 But, you're right. We're the commission that's

7 going to make recommendations only if there
8 needs to be changes. And one of the things we
9 are looking at is the role for the town plan.
10 This is not going to be a back and forth. I
11 just wanted to be sure you didn't think you
12 were going to get something from us that we
13 couldn't give.

14 And again, I'll say, um, applause
15 doesn't show up on our meters and it's only
16 going to take time out from people's comments.
17 And I appreciate, we want to have this be
18 welcoming for everybody to make the comments
19 that they wish to make. But thank you.

20 Next up is Emerson Frost.

21 EMERSON FROST: Well, I'm Emerson Frost.
22 I grew up in Pittsford and, um, with interest,
23 I watch the -- the, um, Putnam, um, wind
24 turbine being built. And, um, was more or less
25 around when it finally destroyed itself. And I

1 was -- um, pointed out that it was Einstein,
2 not somebody else that said that if you keep,
3 um, doing the same thing over again, it's --

4 and expect a different result, why, it's
5 absurd. And, um, I -- having said that, I've
6 got a bit of an oxymoron here. Um, I spent
7 most of my life it seems trying to, um, build
8 better, um, remote censoring equipment to
9 separate signal from noise. So when a few
10 years ago somebody came out with a term noise
11 resonance, I just, um, I rebel at it. But, um,
12 recently there's been a bunch of stuff
13 published and I have to thank my daughter for
14 getting the stuff together for me.

15 Um, on the, um, effect that it's been
16 widely reported that if you, um, inject a -- a,
17 um, noise signal, say sub audible, that is to
18 say one you can't hear but you add that to a
19 signal which you just barely hear, what you
20 hear it much better. And the -- as I say, it's
21 a continuity thing, yet it's been shown in
22 light, been shown in acoustics.

23 Um, I say that because, um, it gives us
24 a handle on the notion that, well, if you can't
25 hear it, it can't hurt you. And, um, that

1 clearly is not true, been a great deal of -- a
2 number showing that some stuff, um, whatever
3 mechanism, can cause hearing loss, even though
4 you don't think you can hear it. And, um, it
5 can be a very harmful thing. Now, a lot of
6 this can be a -- um, a continual interaction
7 between the -- the, um, sound which we think
8 was passing through the air and, um, site
9 but -- which goes to the soil. Um, and the
10 sites might be -- you can't hear them from your
11 house, well, it's not any more -- along the
12 Scottish English border before -- because of
13 the -- this kind of building of more wind
14 turbine, because the size were masking the
15 seismic equipment reduce to the nuclear testing
16 at -- and you may know, that goes all around
17 the world. And people need this. So, we --
18 well, it's kept -- North Korea, for instance.
19 Um, this site -- I'm all done? Oh, okay.

20 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you very much. Pat
21 Prepared.

22 PAT PREPARED: Very close. What my
23 basic concern is, I'm involved with the, um,
24 opposition of wind on ridgelines for a little
25 over a year now. And my research started in

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1 Europe. And I've done ten years of researching
2 what has happened on that continent. And they
3 assumed that the, um, wind industry was going
4 to be the saving grace because their energy
5 costs are very high.

6 But now after 12 to 15 years worth of
7 data, the wind industry over there is kind gone
8 flat, because there hasn't been one nuclear
9 station close, one -- um, not one ounce of oil
10 saved, not one liter of gas saved. In fact in
11 Denmark in the middle of 2003, the CO2 levels
12 in that country rose 7.3 percent because of the
13 ramping up of, um, the gas generation
14 facilities there to produce their power because
15 wind did not deliver a baseline power.

16 Now, assuming in Denmark, um, that
17 country thought that they were going to be
18 saved by wind and they have the highest
19 electrical rates in all of Europe. The reason
20 they built them there first and foremost was,
21 at night, the wind blows tremendously there.
22 And the wind industry failed to tell the
23 government that during the day, it calms down.

24 So, in retrospect, what they had to do is,
25 Denmark sells their excess power from the wind

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1 to, um, Finland and Sweden and all of their
2 street lights are being produced --
3 electrically produced by wind power. But
4 during the day, they would have to buy that
5 power back at a higher rate and they can -- um,
6 Denmark sold at just such a reduced rate -- I
7 mean, this is just the way it's gone. And
8 every country in Europe did away with the --
9 what we call in this country protection -- or,
10 the um, tax credit. And as soon as they pulled
11 them, every project that Europe had in every
12 country all of the sudden just stopped.

13 And we haven't been able to see that
14 here in this country yet because that hasn't
15 happened. We're still allowing billions of
16 dollars to be put into the wind. And it just
17 isn't measuring up, to tell you the truth. So
18 I guess that's my comment right there. And
19 thank you.

20 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Jim

21 Rademacher.

22 JIM RADEMACHER: My name is Jim
23 Rademacher. I'm from Pittsford. I appreciate
24 the tremendous effort the commission members
25 affording to his project. There are two

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1 concerns I believe need to be more strongly
2 addressed in your report and currently
3 appreciated in your draft materials. Those are
4 esthetics and CO2 impacts.

5 Recent certificate of public good
6 outreach for electric generation facilities use
7 the Vermont goal of 90 percent of renewables by
8 2050 is a crime if not only justification for
9 the project. They can not justify the project
10 on lowering costs because it -- much more
11 expensive. They can not justify the project on
12 need as is there no need for more production
13 capacity. There may be a need for different
14 production but not more of a production. What
15 the applicant and Public Service Board are
16 failing to do is go back to the reason for the
17 90 percent renewable goal. There is another

18 Vermont goal that the applicants ignore. And
19 that's the goal to reduce greenhouse gas
20 emission 75 percent by 2050.

21 The Siting Commission needs to require
22 an analysis of the effectiveness of reducing
23 CO2 and the cost effectiveness of that
24 reduction of a planned project as we try to
25 meet the 75 percent goal. Some projects claim

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1 CO2 reduction has a justification will reduce
2 CO2 by only a very small amount. And any good
3 accomplished, um, will be felt world wide,
4 while all the actual effects on human health,
5 plants, animals, birds, property values and
6 esthetics will be felt locally.

7 The sale of renewable energy credits
8 eliminates all of our CO2 reduction benefits
9 and leaves only the local harmful effects.
10 This commission should recommend that the sale
11 of renewable energy credits not be allowed. If
12 any of you are -- when you leave here this
13 evening, if you happen to head north on Route
14 7, you will go through Pittsford and about

15 halfway to Brandon. The view you appreciate on
16 your left all the way is a potential site for
17 windmills, approximately 20 of those.

18 The, um, certificate of public good
19 process for the Lowell Mountain did not give
20 any consideration to views from, um, private
21 places. The Siting Commission's draft proposal
22 does not seem to address the assets from
23 private places, as well. It is important for
24 public places and the current public service
25 process and, um, CPT valuation does allow for

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1 consideration of public places. But the
2 current process does not seem to allow for
3 consideration of the potential effects on
4 private residences. The Public Service Board
5 as to consider impacts of esthetics from road
6 side pull overs and hiking trails, it should
7 also consider the impact on private residence,
8 who are year-round, every day, all day
9 visualization of many, if not all of the
10 turbines will have a far greater affect on the
11 population as a whole than a few people on

12 hiking trails and roadside rests.

13 The Siting Commission needs to recommend
14 that the Public Service Board take into account
15 the esthetic impacts upon Vermonters from
16 private residence, as well as from public
17 places. Thank you.

18 JAN EASTMAN: Next is Derek Saari.

19 DEREK SAARI: Thank you. I come from a
20 different perspective. I live in New Hampshire
21 and I'm an owner of that ridge. Own 60 acres
22 up there and I signed, um, into the windmill
23 easement in 2007. Negotiations started in
24 2006. And I terminated my easement in 2012.
25 And I've subsequently helped other landowners

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1 get out for a total of about 1,800 acres as of
2 last week to get out of the Grandpa windmill
3 project.

4 One of the major reasons for that is due
5 to unethical practices. And this is an area
6 that I've written so much about but it has
7 gotten absolutely no traction, and that's why I
8 drove up from New Hampshire today. Um, back in

9 July, I wrote all the legislatures in this, the
10 Governor, the AG's office, sent it certified
11 mail, just letting them know my issues relative
12 to, um, the easements that I was negotiated six
13 years. What the State of New York did to try
14 to overcome and they developed in 2009, a wind
15 energy Code of Conduct. And I said this is
16 perfect for Vermont to take a look at.

17 So I put it in the Rutland Herald and I
18 mailed it to everybody in July. I then filed a
19 185 A consumer fraud report in August. Sent it
20 again to the Governor and the AG. The Governor
21 did respond in two letters. And the AG did
22 respond, as well. We have a great civil case.
23 Um, you can take it. But in terms of us, um,
24 opening up a criminal investigation, just
25 wasn't enough people harmed. Not enough

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1 numbers. I said, well, I understand that. But
2 as it relates to the ethical side, there was a
3 letter written by Scott Klein, who works out of
4 the AG's office, Sarah Hoffman, back in August,
5 and I have that letter here and just was never

6 acted on.

7 So, one of the things that maybe you can
8 do is site good ethical developers to come in.
9 You need something in place to do that. I'm
10 telling you, I know every trick that they've
11 tried. And I've now seen four other easements
12 assisting others and the disparities between
13 them is the reason why we need it. I could
14 write probably another 200 pages based upon the
15 work that I've done in the last seven months as
16 an addendum to this, which I'm going to hand to
17 you for your record, as well.

18 It needs to be in place. It's not
19 difficult to do. There is a template.
20 Although it does seem to be frowned upon, it's
21 my pleasure, I'm throwing name out there, I'm
22 throwing my time out there, to help with the
23 committee to do this. Because there's a lot of
24 loop holes that in 2009, New York probably
25 hadn't seen. But I can tell you -- I can get

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1 around a few of them. I -- just based upon my
2 understanding of this. So that's something I

3 would like the committee to take a look at. It
4 is really needed.

5 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. And I think
6 you're going to get the card of the
7 commissioner of public service.

8 DEREK SAARI: Can I just submit these?

9 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you, very much.

10 Um, I think next up -- is it Dhyon
11 Nirmegh.

12 DHYON NIRMEGH: My name is Dhyon
13 Nirmegh. I really appreciate, um, the fact
14 that you guys are here to listen to us today
15 and, um, we get to listen to you. Um, I
16 consider myself probably the ultimate
17 (inaudible) in Vermont. I worked all over the
18 state. I've worked in 80 different towns in
19 Vermont, all the way from Dummerston to Putney,
20 um, to Ludlow, Shrewsbury, um, Salt Ash
21 Mountain, all the way up to the Northeast
22 Kingdom. I know almost every ridge in Vermont
23 and hiking trail and, um, places where nobody
24 has been to.

25 I cannot believe that we have allowed

1 any wind development in the State of Vermont at
2 all. The way that these mountains are
3 destroyed is unprecedented, unprecedented. I
4 wish the Governor was here to listen today to
5 what you guys had to say. I cannot believe
6 that we can go in, blast a place, make it into
7 a marking lot for 15, 20, 30 acres, and expect
8 that the eco systems are not impacted, the
9 water sheds are not impacted, wildlife is not
10 impacted and people are not impacted.

11 I -- talk about culture, my family, my
12 kids, their -- um, their ancestors have been
13 here since the last ice age, in Vermont. And
14 in just four short years, look what we've done.
15 You can't go anywhere in the Northeast Kingdom
16 without seeing a tower, from any back road.
17 And if they build it on the Seneca Mountain,
18 which is six or seven miles long and the arms
19 of another three miles long other there, you
20 won't be able to go anywhere in Northeast
21 Vermont without seeing that.

22 You talk about cultural presence in
23 Vermont. Without the mountains, I am nothing.
24 I feel like I am nothing without the mountains.
25 And I feel that there's a strong culture that I

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1 have come from and I feel like these -- this
2 culture is being destroyed in these towns.
3 They don't have their own say. Act 10 30,
4 guide every single thing that a town could --
5 um, could use to protect themselves, and you've
6 got to -- you've got to have town plans
7 involved. You've got to have, um, ordinary
8 people involved. And, um, you know, things can
9 change. And I tell you right now, I'll say
10 this, is that my sole thing here is to stop
11 the wind power and not let any more towers be
12 built in Vermont.

13 JAN EASTMAN: Bev Peterson.

14 BEV PETERSON: My comments are
15 practically, um, identical to the gentleman who
16 just spoke. Um, my recommendations are for
17 siting for wind towers would be that there
18 would be none in Vermont, never, ever, ever.
19 And that, um, you should respect the town
20 plans. If the town doesn't want a wind project
21 on their ridge line, then you should respect
22 that. If a neighboring town doesn't want a

23 project on the their neighbors ridge line, you
24 should respect that. I think that the
25 Governor, the Legislature and the Public

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1 Service Board are here to serve the people, not
2 dictate to us. And we're not going to save the
3 environment by destroying it. And let's not
4 pretend and let's not be hypocrites and say
5 that we've saving the environment when we're
6 actually destroying it. Thank you.

7 JAN EASTMAN: Next is Cheri Richert.

8 CHERI RICHERT: Hi. My name is Cheri
9 Richert. I'm from Hubbardton. Um, for those
10 of you up there that may not be from this area,
11 we are the only battle fought in the State of
12 Vermont, um, during the Revolutionary War.
13 It's a pristine site. Um, that's one of the
14 reasons that the reenactors like it so well.
15 You can go up there. Robert Frost wrote a lot
16 of poetry from that location because it was
17 pristine. Um, wind towers are not pristine.
18 They kill the animals. They kill -- destroy
19 bat caves. They destroy bear habitat and all

20 kinds of other wildlife. It is just -- birds
21 fall right out of the sky with their lungs
22 explode.

23 I think, um, some of you people that are
24 in power of decision ought to go to some of
25 these places where the birds are on the ground

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1 and see how lovely it is. It certainly isn't
2 what Vermont wants to stand for. Um, we're
3 proud of our Green Mountain State, that's why
4 it's on our license plates. Why do you want to
5 make it a wind tower state? What's wrong with
6 solar panels? It's going to affect the water
7 shed. My mother's here tonight. She's 85
8 years old. She's got her water from the spring
9 on that hill for the last 65 years. If you
10 blow it up, she probably won't have water and
11 neither will the rest of us in that area.

12 And on top of everything, the Governor
13 called us CAVE people, citizens against
14 virtually everything. I've embraced that
15 saying. I am a CAVE person, citizen against
16 violating the environment. And I hope that

17 this never, never happens in my lifetime or my
18 grandchildren or my great grandchild's
19 lifetime.

20 It affects the balance of our elderly.
21 We're going to have people falling because it
22 affects equilibrium. It's going to affect the
23 equilibrium of growing children. It causes all
24 kinds of problems with sleep apnea and all -- a
25 bunch of other problems health wise. And it

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1 really needs to be looked into seriously. But
2 I beg you, please don't screw up the only
3 battlefield we have in the State. That's the
4 only thing Hubbardton has to identify itself.
5 Thank you.

6 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Next is
7 Vanessa Mills Holmquist.

8 VANESSA MILLS HOLMQUIST: With all due
9 respect, I ask the Governor's Energy Siting
10 Commission to retain constantly, um, their
11 consideration of the gravity and the extent of
12 their task and their mission. Um, the system
13 and its broken processes place burden of proof

14 of the impacts upon impacted people, real
15 Vermonters, whose homes and quality of life and
16 properties are being threatened and devalued
17 and discounted in very real daily ways.

18 These Vermonters, who have this burden
19 of proof thrust upon them are up against
20 well-funded corporations, developers, financed
21 politicians and high paid lobbyists whose
22 livelihood is made and paid by running over
23 average citizens of the public.

24 How can we balance this injustice that
25 is wrong deemed for the public good. And if

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1 the intent is to further strip the public of
2 input when their health and their homes and
3 their quality of life is shown to be unduly
4 impacted. It is wrong, simply put. What can
5 we do to balance the injustice? We need to
6 listen to the folks of law who are impacted. I
7 invite you to sit at the kitchen table of Don
8 and Sherlie Nelson if you have not done so. I
9 invite you to look into the eyes of their
10 children and see where they live and how they

11 are impacted daily by living under those
12 turbines.

13 I grew up under the Pittsford ridge and
14 I intend to live and work under the Pittsford
15 ridge, um, and sleep there. And I hope I don't
16 have to deal with the impacts of ridge line
17 destruction while I do so. Thank you.

18 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Next is Leslie
19 Morey.

20 LESLIE MOREY: I'm going to step up here
21 because we have a visual aid or two. Um, my
22 name is Leslie Morey and I'm from Windham.
23 And, um, I have a forestry degree from UVM. I
24 am totally conservational (inaudible) as does
25 my husband who has a wildlife biology degree.

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1 But I also am a certified financial planner. I
2 deal typically with seniors. Your notion and
3 your thought that seniors are seriously impacted
4 from the net worth of the value of their homes
5 is a very serious issue.

6 Um, since last June, um, when Windham
7 was informed that they were being targeted for

8 a megawatt project, um, my husband and I spent
9 hundreds of hours, literally 20 to 40 hours a
10 week working on this subject because we were --
11 we, as environmentalists and conservationists
12 said, great, makes sense. And then we did our
13 research. And that's truly all you need to do
14 is do your research. That's all you need to
15 do. I implore of you. I'm sure you have, but
16 do more.

17 The siting commission charges include
18 best practices for siting wind turbines and
19 public participation. So I understand, been
20 through two of these. I've been to Lowell. I
21 was one of two people selected to go to Lowell
22 with you -- with all of you. I understand.
23 You're charged with finding out how to set it
24 up, not whether to site it or not. So I have
25 some thoughts for your consideration.

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1 I'm very concerned there's no specific
2 recommendation on whatever draft that you have
3 and on the April 3rd draft, drafted to site --
4 on your website which went out, I think,

5 yesterday, there's virtually nothing regarding
6 setbacks from towers to homes. Virtually
7 nothing. Not all industrial wind developers
8 are the same. I'd like to compare Lowell,
9 because I was there with all of you, and
10 many of you have not had the opportunity to get
11 to a wind farm. I've been to two. I've been
12 to one in Northwestern, New Hampshire, because
13 our town is impacted. We were offered a tour.
14 It's right up against --

15 Lowell location, being a public utility,
16 has actually made a good effort, a good faith
17 effort to work with the town and the residents.
18 And they actually guarantee setbacks in the
19 application process. Okay? And what they --
20 when they applied to the PSB, they worked to
21 shrink the -- setbacks that they guarantee for
22 3,200 foot from a home. So that's certainly
23 not enough for the Nelsons. But that was the
24 setback that they -- they adhered to in the
25 application and they actually applied with --

2 something. There's a big difference when
3 you're dealing with a mega, Spanish, effort
4 which is proposing its project, build a project
5 to build the project in Windham and, um,
6 Grafton area. Um, I would equate it to Glen
7 versus David.

8 When we found out, they were probably
9 going to build 40 plus three megawatt towers
10 the developers would be larger than Lowell,
11 Sheffield and Searsburg combined. If you look
12 at the map we bought, we have some other pages,
13 the quantity of houses impacted are 505 within
14 two mile area of the projected places where wind
15 towers will be. 505 homes within a two mile
16 area. What I propose is that you absolutely
17 consider adding setback requirements. They
18 aren't out there yet. We don't have them in
19 regulations. There aren't any rules to protect
20 us homeowners in Vermont.

21 Finally, I implore you, take a walk of a
22 quarter mile, that is the town -- that is how
23 far it is going to be from the meadows property
24 to the town center. Our town center is only a
25 quarter mile away. Consider what you're

1 Looking at. Thank you very much.

2 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Jim Morey is
3 next.

4 JIM MOREY: Can I stand up here? Am I
5 allowed to be here? Thank you.

6 Okay. I'm Jim Morey. I'm an eighth
7 generation Vermonter and have a wildlife degree
8 from UVM. I'm also a neighbor of Caroline
9 Partridge. She says hello today.

10 I would also like to suggest there are a
11 few critical issues that need to be more fully
12 addressed in the recommendations. The
13 assessments I think are absolutely correct.
14 Cultural are also absolutely correct. And Town
15 of Windham in 1984 was added to the National
16 Registry of Historic places. Our town church
17 was built in 1802. It's 125 feet tall. And I
18 want you to look at this visualization for a
19 minute, please.

20 What you are seeing is what a 492 foot
21 tower would look like. One third of a mile
22 from that church, this is the town center. And
23 I will guarantee that visualization is real.

24 If anything, we reduced the size of these ten

25 percent to make sure it would not be

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1 questioned. This is the kind of sitting
2 questioning you have to be asking yourselves.
3 Is that correct sitting for wind energy? Can
4 any one of you sit here and tell me you really
5 believe this is correct?

6 So, we look at this and we say, we need
7 setbacks. Because if we don't have some kind
8 of setbacks, there's absolutely nothing in the
9 current state law or precedence or regulations
10 that stop either draw from building those
11 towers right there. And if you recall, the map
12 that we were just showing you in the blue area,
13 you can see that the boundary of meadows ends,
14 New Hampshire, Timberland Prod, and they are --
15 now the company comes right up to the town
16 road. I mean, literally five yards.

17 So, what are we going to do? Well, at
18 this point, I'd like you to remind you that
19 we're going to impact 505 families health and
20 financial future. Remember that the average
21 family, 62 percent of their savings are tied up

22 in their home equity. There are peer-reviewed
23 professional studies that show the property
24 values is significantly impacted, according to
25 the amount of setback. And homes lose 45

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1 percent of their value if the setback is one
2 half mile or less. Now, is this real? I will
3 point out that if we took the average value of
4 homes in my area of \$183,000, and if you only
5 lost 25 percent, not 40, those 505 homes would
6 lost \$23,103,750. Now, in Windham, 23 million
7 is big money. Now Montpelier, it may not be.
8 But it is important to us, we need property
9 value guarantees. Ben Haul lodged a study that
10 the wind developers always quote as there's no
11 problem. In 2010, um, presentations in the
12 wind industry said, we must consider property
13 value guarantees and we have not proven there's
14 no impact on value. And on the phone call to
15 me on January 13th, he told me he didn't want
16 to discuss that because he got in enough
17 trouble over that statement.

18 So, the cards are on the table. We're

19 here in the end. You folks are winding down.
20 Let's talk the truth. This is big money.
21 (Inaudible) 40 million dollars in tax credits.
22 If you, um, interpellate that to what we've got
23 here with a project that is bigger than all
24 things combined, then every draw is looking at
25 100 million dollars. That's big money. Money

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1 is changing hands in ways we can't believe.
2 One gentleman talked about how much money goes
3 around behind the table. Well, in New York,
4 offered \$7,825,000 to town officials in a ten
5 year period. That's reported on their website.
6 Now, to me, almost 8 million to me is big
7 money. But there is money that's involved with
8 this.

9 And I know we always hear about all of
10 the renewable energy jobs. I want to point out
11 some of those are engineers and people who
12 produce technical products. A lot of them,
13 unfortunately, is high paid positions for
14 lawyers, lobbyists and other people who are
15 representing wind companies. If you don't

16 think that's real, we have in our state one
17 attorney that's recognized as one of the top
18 attorneys out of 34 in the United States for
19 being involved in wind energy law. Now that's
20 a high paid renewable energy job. We can't
21 afford this type of, um, input. We've got to
22 look at the reality. We've got to protect the
23 Vermont family.

24 With all of this money changing hands
25 and all of this influence, the 505 families

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1 really only have you to protect them. That's
2 all we have. So I'm going to recommend the
3 two-thirds a mile setback to any home and one
4 and a half mile setback to town's centers. And
5 the last question I would have as you're
6 looking at this, that there are descending
7 opinions within the committee. I would like to
8 know how we, the public, are going to
9 understand where these descending opinions come
10 from. I know that you're not all agreeing all
11 of the time, and I think it's very important
12 for the public to know who's deciding these

13 issues. I want to thank you very much. You've
14 done a lot of work. We appreciate it but this
15 issue is critical. Thank you.

16 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Next up is
17 Lisa Wright Garcia.

18 LISA WRIGHT GARCIA: I'm not sure what I
19 can tell you that other people in the room
20 haven't told you probably multiple times over
21 through this process, so I'm not exactly sure
22 where to start. But I want to start with my
23 story. I live under the grandpa's knob,
24 Pittsford Ridge area proposed for development.
25 I am an eighth generation Vermonter, um, living

1 in land that's been in my mother's family for a
2 hundred some odd years. Um, I hope to continue
3 living there. And I have been very active in
4 fighting this project and doing all we can.

5 But the thing is that I am feeling very
6 hopeless at this point, because the fact
7 remains that last February, I only heard about
8 this project pending in our area because a
9 neighbor happened to mention it at a gas

10 station to me. It was totally by accident that
11 I heard about it. And then when I heard about
12 it, I went to our town manager who, holy
13 awkwardness, is an old family friend, or was,
14 and she told me, oh, no worries. ANR has said
15 that project's never going to happen. So it
16 probably won't. And I went home reassured.

17 Luckily one of my other neighbors, Bev,
18 came to me right before town meeting and said,
19 oh, that's not true. This project is moving
20 ahead at a very rapid pace. So, we kick it
21 into gear and did all we could to fight this
22 project. We got our selectboards in all four
23 towns for this proposed project to oppose it,
24 all four towns have amended their town plan,
25 the Audubon Society, need I go on? Lake

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1 Bomoseen Association, who am I forgetting?
2 Hubbardton Historical Society, have all come
3 out opposing this project. We worked through
4 the democratic process in a civilized and
5 intelligent way. We already had a town plan in
6 West Rutland that clearly forbid this kind of

7 development. And I was told all along by
8 people who would say to me, didn't want to
9 really get involved but said, We're really
10 behind you, Lisa, you know, but wouldn't want
11 to come out in public and say that. Well, a
12 lot of my friends here have come out in public,
13 but a lot of people who wouldn't come out and
14 say, you know, you're fighting an uphill
15 battle. Nothing's ever going to come of this.

16 You know, you're working a democratic
17 process and, you know, good job, good job, but
18 it's not -- nothing's going to come of it. So
19 then when I heard about the siting commission,
20 I said, you know, sorry, no offense to you
21 folks, I said, you know, is it even worth it?
22 Are these just Shumlin people just here to
23 appease us and have us go through the motions
24 and pour our hearts out again for nothing? And
25 my father said to me, well, you know, sometimes

1 a governor appoints a commission and they
2 actually take it upon themselves to look at the
3 facts independently and don't necessarily come

4 up with the answer the Governor's hoping for.

5 So, I've been reading through the draft
6 and trying to have an open mind but I'm feeling
7 like you disappointed us. I have the same
8 opinion that the Vermont Leagues of Cities and
9 Towns has come out with, that you have put no
10 weight in the town plans, um, in this -- in
11 your recommendations so far. To put it all in
12 the regional planning commissions? Come on.
13 You know, I mean, I know there are some
14 commissioners here in the room and, again, no
15 offense to them, but the regional planning
16 commission is not as democratic a process as
17 our towns, selectboards and our town planning
18 processes. Without that, we have no voice.

19 So your recommendation, the way I
20 understand them right now, are going to let the
21 regional planning commissions, based on the
22 statewide energy plan, which oh, I guess is
23 flowing from Shumlin and his buddies again, are
24 going to let the regional planning commission
25 decide who is sacrificed. What towns are

1 sacrificed. What mountains are sacrificed.
2 What families.

3 My cousin Vanessa and I went out to the
4 Lowell project and chatted with the Nelsons and
5 it was just a heavy hearted day for me. The
6 Nelsons are us. We live in a little valley and
7 farm in a little valley just like the Nelsons.
8 So, this has become so much bigger than my
9 backyard, my little backyard. My backyard is
10 all of Vermont. And I don't want to be put in
11 the position to sacrifice any of my neighbors
12 and any part of Vermont. Please, take that
13 into consideration. Strengthen the town plans.
14 Give us some voice. Thank you.

15 JAN EASTMAN: Okay. Next is Walter
16 Lauf.

17 WALTER LAUF: I'm Walter Lauf and I'm
18 from Castleton. And, um, I first of all can
19 just imagine the amount of time that you people
20 have spent coming up with to me a very, very
21 complex so complex, it's very difficult to
22 digest it for we lay people. Never the less,
23 we do appreciate the work you've done. Um,
24 some of the items are good thinking, good
25 planning, but, um, there's one problem that is

1 very apparent through the whole proposal to
2 date. And that is referred to regional
3 planning commissions as was previously stated
4 or you just referred to communities.

5 Um, I am -- I'm located on -- on west
6 side of the Grandpa Knob in Pittsford ridge.
7 And the other day, my wife and I, on Monday,
8 we -- the whole west side, the whole perimeter,
9 the west side that's Hubbardton and Castleton,
10 as well as the east side which is West Rutland
11 and Pittsford. And we -- we checked every home
12 we could. We probably missed some and, like a
13 previous speaker, were very conservative. But
14 on the west side, Castleton and Hubbardton, we
15 counted 76 dwellings. That's where people live
16 and do and have their being and have had for
17 generations. On the east side, there's a total
18 of 132, for a total of 208 dwellings on the
19 perimeter of that ridge line. And if you
20 multiply that by the average of three people
21 per dwelling, you know, you come up with like
22 624. If you do four people per dwelling,
23 you're up in the 800s.

24 And so when I look at it and I think
25 what -- probably if I were sitting there, I

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1 could not have a clear conscience if I had not
2 taken into consideration the rock bottom
3 people, individual homes, individual people,
4 not communities, families. Families and
5 individuals -- individual people. These are
6 the people who are going to be impacted and
7 really impacted. And to me, there's no
8 question any more about health hazards. It's
9 being established and confirmed as time goes on
10 by medical people.

11 Also, the problem -- the property values
12 as was eloquently explained by the previous
13 speaker here, the impact on property values --
14 and for many of us, particularly we people who
15 are in retirement years, it's our major asset.
16 And once that is destroyed, what are we going
17 to do? I mean, you've taken it out from under
18 us for a system which is 23 percent efficient,
19 something that will last for 20 years. And so
20 to the people who continue to live in these

21 areas, what's going to happen to happen to
22 those monsters up on the hill after you have
23 been -- after you have despoiled the whole
24 area? You ruin the lives of people as been
25 evidenced by the Lowell thing. But, please,

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1 it's people you have to consider. Thank you.

2 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Um, next is
3 Carol Geery.

4 CAROL GEERY: Um, hi. I'm Carol Geery.
5 Um, I'm a resident of the Town of Clarendon.
6 Um, I also am a member of the Clarendon
7 Planning Commission and I'm the Clarendon
8 Planning Commission Representative to the
9 Rutland Regional Planning Commission. I'm also
10 a member of the, um, Board of Adjustment in
11 Clarendon. Um, I'm relatively new to Vermont.
12 We've lived in Clarendon for 24 years. Um, I
13 do have one child who was born here so she, I
14 guess, can start to claim maybe someday being a
15 native of Vermont.

16 Um, I -- I have two experiences with,
17 um, the issue of the turbines. One is the

18 personal issue. Um, our home is less than a
19 mile from Susie Peak, which was the site of the
20 community wind farm, um, project that, um,
21 hopefully and luckily ended in 2009. Um, at
22 that time, we started to research just like
23 every person here. And every person has been
24 -- probably talked to you on -- started
25 researching, um, the issue of wind turbines

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1 affects on health and environment, property
2 values, um, the effectiveness of them in terms
3 of, um, as an energy source. And it's
4 interesting because I noticed that the number
5 of people opposed to these projects is
6 increasing every year and that's because more
7 projects are coming onboard. The only people
8 who are in favor of these projects are people
9 who have not had, um, a project proposed near
10 their home. So that's my personal, um, thing.

11 From -- I'm not representing the
12 planning commission, either of them, but I just
13 want to point out, um, that I know in your, um,
14 draft report, um, you suggest that regional

15 planning commission should be, um, the level of
16 involvement in terms of local, um, input. And
17 I'm here to say that's, um, ridiculous. I
18 don't know what other word to use. I think the
19 regional planning commission, um, is based on
20 the towns and, um, it's the towns who should be
21 driving the process. And if that's true, then
22 the towns should be the ones who are involved,
23 um, in providing the input to the Public
24 Service Board.

25 I also, um, think that, um, well, if

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1 you're familiar with regional plans, um,
2 there's 13 goals and they should all
3 (inaudible). And, um, the energy goals and our
4 regional plan right now are being looked at.
5 The problem that we have, in terms of a
6 regional planning commission, is that, um, it's
7 a catch 22. We really can't comment on things
8 until projects come before us.

9 And so, in our regional planning
10 commission, um, we have members who refuse to
11 even discuss the issue of wind turbines, um, or

12 other energy generating projects like you're
13 talking about until they come before us. Yet
14 our local plans have -- all have mentioned, I
15 think there's six of them in particular, have
16 no wind turbines as part of their plans.
17 Clarendon, Ira, Wallingford, West Rutland,
18 Castleton, Pittsford and Hubbardton have all
19 put that in their plan. And those towns, in
20 the majority of towns on that regional planning
21 commission determined that they were not
22 opposed to wind turbines, so those six towns'
23 plans would be basically meaningless.

24 So, I just think that -- um, I could say
25 a lot more, obviously and everybody has said

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1 that. But in terms of regional plans, we want
2 to be careful in thinking that that's a
3 democratic process because it might not be and
4 it will -- it could, the voices of the
5 individual towns could be, um, put aside if the
6 majority of regional plan decided to include
7 something in that plan. Thank you.

8 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Next is

9 Marissa Grabowski.

10 MARISSA GRABOWSKI: Hi. As I look
11 around this room, it's become very apparent to
12 me that I am probably the youngest person in
13 here. And that is a concern of the State in
14 general. And why I want to get to a different
15 perspective of mine, and that is a lot of
16 people my age leave the State. They go, they
17 make their money, they find their future
18 husbands and wives, and the reason for that is
19 that they always want to come back. And the
20 reason for that is that they don't have to
21 worry about their children growing up with
22 health problems from smog or anything, because
23 Vermont, traditionally, has had a very good
24 educational system, a lot of one on one
25 teachers, and I honestly believe that if you

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1 put up something that's going to affect our
2 health, that's going to make it so that my
3 generation can't come become to this State.
4 They can't come back to their family property
5 because their families have left it. Is it

6 worth it? I mean, honestly, I know we all need
7 to save energy and Vermonters traditionally
8 always do that. They have the one light on at
9 night. That is in one room. And then that
10 light goes off when they go to bed.

11 And as a state, I have never heard of
12 there being an energy crisis in Vermont. Never
13 heard that. It's always been a surplus. It's
14 always been, oh, we -- like, for example,
15 Proctor, until recently had historical low rate
16 of energy cost-wise until the merger with GPS,
17 which is Green Mountain Power. Now, that's
18 because we don't use a ton of energy. And my
19 question is, is why are we trying to find ways
20 that cause so much destruction when instead, we
21 could conserve energy even more by putting
22 projects that insulate people's homes, by
23 making public transportation available to
24 Castleton and Hubbardton, all of those regions.
25 Make The Bus even more prevalent so people like

1 myself can drive down to the Amtrak Station or
2 to where the bus drops off and Castleton and

3 just park the cars and go ride the bus to work.
4 And have a more fluent and more ready schedule.

5 And, instead, we're trying to find ways
6 that seem renewable on the surface yet more and
7 more studies have been shown where there's
8 greater impact than what you're gaining. And
9 I'd like to leave off with just saying I have a
10 very good friend currently living in Germany.
11 And he recently broke down on the Audubon, the
12 super highway where people go 120 or more
13 speed-wise, miles per hour, incredibly noisy,
14 he could still hear those turbines that are a
15 good five miles away. Now, this is a state
16 where we live and you can hear the frogs
17 chirping at night, the crickets in your house.
18 Do you honestly think that (inaudible) the
19 turbines is going to stop that? Or are we just
20 going to hear a constant fan? Thank you.

21 JAN EASTMAN: Next is Rick Grabowski.

22 RICH GRABOWSKI: So, thank you. Um, I
23 have a few concerns and comments and questions,
24 too, about wind power. Um, first of all,
25 energy isn't our big problem. It's the home

1 heating fuel, transportation. So, why are we
2 not tackling the real problems that's at the
3 roots? Um, my feeling is the gold rush will
4 pan for a lot of people. Um, two, um, I just
5 recently learned through the trade fair
6 commission, um, it's not green energy, it's
7 brown energy, because we're selling the credits
8 to other states so they can produce CO2. What
9 are we accomplishing there? Nothing.

10 Um, the environment is being totally
11 destroyed on these sites, although we've
12 been lied to over and over and over again. Um,
13 why is the government -- the State government
14 even listening to these people? Are some of
15 them dipping from the well or what? Um, fair
16 concern.

17 Um, just, um, what's going on? Why are
18 we losing our true values with life itself?
19 This is not the problem. This is not energy.
20 We're not addressing the problem with CO2.
21 Again, transportation, home heating, it -- it
22 just doesn't make sense. Thank you.

23 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Next Annette
24 Smith.

25 ANNETTE SMITH: Welcome to solar city.
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1 You'd never know you were in a place that's
2 being promoted in Vermont for solar. Um, you
3 have a whole room of potential activists here
4 to do good work on renewables. And what you're
5 seeing is the energy that's tied up in fighting
6 against things instead. And I think that's one
7 of the saddest testimonies to what's happened
8 in Vermont and how much energy we are wasting,
9 instead of focusing on doing the right things.

10 So I want to make some specific comments
11 about your, um, recommendations. Um, on the
12 tiered approach, I think that tier 3 is
13 completely not realistic. It's not grounded in
14 anything real and you need to get rid of it.

15 The projects that are even 1, 2.2
16 megawatts turbine will turn a whole region
17 upside down. And so even though you stop your
18 tier two at 2.2 megawatts, and I think that's
19 still too large for wind. Um, I think that
20 your tier 3 just -- you should -- you're
21 overcomplicating it. Get rid of it.

22 Um, I agree with the statements about
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23 the town plans. I provided you this afternoon
24 with a suggestion for how you can empower town
25 plans to be given more weight and enable the

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1 democratic process to take place in the towns
2 by providing that interim planning piece of
3 about six months.

4 What we have seen in some of these
5 towns, West Rutland and in Pittsford in
6 particular, in order to get the town plan
7 amended, they had to petition the Selectboard
8 or at least gather the signatures to petition
9 Selectboard. Um, and I think that that's
10 unnecessary and that's a piece that I would
11 like to see you insert, is to make it so that
12 it is not a fight and so that it does power the
13 planning process and that it's our best
14 democratic process. And that it is open to
15 everyone, pro and con. And I've seen it work
16 over and over. And it doesn't matter whether
17 people are opposed or for something. They need
18 to have a clear written community standard in
19 the town plan. Many towns don't have that and

20 they really need to have that opportunity.

21 I agree with the statements about the --
22 that you haven't paid enough attention to
23 sitting and setbacks. And, in particular,
24 the -- I think there are two basic problems I
25 have with -- and I really appreciate all of the

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1 time you've put into this. But I think that
2 you have brushed over the, um, opportunity in
3 Act 250. We already have district
4 coordinators, case managers. We already have a
5 good, um, website that's fabulous in terms of,
6 you know, getting documents and times.

7 They already have and good process for
8 identifying State holders and public notice.
9 And the thing that you have to look at here is
10 the Public Service Board, no matter what you do
11 in terms of tinkering around the edges, is
12 still going to ignore everybody before them
13 except the developer. And I don't know how you
14 address that if you keep it at the Board.

15 The other piece that I want to say you
16 have to address is enforcement. Act 250 has

17 enforcement. The Public Service Board does
18 not. Having to hire a lawyer on staff just to
19 deal with the compliance issues around these
20 wind sites. We are aware of people around
21 every single one of these wind sites,
22 Sheffield, Lowell and Georgia Mountain where
23 people are leaving their homes. The Public
24 Service Board receiving noise studies and the
25 only way to participate in those construction

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1 compliance is a lawyer. You must put in
2 enforcement in here. Thank you.
3 JAN EASTMAN: Next is John Geery.
4 JOHN GEERY: My wife already mentioned
5 there's a catch 22. And I think, um, on your
6 draft, um, proposal, it says you want increased
7 opportunity for public participation. And
8 that's, um, mainly primarily from increased
9 input from the regional planning commissions.
10 But then we say that their plan has to be
11 approved by the Public Service Board before it
12 would be accepted. Um, so, that just throws
13 everything right back to the Public Service

14 Board, in my opinion.

15 And then there's a quote, um, you say,
16 um, no regional plan or town can say no
17 projects in the region either directly or
18 indirectly. So, that completely takes away any
19 power that they might have. So, you're just,
20 um, aiding the Public Service Board. I don't
21 think they're really helping the public.

22 JAN EASTMAN: Next is Sheri Grabowski.

23 SHERI GRABOWSKI: Well, I actually do
24 have a couple of comments but, my first comment
25 is, um, show of hands up there, who are the

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1 Vermonters? I mean you were born here, raised
2 here and family here? One. We've got the one,
3 the token Vermonter. All right. I'm sure you
4 guys who aren't Vermonters, flatlanders like
5 me from Jersey have heard some Vermonters say
6 to you, if it ain't broke. Don't fix it?
7 Anybody up there hear that once or twice in
8 their life? Probably to some wonderful comment
9 you had made about something that was going on
10 in their lives or their town or whatever. And

11 I think about those old Vermonters. When I
12 came from New Jersey, I thought I was pretty
13 smart. I thought I knew a lot of things. But
14 I wish a lot of those old so and so's were here
15 because this would never be happening, not in
16 that Vermont.

17 And the other question I do have is, why
18 is it that we're not really truly addressing
19 what is happening to the mountains? When act
20 250 -- I'm sure we -- Killington and ski areas
21 would love not to have Act 250 in there. And
22 we have to be the ones that don't have it. I'm
23 just curious, why is that not being put in when
24 it should be? We all know that it should be
25 there. There are plenty of Vermonters who are

1 pretty hostile about, well, I wanted to sell
2 this piece or that piece of property to so and
3 so and I can't sell it because Act 250 won't
4 allow it. But on the other hand, they didn't
5 mind it when something like this would show up
6 or Killington showed up or -- and they had to
7 toe the line to everything. But because it's a

8 power company and they make millions and
9 millions of dollars that they're getting from
10 us, from the United States government, we're
11 going to give them money to ruin Vermont?

12 And my other question was -- because I
13 did read about Green Mountain Power and it was
14 a lovely article pertaining to the fact that
15 they were going to have to put in that ten
16 million dollars -- I forget. Something about
17 the power -- yes. Ten million dollars. And
18 then their -- the other comment was, another
19 problem is that we have 60 year-old power
20 lines, probably some of the original ones that
21 went in, 60 years plus. And I was wondering,
22 since I recently, oh, last year, went down to
23 Kentucky and as I was driving along I'm looking
24 at these massive power lines, huge, monstrous,
25 metal fixtures in the landscape right along the

1 road. And I started thinking, is that what
2 Vermont's going to look like? Are we going to
3 have these big massive power lines? These big
4 metal -- is that our next step? Because, I

5 mean, how else are they going to put up these
6 wonderful power lines so we can send power to,
7 oh, New Jersey? Because they can't conserve
8 like the rest of Vermont has?

9 I mean, I'm pretty sure when I think
10 back to when I was growing up down there and it
11 was, um, President Carter during the gas crisis
12 had said, everybody needs to conserve. And he
13 was poo poed. Funny. We should conserve
14 first before we build things that we can't take
15 down.

16 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Next, is it
17 Stan Sharp? I don't know the last name.

18 STAN SHAPIRO: Shapiro. I introduced
19 myself. I'm Stan Shapiro. I'm a medical
20 doctor. I'm a cardiologist here in Rutland.
21 Um, I have specifically concerns about the
22 medical consequences of sleep deprivation. I
23 think that this is a very valid issue when it
24 comes in terms of proximity to where people
25 live with wind turbines. I believe that there

2 one's going to site industrial wind turbines,
3 particularly on mountains where there are
4 valleys. Now I recognize that this does not
5 involve very many people relative to a large
6 population. However, I think that we really
7 need to work on a principal that we should do
8 no harm to others and that we should not do
9 unto anyone what we don't want done to
10 ourselves.

11 And there are numerous sitings and -- in
12 the medical literature of people who have been
13 affected by sleep deprivation because of
14 proximity to wind turbines. So that any siting
15 really needs to be validated that it's not
16 going to cause concerns. Now, I know that
17 you've all heard about sound and sound waves.
18 I'm not -- I don't have expertise in that to
19 comment, but I do believe that there are
20 significant consequences to when people can't
21 get sleep that results in, um, elevation of
22 blood pressure, aggravation of coronary
23 disease, increase in arrhythmia tendencies, and
24 I'm hoping that when the day is done, that if
25 we do decide that we will have more wind

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1 turbines within proximity to communities, that
2 this be taken into very significant account.

3 I also believe that we really need to
4 take some strong considerations regarding the
5 true benefit of what wind turbines do in terms
6 of our, um, communities. And that for some
7 reason other, this has the, um, almost like the
8 abortion issue. I think that the siting
9 commission and the State really need to
10 understand why people from so many different
11 backgrounds, political persuasions, economic
12 strata, are so strongly united in their
13 opposition when it comes into their
14 communities. Granted there's the generic, oh,
15 I love renewable energy that's all over the
16 State, but the vast majority of communities
17 that have been affected have very strong
18 oppositions. And so if siting is to occur,
19 let's try to put them in regions where people
20 are not affected. Because I do think that it
21 really does destroy human lives where there's
22 people and where they live. Thank you.

23 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Anybody else
24 here want to make comments? Just give us your

25 name when you speak. Thank you.

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1 KAREN ELLIOT: Hello. Um, I hadn't
2 planned to speak but I've heard -- oh, I'm
3 sorry. I'm Karen Elliot. I'm a flatlander.
4 My husband lived here for 30 years. We lived
5 all over the world. And we came to Vermont in
6 the late '80s. And so we saw what happens to
7 people when the government unabashedly does
8 what they think that their power allows them to
9 do by raping the land and taking away the
10 trees. There's not a tree in Haiti. There's a
11 defined line between -- on that island between
12 the Dominican Republic and Haiti where the
13 government took the land away from people and
14 you know. Now there are occasions where they
15 eat dirt for nutrition because the government
16 took away their land.

17 So what I came away with this evening
18 was, um, I believe that you guys have been
19 appointed by Governor Shumlin. And I've met
20 him several times, had my picture taken with
21 him several times and I like him. But what I

22 want -- would like for you to take back to him
23 this evening is, based on what I hear and what
24 I see, and when I listen to when he talks to
25 me, he seems to want to be known as a

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1 progressive governor. He's working really hard
2 on every single payer insurance so that all the
3 people can be covered and I believe he's doing
4 the best that he can along those lines.

5 But I -- when you see him again, I'm
6 hoping that you will ask him to have the
7 foresight to resist this flash in the pan and
8 that's all there is. Because it's been proven
9 over and over again, that these, um,
10 contraptions have a shelf life of about 20
11 years. In fact, it's on the news today where
12 BP was selling their wind farms already and
13 they have several. They're up for sale now.
14 So I'm wondering if you could ask Mr. Shumlin
15 to have the foresight to resist this flash in
16 the pan because of peer pressure, because he
17 wants to be known as a good governor. And I
18 would like for him to save the beauty and the

19 sanctity of this State for others, too, because
20 people come here because of the beauty and the
21 sanctuary. And I would like for him to be
22 democratic enough to respect the people that
23 elected him and that he governs because,
24 obviously, the people don't want to lose the
25 state that they've come to love and grow up in.

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1 So, thank you and I hope that he will listen to
2 your message because, if he could just look at
3 other -- around the world and see what happens
4 when government doesn't listen to people, I
5 think he'll see where this is heading.

6 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. So, anyone
7 else?

8 KATHLEEN ISLEY: I'm Kathleen Isley from
9 East Haven Vermont, Northeast Kingdom. Um, I
10 would just like to add to what the cardiologist
11 said about the affects on human health from
12 industrial scale wind turbines. And I would
13 imagine that if there's harm to humans, that it
14 would also equally be harmful to the wildlife
15 and possibly even the vegetation. And I think

16 that that's really worth looking into. And the
17 other thing that I would like to say very
18 briefly is that I really appreciate so deeply
19 everything that everybody has said tonight.
20 I'm just so honored to be amongst this group of
21 fine people.

22 And, um, you or we will hear ourselves
23 refer to as a small vocal minority, which I
24 suppose we are -- perhaps we are a minority,
25 but I didn't actually hear anybody here tonight

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1 speaking for industrial scale wind. And I
2 don't think I have heard much of that, maybe
3 once or twice at some of these public meetings.
4 And so I say that there's a large silent
5 majority that doesn't have the nerve to be
6 heard. They're not here. And they're silent.
7 And I'd also say -- I really question, um, how
8 much attention should we pay to the highly paid
9 wind lobbyists, um, and those who are mandated
10 to support Governor Shumlin's wishes in regard
11 to industrial wind. And I guess that's all I
12 would have to say, except that for big wind is

13 big spin.

14 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?

15 TERRY BURKE: Hi, I'm Terry Burke and
16 I'm from Castleton. Um, when I heard Mr.
17 Grabowski say, This doesn't make sense, well, I
18 just have to say what's on my heart. Um, I
19 don't know if you ever remember the story from
20 childhood about the emperor who didn't have any
21 clothes and he's walking down the street and
22 everyone's going, oh, look at the emperor
23 because they were afraid to be the first one to
24 say there's something wrong with this picture.
25 But there was a little kid who didn't know

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1 about, you know, going along with the crowd and
2 he, like, shouted out, guy don't have any
3 clothes on.

4 So I'm just going to say something. Um,
5 when it doesn't make sense, maybe you have to
6 look farther away from what we're seeing. But,
7 um, there's -- this is documented in the UN and
8 maybe some of you know about it. It's Gen. 21.
9 And so you can go -- please go home and look up

10 a general 21. What is that? Well, it's a
11 sustainable -- because that was sustainable,
12 comes from Gen. 21 and the it's about global
13 government. And sometimes maybe there's forces
14 in the world that don't really care about
15 Vermont. They don't really care about
16 Vermonters. They don't care about the people
17 living in Grandpa's Knob, because there's these
18 big plans, you know. But if you go on -- if
19 you -- I ask you to go home and Google it and
20 look up General 21. Um, Burlington, there's a
21 group in Burlington that are very supportive of
22 Gen. 21. And if you look on the map of what
23 the plan is, for the long term plan for Vermont
24 for Gen. 21, it's -- Vermont's pretty much
25 depopulated, because the plan is they have to

1 get rid of all of these places that are
2 unsustainable, kind of private property
3 according to them, vehicles are unsustainable, ski
4 mountains are unsustainable, um, people live in
5 rural areas are unsustainable because they need
6 people to move into high metropolitan areas.

7 Even our economy. You go, okay. Okay.
8 Can it be that the -- our government doesn't
9 see that they're destroying the economy? How
10 come they don't see the wind turbines are
11 banned for our State? Because they don't care.
12 There's a bigger agenda. And until we look at
13 the big picture, we're going to miss and we're
14 going to be railroaded to those high-rise
15 apartments. Because they're causing it.
16 They're causing us to not want to live in this
17 State.

18 Maybe -- I don't think -- you know, I'm
19 not saying people in this Board, you know,
20 necessarily feel that way or -- but I question,
21 maybe some people in the government in
22 Montpelier, maybe they're promised jobs there.
23 I don't know. But the emperor doesn't have any
24 clothes. There you go.

25 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. And one more.

1 ANN RADEMACHER: Hi. I'm Ann Rademacher
2 and I've spent, um, a few days with you guys
3 and I really have to say that the amount of

4 time and effort that you guys have put into
5 this, I can't even imagine. And I know you're
6 gotten a lot of testimony, um, sent to you and
7 I can imagine that there's probably so much
8 that you haven't even been able to read every
9 single word and there may be something in there
10 that you've missed. Um, and maybe somebody can
11 bring it forward to you at some point.

12 One thing I think that was talked about
13 in one of the meetings was a -- like a no go
14 situation where the ANR, um, maybe, for
15 example, said that the area was so precious and
16 so valuable that it just didn't make any sense
17 for developers to go ahead with it. That it's
18 a waste of their time and it's a waste of your
19 time and everybody else's time. But that
20 doesn't stop them. And I know you said, well,
21 legally, we can't tell them they can't go ahead
22 with the permit.

23 But, I know you talked with Reunion and
24 you told them that this wasn't a good location
25 and that's about the time that we found out

1 about it and they came to all of the towns
2 telling us how wonderful renewable energy was
3 and that's when we were like, well, wait a
4 minute. You know, is that good or is it not
5 good? And we started doing our homework. And
6 we also have spent many, many hours. Um, maybe
7 not as quite as many hours, but some of us,
8 pretty close. Um and I think we are still
9 living in this doubt of, is it going to happen?
10 Is it not going to happen? The ANR thinks this
11 is a very valuable thing. We've got the
12 Hubbardton Battlefield. We have people living
13 close to the ridgeline. If it can go here,
14 where can't it go? I mean, there's no other
15 place I can think of that has had many reasons
16 to not put it here at this location. And yet,
17 we're still worried. We're still here. This
18 many people showed up to talk about it because
19 we're concerned.

20 And I think the idea of you being
21 able -- or the Public Service Board Department
22 being able to say, this is just -- should be
23 off the table and so that we can go home and
24 not have to worry about it anymore. Thank you.

25 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. This gentleman

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1 here.

2 JOHN LEWANDOWSKI: My name is John
3 Lewandowski. I'm from Newark. I'm sure people
4 have heard there's a (inaudible) wind that's
5 trying to come in. One thing I haven't heard
6 mentioned a lot is need, the need for the
7 power. Need on an electrical basis for the
8 power. In the past year, Sheffield has been
9 curtailed because they're an -- they
10 destabilized the grid. Now they're not a -- a
11 base load power. It's not dispatchable. You
12 can't call them up and tell them we need power.
13 You can't tell them, okay, shut it down
14 tonight. You can tell them to shut down and
15 that's what happened. It happened at Lowell.
16 Lowell, we came online this year, very end of
17 last year and they've already been curtailed.
18 So, part of the process should be a need. It's
19 like, why put more intermittent power that also
20 needs to be backed up and a lot of times is
21 backed up by fossil fuels. They don't want to
22 tell you that. They say, no, we're clean. But
23 they don't tell you they're being backed up by

24 fossil fuels. They need to -- you know, the
25 need does need to be there.

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1 Because if they're being curtailed now,
2 what happens -- put more in what -- are they
3 going to do with those? Sheffield ran about
4 20 -- just over 23 percent of their -- um, of
5 their made for capacity last year. 23 percent
6 out of 40 megawatts is about nine. You could
7 put nine megawatts diesel power in this room,
8 dispatchable. Not that diesel is the answer,
9 but it's got to be something between a foot
10 print the size of this room and a footprint
11 that takes two and a half miles of ridgeline.
12 Thank you.

13 JAN EASTMAN: Someone in the back of the
14 room.

15 PAT CLARK: I'm from Hubbardton and I'm
16 Pat Clark. Um, my question or comment that I'd
17 like to make is to Governor Shumlin who gave us
18 all the outline, each town, each town here is
19 represented. What we had to do not to get the
20 turbines and we did everything that Governor

21 Shumlin outlined for us to do and he said, he
22 made this comment, it should not be shoved down
23 the town's throats that do not want it. Now
24 what happened to all of that, that statement?
25 We have done our homework. We have come here

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1 to all of the meetings. And we just feel like,
2 you know, we're not being heard.

3 And my other question or comment is,
4 when these wonderful turbines break down, who
5 fixes them or do they just stand there. Not as
6 pretty as the Statute of Liberty, but they just
7 stand there. Forever? Leaking? Broken arms.
8 That's it. That really makes our country and
9 our State very pretty. Thank you.

10 JAN EASTMAN: Um, anyone else? Okay.
11 There are two people who want to comment again
12 and I'm -- we've got the time. So start there
13 and then come down here and then and...

14 STAN SHAPIRO: I'm Stan Shapiro. And
15 I'm not commenting as a physician now, I'm
16 commenting as a citizen. I really -- um, I
17 have a lot of concern in terms of, I understand

18 that the legislature was mandated -- mandated
19 the Public Service Board to initiate judgments
20 that would increase the amount of renewables
21 that existed here in the State of Vermont. I
22 personally feel that industrial wind turbines,
23 while they are renewable, have been oversold in
24 terms of the benefit. I also believe that -- I
25 also understand that there are subsidies that

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1 are given to renewable, um, developers, as
2 there are subsidies given to fossil fuel
3 developers.

4 But the amount of money that is involved
5 with the production tax credit is, in my mind,
6 abominable compared to the impact on average
7 people who have homes, whose property values
8 will be decimated, and who will not live in the
9 communities where anyone's going to come and
10 buy a house. I know that the developer comes
11 in and says, well, there's no studies that
12 exist that say that your property value
13 actually goes down in spite of the study here
14 and study there.

15 But the reality is, who in their right
16 mind who wants to come and live in this
17 incredibly beautiful state wants to live in an
18 industrialized park of massive proportion? I
19 mean it's so antithetical to who we are and
20 what we are. And the fact is, I think that
21 there's -- the term environmental injustice
22 really applies here. When someone can come in
23 and over a period of time, make close to a
24 million of dollars because they initiate a
25 project and then decent, good people can't live

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1 in their homes, have no way of ever getting
2 anything out of their homes because they're put
3 in proximity, I just think that's a terrible
4 thing.

5 And I think that, you know, essentially
6 a democratic government ought to know better.
7 They're supposed to be supporting, um, average
8 people, not privileged people who come in and
9 role the dice on this project or that project
10 and know that if they hit one, they've hit the
11 mother load. So I have a real issue with the,

12 um, elitism that is involved and the privilege
13 that is incurred to so very few and so very
14 many people who live around these things are
15 going to have their -- their lives decimated.

16 JIM MOREY: For the record, Jim Morey
17 from Windham. I'm going to be very brief.
18 First thing, I wanted to, um, add a comment to
19 the doctor, and that is that at Southern
20 Vermont, the big part of our economy is second
21 homeowners and retirees. And I don't believe
22 there's a person in the State that can convince
23 me we're going to get a lot of new second
24 homeowners to come buy properties within two
25 miles of an industrial wind farm. As a matter

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1 of fact, I know they will not. They pay a
2 higher tax rate, they employ their local people
3 to help take care of their properties. We're
4 going to lose them and the retirees. So, when
5 you look at the economic cost of these
6 developments, I wish you could try to factor
7 that in.

8 I'm going to call -- I'm going to say
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9 one thing that may sound controversial. I'm
10 very, very disappointed to find that almost
11 everybody in this room well researched, well
12 meaning, unpaid people, have expressed
13 themselves so clearly. We've got a big problem
14 here. We don't have a lobbyist here from the
15 wind companies, the wind developers. I don't
16 see any three-piece suit lawyers. I don't see
17 any of these people here and there's one
18 reason. They think they've won already.
19 They've got it -- the S30. They believe
20 they've got this whole thing beat that they
21 aren't even bothering to show up. So, where
22 are these 70 percent of all Vermonters who are
23 in favor of this when they don't come to a
24 meeting, when you read the comments of WCAS,
25 you read the comments of the Burlington Free

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1 Press, you read all of the comments that run 75
2 percent against this thoughtless development.
3 So, people, pay attention. There's nobody here
4 supporting the wind mafia, the wind lobby, the
5 big money win. We're losing right now. And

6 about the only hope we've got left are the five
7 people sitting on that stage. Thank you very
8 much.

9 JAN EASTMAN: Anyone else? Um, can I --
10 I want to hear from people we're not heard
11 from.

12 So, we've got a gentleman back there who
13 we haven't heard from.

14 GREG RICHERT: My name is Greg Richert.
15 I'm from Hubbardton and I was sitting in on the
16 first wind tower meeting in Hubbard when --
17 before wind power even showed up. I can't
18 remember their name at this point, but I was
19 sitting, listening to the salesman pitch that,
20 um, well, the tower's going to be like 150 feet
21 tall and they're only going to be -- um, we
22 need a road access of maybe 20 feet wide to
23 access these towers. And -- and I was in favor
24 of those. I supported the wind towers. I
25 thought it was really where -- you know,

1 something we really, really needed. And then I
2 sat on the second conversation with Reunion

3 Power and they tell me they need the road 80
4 feet wide, they've got to take the top off the
5 mountains.

6 I said, how much dynamite. Are we
7 talking about a million pounds or million tons
8 worth and they just looked at me kind of funny.
9 I said, well, if you're going to blow the top
10 off, you've got to have some sort of dynamite.
11 And then they said, well, the towers are going
12 to be 480 feet tall. And I said, well, wait a
13 minute. It was 150 feet you were talking
14 before, not much higher than the tower on
15 Grandpa's Knob. That was acceptable to me.
16 And then we find out it was a lie all the way
17 around the whole ballpark.

18 So I think that, um, it's really sad to
19 think that they have to lie their way to the
20 top of this mountain to get there. And, um,
21 the promise they made to people, I know once --
22 one family is not here right now -- if they put
23 this road through up -- they're going to take
24 the front porch off their house if they build
25 this road. And they're concerned they're going

1 to lost their front porch. Now, how close does
2 that come to your house, you know? That this
3 road has to be that wide. And then they inform
4 us that they're going to have to -- they can't
5 make the turn on the one corner, so they're
6 going to want to cut through the firehouse
7 parking lot and making a road next to our new
8 firehouse. And that goes on and on and on.

9 And so I just think that, um, it's not
10 planned very well. It's all about the money.
11 And I'm glad the people here that have backed
12 out of the deals, um, have come forward and I'm
13 sorry that we really can't see the wind power
14 as a benefit to us. And, um, you know,
15 that's -- that's the sad part. And the
16 Battlefield is another part of it. But, um,
17 the massive destruction I guess is what bothers
18 me the most, not the 20 foot roads they
19 promised. So, thank you.

20 JAN EASTMAN: Okay. We've got three.
21 Annette right here and then Kathleen and then
22 I'm thinking Tom.

23 ANNETTE SMITH: Annette Smith. I wanted
24 to address the recommendation about the ANR
25 permits for local presumption. I think we have

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1 a dual problem here. One is that when ANR does
2 come in and says, no, as in the Deerfield Wind
3 case, the Public Service Board ignored them.
4 And we've seen several instances where the
5 Department has also come in with
6 recommendations that the Board has ignored.
7 But the idea of giving the Agency of Natural
8 Resources a rebuttable presumption, I think is
9 truly outrageous suggestion, because the -- if
10 the Public Service Board's public process is
11 bad, ANR is terrible.

12 Um, we have seen -- and I think also
13 with two of you as former secretaries and
14 another person sitting on the panel who is a
15 secretary and a former, um, deputy secretary, I
16 really wonder if that's a recommendation that
17 the four of you can credibly give. I mean, I
18 respect your, um, work as secretaries. It may
19 have been different when you were secretaries.
20 In fact, I think it was. It was a much more
21 open, um, agency than it is now. And now, what
22 I have seen is that the developers come in and

23 they have their way with all of the Agency
24 staff and the door is slammed shut to us. We
25 have tried to participate with credible experts

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1 on the water permits. We have now seen the
2 agency listen entirely to the developers
3 experts and completely ignore the experts we
4 brought in. Public Service Board just did same
5 thing and I provided to you a series of e-mails
6 before the decision came out to show you there
7 were substantive issues filling headquarters
8 streams, use of (inaudible) spreaders, using
9 the wrong curb numbers to estimate the storm
10 water runoff. These are real issues.

11 In the past, we could sit down with
12 Agency staff, scientists and talk about it with
13 our experts, their experts. That door is shut
14 now. So there is no public process in ANR.
15 There's not even any point in offering any
16 public comment, because the Agency just comes
17 back and says, we disagree. So I want to see
18 the Agency have a public process and I think
19 that must be part of your recommendations, is

20 that if you are going to provide the Agency
21 with the -- um, the rebuttal presumption, which
22 I understand has merit before this Board, then
23 you must also make recommendation for a
24 collaborative public process, one that is open
25 not just to the developers experts, but open to

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1 the public and their experts. Thank you.

2 JAN EASTMAN: So to Kathleen and then
3 back to --

4 KATHLEEN ISLEY: Kathleen Isley.
5 There's no doubt about it, wind is a renewable
6 energy source, a wonderful, free renewable
7 energy source. But industrial wind projects
8 are not necessarily renewable at all. And I
9 would pause that, in Vermont -- um, there's
10 nowhere in Vermont where they would be
11 renewable. I don't believe that industrial
12 wind even belongs in Vermont. It does belong
13 in some places, but not in Vermont.

14 And regarding the comment by the
15 gentleman in the back who ended his comment by
16 talking about massive destruction, um, I want

17 to talk about just briefly something that EF
18 Schumacher had talked about in his book Small
19 and Beautiful. And he said that, um, things
20 that -- really need to be built in human scale.
21 And what is human scale? About 500 foot tall
22 wind turbines or 20 or 35 of them on top of a
23 chopped off mountain in Vermont. Um, and what
24 he said about things that are not built in
25 human scale is that somehow or other, this is

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1 really interesting, that when you build
2 something that's way, way, way too big, that
3 the problems that come along with it match that
4 massiveness in scale. And I think you're
5 seeing and feeling that now. And, thank you
6 for listening.

7 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I just want to
8 follow up on the economic justice piece that,
9 um, Dr. Shapiro brought up. Um, and it's also
10 been mentioned by someone else in the room
11 talking about property rights. I'm a real
12 estate appraiser and a lister in the town of
13 West Rutland. And we always talk about

14 property rights as a bundle of rights that you
15 have and I'm going to forget a couple of them,
16 but one of them is to sell, one is to develop
17 your property, one is to just to enjoy it in
18 peace and quiet.

19 And I remember one of the most, um,
20 angry moments we had in, um, modifying our town
21 plan was when a very wealthy landowner who had
22 signed a lease and still remains in his lease
23 with Green Mountain Power said, well, what are
24 you doing? You're taking away my property
25 rights. And a couple of us were so angry that

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1 we -- you know, we were just sputtering
2 thinking, well, what about our rights? Why do
3 you have rights that in exercising your rights,
4 you take away mine? How is that in the public
5 good? Thank God we had an attorney in the room
6 who said, property rights are not absolute.

7 The government by its restrictions of
8 certain lands and how you can develop them, as
9 stated in Act 250, could help us out here in
10 this process. Um, if you own, say, a wetland,

11 some of those bundled rights aren't available
12 to you because the government has decided that
13 we need to protect those places. And I think
14 we need to do that and we need to protect the
15 property rights of regular people. Most of us
16 Vermonters, most of the people in the room are
17 land poor. What we have is our land. And
18 we -- I personally made sacrifices and continue
19 to make sacrifices like spending all of my free
20 time fighting industrial wind to try to keep
21 that property. And where is the economic
22 justice in that? Make no mistake about it,
23 they don't want to build this on Grandpa's Knob
24 because we have better wind on Grandpa's Knob.
25 They want to build it here just like they

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1 wanted to build it in Lowell because they think
2 we're a bunch of poor farmers and that they can
3 get away with it.

4 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Um, we have
5 more.

6 TOM HUGHES: Hi. My name is Tom Hughes.
7 I'm a Rutland native and Middlebury resident.

8 I agree with the last several hundred
9 statements made here so I won't repeat them
10 all. Um, I just, um, wish that, you know, this
11 commission would be looking for ways to decide
12 where to site energy projects, would, um,
13 consider our legal system and think of every
14 Vermont ridge top, mountain top, as innocent
15 until proven guilty and given the presumption
16 that it's worthy of protection and
17 preservation. Thank you.

18 UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Governor Shumlin
19 was presented to the Vermont State (inaudible
20 in October -- I'm from Hubbardton. And he
21 was -- had a question that answered and he was
22 asked about the wind towers and Grandpa's Knob
23 and the fact that the four towns had voted
24 against it. And he said to everyone there, if
25 the towns don't want it, it won't happen. But

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1 he's still trying.

2 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Okay.

3 RICK GRABOWSKI: Rick Grabowski. I just
4 have a couple of things to ask the panel. One,

5 please keep in mind that the wind might be
6 renewable, but it's not a replaceable source of
7 energy. It has not replaced any coal plants or
8 any other plants that I know of. Two, don't
9 let anybody influence you when making your
10 decisions, government officials, lobbyists, et
11 cetera. Do this from your heart and I think
12 you'll find the right answer. Thank you.

13 CAROL GEERY: Carol Geery, um, I almost
14 feel like someone who showed up for class and
15 didn't do my homework, because I honestly have
16 to admit, I didn't go through the, um, draft,
17 um, proposal that you've put forth, um, as
18 closely as I should have. Um, but a lot of
19 people have. And I know a lot of the comments,
20 um, are very passionate but may not address
21 some of the issues that you have been
22 designated to address.

23 I think it's interesting that you called
24 this sitting commission and I feel like, um,
25 that you're coming at it and you're coming at

2 about industrial wind or solar or other
3 renewable energy products, I feel like we
4 should be starting at the ground level of what
5 are appropriate setbacks, health impacts,
6 esthetic impacts, and setting those standards.
7 And then from there, determining where site
8 should be, where projects should be sited.

9 I truly believe if we did it honestly
10 and use the research and literature and the --
11 um, and the experiences of all of the European
12 countries and all of the states out west, what
13 we would find is there is not one appropriate
14 place to site an industrial wind turbine in the
15 State of Vermont. But of course we're not
16 doing that. What we are trying to do is come
17 from the top down -- literally from the top of
18 the mountains and take the reverse view of,
19 well, if we put it here, how many people will
20 be pissed off about this and can we get away
21 with it? And I think that's the biggest issue
22 I have with your commission, is that I think
23 you're a top -- you're looking at it from a top
24 down point of view. And no matter what you
25 decide, people are going to get screwed by the

1 whole process. So that's the more emotional,
2 um, thing that I would not have said had we not
3 had extra time. Thank you.

4 JAN EASTMAN: So who else do we have?
5 Right here.

6 DEREK SAARI: Thanks again. In October
7 of 2012, I put in the Rutland Herald a public
8 invite to see the iceberg with managing Green
9 Mountain Power and the asset manager of
10 (inaudible) LLC to come on my property. I also
11 invited the State of Vermont on my property if
12 they wanted to come. What was amazing and not
13 too amazing to me, um, amazing how many people
14 came. What was not amazing was the fact that
15 the developer never showed up. I would not
16 expect Mr. Heisenberg to be here today. I've
17 never met a salesman to be afraid of selling
18 his product.

19 Um, that's a problem because, you know,
20 when I signed on in 2007, the very first public
21 hearing was actually April of 2012. That's a
22 long time before the public ever knew. So,
23 consider that when the developer is coming into
24 a community that immediately that notification

25 is put forth. But what came out of that site

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1 walk, what I really wanted people to see were
2 the challenges associated with the Pittsford
3 Ridge. And it's amazing and I wish at that
4 time I had been -- I was unable to get an
5 amount until almost December, but I wish I
6 could tell everybody that 534 acres that was my
7 property, imagine trying to get a tractor
8 trailer up that.

9 So -- and then just turn around and sell
10 1,400 acres out. But I offer an invite. My
11 name and number is on the front of that
12 consumer fraud report. So if you want to take
13 a look at what was going to happen before
14 you -- April 28th. I'll take another day off
15 like I did today. I'll drive up from New
16 Hampshire. I'll do whatever I've got to do. I
17 think it is shocking to see the amount of
18 terrain and the difficulties associated with
19 it. And it was sold to me far differently in
20 2006. It wasn't much data in 2006. So, I
21 guess when you made a decision and you made a

22 bad decision, what you do after you made that
23 decision? And I was trying to do everything I
24 could for the State of Vermont and I did that.
25 And I'm going to continue doing it and I'll

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1 probably try and get a public forum with Mr.
2 Heisenberg. I know one of the communities will
3 host it. We'll certainly let you know when we
4 do do that so you can get the real ins and outs
5 beyond that report. Um, I think it would be
6 very helpful to understand the factual aspect
7 of these easements. Thank you.

8 JAN EASTMAN: I think my battery's run
9 out.

10 PAT PREPARED: I'm Pat Prepared. You
11 know, the research that I've done in the United
12 States and around the world, as far as, um,
13 wind power is concerned is that all over the
14 world, there hasn't been one ounce of coal
15 reduced, one liter of gas or a gallon of oil.
16 Wind and solar combined cannot deliver a
17 baseline power. And as I read this -- um, your
18 literature that, you know, the State wants to

19 go 90 percent by 2050, I don't see that
20 happening.

21 What happens in 2045 where Vermont has
22 200 linear miles of ridgeline wind that they
23 want to develop and say they get half of it.
24 And we basically use 800 megawatts of power
25 right now in the State, in summer and the

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1 heating season in the winter. What happens,
2 say, in 2045 when all of the sudden some
3 politician in Montpelier says, my God, we're
4 not going to be able to make it? We've got
5 windmills all over the state and wind -- and
6 solar farms. We can't sustain this.

7 That's the question that I think should
8 be asked in Montpelier. That's all I'm going
9 to say.

10 JAN EASTMAN: Okay. Thank you. We've
11 got one more.

12 VANESSA MILLS HOLMQUIST: Thank you.
13 Vanessa Mills Holmquist again. One thing I
14 just wanted to speak to was the -- um, the
15 tactics by the appropriate stakeholders and

16 developers and frankly Peter Shumlin and Paul
17 (inaudible) with the time line coming together
18 and being awake, invested citizens will become
19 more important than ever in building
20 successful, sustainable, resilient communities
21 that can work together to discover strengths
22 and assets and creating solutions and
23 strengthening what it means to be local and to
24 buy local and grow local.

25 And how that can actually benefit and

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1 sustain us in the future and, um, reduce carbon
2 emissions with local -- um, local growers,
3 local farming, local food members. Um, I think
4 it's a big bright, promising piece of the
5 picture.

6 But, um, we can't afford to be divided
7 anymore and we can't afford to regress to
8 methods of name calling and bullying that is
9 sort of the corporate culture.

10 Um, we owe our children and Vermont
11 something better. And I believe that begins
12 with the local voices in our towns.

13 JAN EASTMAN: Thank you. Okay. Um,
14 this woman hasn't spoken, I don't believe. Oh
15 she has?

16 BEV PETERSON: I did speak first but
17 I -- we were talking about the stakes and
18 talking -- speaking of mistakes and taking
19 things back to Montpelier, um, what I really
20 think that everybody here wants, at least I do
21 is that we don't want any wind towers, no -- no
22 wind anywhere in Vermont.

23 We all love our mountains. Nobody wants
24 them any where. And that's -- that's what I
25 think your decision should be. Thank you.

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1 JAN EASTMAN: Okay. That's it. Thank
2 you very much, everyone.

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4 (Whereupon, the public hearing
5 ended at 6:54 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Amanda J. Wenrich, Registered
Professional Reporter and Notary Public, do
hereby certify that the foregoing pages
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Numbered 1 through 85, inclusive, are a true
and accurate transcription of the Siting
Meeting's Public Hearing held on April 3, 2013.

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Amanda J. Wenrich
Registered Professional Reporter
And Notary Public

My Commission expires:
February 10th, 2015

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