

ENERGY GENERATION SITING POLICY COMMISSION  
SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

January 30, 2013

5:00 p.m.

Aiken 102, Rubenstein School

University of Vermont

81 Carrigan Drive

Burlington, Vermont

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Jan Eastman, Chairwoman

Chris Recchia

Scott Johnstone

Gaye Symington

Louise McCarren

Deb Markowitz

Tom Bodett

Linda McGinnis, Director

REPORTED BY: MARILEE JAYE YOUNG, CSR

1 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Hi. My name is  
2 Jan Eastman. I'm chair of the Energy Generation  
3 Siting Policy Commission. I am going to say right  
4 off, I didn't name us, because I can't remember  
5 that name. I actually live in Peacham and,  
6 because we're at the University, I'm going to say  
7 I'm a graduate of the University of Vermont, a  
8 very long time ago, 1975. Oh, come on, I like  
9 saying that. I'm back in the classroom only I'm  
10 sitting on this side. What an experience.

11 (Comments from the floor.)

12 All right, enough. I shouldn't have said  
13 anything.

14 We have a handout that you can pick up,  
15 and we also have the Executive Order that created  
16 us. It says we're a five-member Energy Generation  
17 Siting Policy Commission, but we're actually  
18 seven, because there are two ex officio. You can  
19 read the five members: Tom Bodett, Tom is a  
20 member of the select board in the town of  
21 Dummerston, right?

22 MR. BODETT: Yeah.

23 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: And Louise  
24 McCarren, I don't know what she's doing, but she's  
25 a former chair of the Public Service Board.

1 MS. McCARREN: My list of formers is  
2 so long.

3 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Is so long.  
4 And Gaye Symington who's former speaker of the  
5 house, and Scott Johnstone who's a former  
6 secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources and  
7 formerly you were Public Works in Burlington,  
8 right?

9 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yeah.

10 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: And then we  
11 have secretary Deb Markowitz who is currently the  
12 secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources and  
13 Chris Recchia who's currently the commissioner of  
14 the Public Service Department. I also am  
15 currently -- or formerly a secretary of the Agency  
16 of Natural Resources, as well, so.

17 So, anyway, we were appointed by Governor  
18 Peter Shumlin in October to provide  
19 recommendations to the Governor and the  
20 legislature on best practices for improving the  
21 processes surrounding siting approval of electric  
22 generation projects and for public participation  
23 and representation in the siting process. For  
24 this purpose, the "electric generation project"  
25 relates to all facilities other than net-metered

1 and group net-metered facilities. So there's  
2 information on the charges available in this  
3 Executive Order, okay, but we are related to  
4 siting of any generation issue.

5 We had our first public hearing in  
6 Brattleboro a week ago on July 23, just a --  
7 excuse me -- January 23.

8 MR RECCHIA: It's a long week.

9 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Long week.

10 This will be our second public hearing. We have  
11 another scheduled for Lowell, which is in the  
12 Northeast Kingdom, near where I live, for February  
13 12. We will be doing two more public hearings,  
14 one probably late March, another early April,  
15 after we've come up with probably some draft  
16 recommendations. Our proposed schedule now is, as  
17 I say, is have our draft recommendations by the  
18 end of March, early April, and then have a final  
19 report to the legislature and the Governor by --  
20 by the last week in April.

21 So tonight we have a sign-up sheet. This  
22 sign-up sheet is if you wish to make public  
23 comment. I'd also remind everybody that we do  
24 have a website; it's [sitingcommission.vt.gov](http://sitingcommission.vt.gov).  
25 Everything that we're reviewing, seeing, all the

1 public comments, any papers that we're reviewing,  
2 and so forth, they're all available there. We  
3 are -- we have a stenographer here for to take  
4 down all that we say tonight. That will go up on  
5 the website. We welcome public comments, you  
6 know, at any time, in writing, of course, and, as  
7 I say, at other public hearings. One's -- the  
8 public hearings in late March and early April,  
9 one's likely to be in the Rutland area and one is  
10 probably going to be in Montpelier but via  
11 interactive TV.

12           What else have I forgotten to say?

13           MS. SYMINGTON: The court reporter  
14 records what they say, too.

15           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Yes. The court  
16 reporter's record what we all say.

17           MS. SYMINGTON: Most importantly  
18 what you're saying.

19           CHAIRWOMAN: And that will go up --  
20 as I say, that will go on the website. It may  
21 take a couple of weeks, but those of you here  
22 tonight, once you review that or you decide you  
23 want to add something, please feel free to do so.  
24 The other thing I should say is we apologize, or I  
25 apologize. We had a request for an interpreter

1 for sign interpreter, and we cannot honor that  
2 request. We couldn't find someone in time. We  
3 apologize profusely, so please read all of our  
4 comments, anyone else's comments that are on the  
5 website, and please get in touch with us that way,  
6 or, especially when we get to interactive site,  
7 there will be a site close, locally, for you to  
8 come and comment. We apologize. It's a lesson  
9 learned, and we will be sure we have one reserved.  
10 You have to reserve them a few days in advance,  
11 and we hadn't done that; so, by the time we got  
12 the request, couple of days ago, we haven't been  
13 able to find one. So we apologize; that is our  
14 responsibility.

15           So I've got so far, right now, unless we  
16 get a lot more sign up, I'm going to say I'm going  
17 to start on this list, and I think we will be able  
18 to accommodate everyone who's signed up and give  
19 you all about three minutes. Okay? And, as I  
20 say, we're about any source of generation siting.  
21 So I'm going to do -- I'm going to sort of read  
22 three names in advance. We've got a microphone  
23 right over here for people and, if I do three  
24 names, then you can sort of queue up. Is that all  
25 right?

1 (Unnamed speaker): I'm gonna just  
2 note that they really need to use the mic or our  
3 recorder may not be able to hear you, and so a lot  
4 of people, even if you go to it, you'll wander  
5 around. If you can try to honor it so that we can  
6 capture your comments, would be really helpful to  
7 us all. Thank you.

8 And the other thing is I'm not always  
9 good at pronunciation of people's names, so please  
10 repeat your names so that the court reporter has  
11 it accurately and don't rely upon me. All right.

12 MS. MCGINNIS: And you have a timer  
13 who's going to show you if you have one minute  
14 left. Okay?

15 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: And she is  
16 tough. So our first three are Bob Farnham, Steve  
17 Webster, and Sam Carlson.

18 THE SPEAKER: I feel like I should  
19 start out in song or something.

20 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Yeah, I know.  
21 I was talking about it. Thank you.

22 THE SPEAKER: My name's Bob Farnham.  
23 I'm from Thetford, and I actually support wind  
24 development and renewable energy development in  
25 Vermont. I think we have the opportunity in the

1 time it takes to develop new wind projects,  
2 specifically since that's hot in the news, we have  
3 the opportunity to develop siting that serves the  
4 site, so that we don't have to really bust into  
5 the side hill and add things that don't need to be  
6 there. I think that today is an opportune day to  
7 be talking about the wind development considering  
8 how windy it is outside, so I think it's -- my  
9 family's one of two original families that founded  
10 the town of it Tunbridge, and my family ran the  
11 Tunbridge Fair for 37 years. I never got in once  
12 for free. And I was talking to my father  
13 recently, two years ago, just before he died, and  
14 he was showing me the hillsides where the trees  
15 were totally gone when he was young. He died at  
16 80 years old, and he was showing me the hillsides  
17 that now are totally covered with trees. I worry  
18 less about the resilience of Vermont's mountains  
19 after talking to him about that, so I support wind  
20 development and energy efficiency in Vermont.  
21 Thermal efficiency is a great program, as well.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

24 So Steve Webster.

25 THE SPEAKER: Yes, hi, I'm Steve

1 Webster, and I'm from Underhill. And, since I  
2 just wrote it three seconds ago, I'm going to read  
3 it because I won't remember it all.

4 So I'm here today to argue in favor of  
5 siting more wind farms in Vermont and against a  
6 moratorium on new wind farms. I strongly believe  
7 that wind energy needs to be --

8 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Can you slow  
9 down. Oh, by the way, no seating of minutes.

10 THE SPEAKER: So I'm here to argue  
11 in favor of siting more wind farms in Vermont and  
12 against a moratorium on new wind farms. I  
13 strongly believe that wind energy needs to be a  
14 part of our energy supply system. Wind alone, we  
15 know, will not meet all of our energy needs but,  
16 combined with solar, biomass, hydro, and other  
17 renewable sources, it can help us wean ourselves  
18 off of fossil and nuclear fuels that put our  
19 planet at risk.

20 Yes, there are trade-offs with wind, just  
21 as there are with any energy production  
22 technology, but I feel, in general, the advantages  
23 of wind energy greatly outweigh the disadvantages,  
24 especially compared to conventional non-renewable  
25 sources of energy. I've heard some people argue

1 against wind by saying that it doesn't  
2 significantly offset oil or other fossil fuels  
3 because it produces electricity. I would argue,  
4 instead, that wind and solar and other renewable  
5 sources of electricity can significantly replace  
6 fossil fuels that we currently use for both  
7 transportation and for heating water, for example.  
8 These are two significant energy uses in Vermont  
9 that currently rely heavily on fossil fuels, and  
10 there are others.

11 To illustrate a direction I think we can  
12 and should be going, I'll describe my situation.  
13 I've got a 32-kilowatt PV system in my -- at my  
14 property, a fixed array on my barn and five also  
15 on tractors. I also have a solar hot water  
16 system. I produce all my own electricity and  
17 supply five other households and part of the  
18 electricity used by a building that Governor  
19 Shumlin owns in Brattleboro. I use my excess  
20 electricity to supplement my solar hot water  
21 system,, so I get a hundred percent of my hot  
22 water from the sun. Probably most exciting, I  
23 have a 100-percent electric Nissan LEAF.

24 In past years I would have argued  
25 vehemently against using electricity, because it

1 was so often produced with fossil and nuclear  
2 fuels, but that picture has changed. Winds now  
3 can help us provide power, not only for typical  
4 uses of electricity but also for fleets of  
5 electric cars so we can address our transportation  
6 needs using electricity from the wind. Therefore,  
7 we should continue to site wind farms in Vermont  
8 so that they can help us reach our goal of a  
9 hundred percent renewable energy in the  
10 not-too-distant future.

11 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

12 So Sam Carlson is up next; then it's  
13 going to be Sarah Dopp, John Lewandowski, and  
14 Stephen Marshall.

15 THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I live in  
16 South Burlington. I would just like to say, with  
17 respect to renewable energy, and I'm not talking  
18 about other sorts of energy siting, I think we  
19 need to do it wherever and whenever we can here in  
20 Vermont, whether it's wind or solar or biomass, we  
21 have to go for all parts, possibilities of the  
22 solution, all pieces of the puzzle. We have to be  
23 thinking globally and acting locally and being  
24 part of the solution to large global issues that  
25 we face, and that's going to affect each one of us

1 and it's going to change our behavior, and I think  
2 we just have to accept that over the next thirty  
3 years there is going to have to be huge behavioral  
4 change on the parts of everyone in this room if we  
5 are going to attain a sustainable plan. That  
6 behavioral change that's implied by that is far  
7 greater, I believe, than any negative impacts that  
8 one might imagine with respect to renewable  
9 energy. That said, I think people will be  
10 affected negatively by renewable energy, and the  
11 Siting Commission needs to be thinking very  
12 seriously about the compensatory mechanisms that  
13 are in place for people who are negatively  
14 affected as well as the incentivizing mechanisms  
15 that are in place for either individuals or towns  
16 so that they come forward and say, I want to be  
17 part of the solution, because I see this not only  
18 as being part of the global solution but because,  
19 in my town or in my own specific property, there  
20 is an advantage to me to -- to doing this, because  
21 it's serving -- that the State makes available to  
22 that town and the individual because the State has  
23 an interest in that.

24           So I think the Siting Commission needs to  
25 be thinking much more about the compensatory

1 mechanisms for the people who are negatively  
2 affected as well as the incentivizing mechanisms  
3 to get more people to come forward and say, I want  
4 to be part of the solution.

5 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

6 So Sarah, Sarah Dopp. So Sarah, John,  
7 Stephen Marshall, and then Kerry Wilson, if I  
8 could get you on this side.

9 THE SPEAKER: Sorry, I thought there  
10 was somebody in front of me.

11 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: No, no, that's  
12 all right, but thank you, Sarah.

13 THE SPEAKER: My name is Sarah Dopp.  
14 I'm the president of the South Burlington Land  
15 Trust, and we're strong proponents of renewable  
16 energy; and, indeed, South Burlington, I believe,  
17 currently has more solar panels than any other  
18 community, if that statistic is still true. So I  
19 wanted to focus on solar today, because I think  
20 that has its issues, as well as wind, that we've  
21 heard so much about.

22 Recently a project called "Clare Solar"  
23 has been presented to us in South Burlington, and  
24 it would be sited, it would be about 350 solar  
25 panels, solar arrays, in an area that's zoned as

1 natural resource protection, and that's where our  
2 concern really lies, it's in location. And I  
3 guess our position really is that the Public  
4 Service Board should take much more consideration  
5 of local sentiment and local zoning where a  
6 community may have studied the natural environment  
7 of its community for many years and have set aside  
8 areas for natural resource protection and then, to  
9 have -- have us find out that, in fact, those  
10 areas are perhaps vulnerable to development after  
11 all.

12 MS. McCARREN: May I ask you a  
13 question?

14 THE SPEAKER: Yes.

15 MS. McCARREN: Has the City of South  
16 Burlington -- do you have a plan? I mean, I know  
17 you do, but -- and has that plan considered the  
18 issue of siting renewables and has it -- has the  
19 Planning Commission or the City provided its  
20 opinion on that?

21 THE SPEAKER: I think that that's a  
22 conversation that's starting about now and  
23 probably is long overdue. There is a member of  
24 our Planning Commission here somewhere and he may  
25 be more able to answer that, in the back, if you

1 want that answer.

2 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Yes, when it's  
3 his turn.

4 THE SPEAKER: Okay. Okay.

5 MS. MCCARREN: The reason I'm asking  
6 is, what's really valuable to us is giving  
7 process.

8 THE SPEAKER: Right. Right. Well,  
9 so that was one of our points, that in the past,  
10 at least, the PSB has really quite a lot of power  
11 over siting of these renewables, kind of  
12 regardless of what the local community might say.  
13 That's a concern to us. And, consequently, I  
14 think another concern of ours is that the push  
15 toward renewable energy may divide the  
16 conservation community, and we would hate to see  
17 that happen, because the conservation community  
18 and the renewable energy community ought to be  
19 natural allies and supporters of one another, and  
20 we would hate to see this process that the State  
21 is undertaking undermined by these differences  
22 that come up.

23 And, lastly, I just wanted to speak also  
24 in favor of the incentivizing commercial and  
25 industrial building owners. There are a lot of

1 flat roofs in South Burlington and, indeed, in  
2 other parts of the state, that I think should be  
3 hosting solar arrays and ought to be incentivized,  
4 encouraged to do that, before we give up our open  
5 spaces.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

8 So, next, John Lewandowski.

9 THE SPEAKER: My name's John  
10 Lewandowski. I'm from Newark, Northeast Kingdom.  
11 I support renewables, especially on a distribution  
12 level, residential, even small commercial  
13 community-type wind, and solar. On an industrial  
14 level, I don't feel that it's necessary in this  
15 state. A call to the United States Energy  
16 Information Administration will tell you that the  
17 carbon -- the carbon dioxide emissions from  
18 generation in Vermont round out to zero. So, if  
19 we replaced all of ours, it still rounds out to  
20 zero. We are, by far, the lowest in the country,  
21 nobody is anywhere near it, including the District  
22 of Columbia. We came in 51st out of the states  
23 along with the District of Columbia. Along, I  
24 believe that we should to thermal efficiency. The  
25 people would insulate houses. We -- and you know

1 be more efficient on the way they're using things,  
2 we could replace a lot more CO2, than by changing  
3 all of the electric in this state to renewables.  
4 Renewables are good; I have no problem with  
5 renewables, but it just, you know, the siting  
6 should also be to a need and where it is.  
7 Transmission has line losses; the longer you go,  
8 the more line loss. Put the generation close to  
9 where it's needed. I don't think they would like  
10 to see them in Lake Champlain; I don't think  
11 they'd like to see them around Burlington. I've  
12 talked to people in Montpelier; they don't want to  
13 see them there either. I just think we should  
14 look more to efficiency in Vermont. That would be  
15 more of -- you know, to help global warming or,  
16 you know, climate change than anything that we  
17 could do with electricity.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you. So  
20 Stephen Marshall.

21 THE SPEAKER: Thanks for the  
22 hearing. When I heard about it I thought it was  
23 going to be about the moratorium, so I apologize  
24 if I have a narrow focus.

25 In the shadow of the proposed Lowell

1 Mountain project, an elderly couple -- I'll talk  
2 more slowly -- has visitors from Green Mountain  
3 Power. The couple is told, This project is going  
4 to happen; you better sign the release. The  
5 couple felt intimidated, felt they were told --  
6 they were being told they didn't have a choice.

7           At Solar Fest, Vermont's premier  
8 alternative energy festival, a woman sits in her  
9 booth. Her company wants to build wind power  
10 towers. When I tried to engage her in  
11 conversation, she is hesitant, nervous,  
12 uncomfortable. When I tell my friend about my  
13 experience, I am told, They want to build towers  
14 in a town that doesn't want them.

15           Now, in principle, I'm many favor of wind  
16 power and all renewables, but I'm also very  
17 cynical about the effect of the profit motive on  
18 public goods. So, when the Lowell Mountain  
19 protesters announced themselves as an occupy group  
20 and appealed to other occupiers for support  
21 against Green Mountain Power, my principal support  
22 for wind power was severely challenged. Green  
23 Mountain Power had not behaved as a good citizen  
24 and deserved opposition or occupy as a corporate  
25 bully. I support wind power; what am I to do?

1           Now we are told that, if Vermont places a  
2 moratorium on new wind power development, our  
3 hesitance will be announced to the nation that  
4 even Vermont is uncertain about the importance of  
5 alternative energy. Maybe we shouldn't care. But  
6 we do know this: Our planet is getting warmer and  
7 climates are changing at an accelerating pace, and  
8 we are in great danger. We must develop  
9 alternative energy sources if we possibly if they  
10 will remove petroleum-based energy sources and, if  
11 we proceed in ways that are not democrat, in ways  
12 abusive to the rights of citizens to control their  
13 personal affairs, we will tear apart the fabric,  
14 the social fabric which is part of the Vermont  
15 culture, its quality of life, and its survival  
16 strategy for the impending time of crisis.

17           A third way is needed. It must be  
18 democratically accountable, respect local people,  
19 and provide wind power for the public good, not  
20 for private profit. When private investment  
21 dollars are required, a firewall must be built  
22 between the interests of the investors and  
23 implementation of the development plan. I propose  
24 all wind power be developed through a publicly,  
25 publicly-accountable nonprofit, whose first task

1 will be to identify towns and locations which will  
2 welcome wind development; that all aspects of wind  
3 development proceed according to a rigid time  
4 frame to be set by accountable institutions; that  
5 all documents produced should be part of the  
6 public record; that private investment dollars can  
7 only be used for construction costs at a fixed and  
8 modest rate of return; that we create a  
9 municipality we might call a loose scape  
10 municipality or an impact municipality, to benefit  
11 all of the towns that are affected; that we fund  
12 research in ways to reduce the impacts on forests  
13 and ridgelines, because we don't need to destroy  
14 ridgelines for private profit. All benefits, if  
15 we are to do this, must go to the public sector;  
16 and that we require reduced impacts of some  
17 percentage over successive wind power  
18 developments. Let's, above all, remember that the  
19 best site is a site that isn't developed.

20 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you. So  
21 next up Kerry Wilson and Kim Fried Jennifer Ely,  
22 Michael Pendleton, and Tim -- sorry, Tim, I can't  
23 read your last name -- mechanical engineer and  
24 begins with an "H".

25 THE SPEAKER: Got it. Hoopes.

1 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Hoopes, okay.  
2 So Kerry.

3 THE SPEAKER: Hi. My name's Kerry  
4 Wilson. I'm from East Charleston, Vermont, a  
5 small Vermont town that's up in the middle of the  
6 Northeast Kingdom. I also currently have an  
7 apartment here in Burlington; and, as I make the  
8 two-hour drive to my house, I pass by three wind  
9 farms: Lowell, Sheffield, and now Georgia  
10 Mountain. Every time I see these turbines  
11 running, I really do take pride in seeing that  
12 Vermont can produce our own energy and that we're  
13 doing so in a responsible way. Not only am I a  
14 resident of Vermont, I am also a student here at  
15 UVM, studying environmental science. And, in my  
16 time here, I've learned about all the  
17 irresponsible ways in which we're producing  
18 energy. Land is being fracked with the effect of  
19 poisoning that land, nuclear plants are leaking  
20 radio waste into communities, not to mention all  
21 the effects of greenhouse gas emissions from  
22 fossil fuels. Even hydro plants are flooding  
23 people out of their lands. And, while some people  
24 here in Vermont are currently opposed to  
25 development on ridgelines, at the same time

1 mountain ranges are being completely decimated in  
2 other states, like Virginia, in order to coal mine  
3 to be able to produce power to power our homes.

4           And so, when people talk about  
5 alternatives to large-scale wind power, I really  
6 do have to wonder what it is that they're thinking  
7 about, and are these alternatives, like I just  
8 said, really better than having a few turbines be  
9 a part of a morphing landscape here in Vermont.

10           We're currently outsourcing a lot of our  
11 energy generation, and other communities are  
12 taking on the responsibility for producing power  
13 for us, and we really need to start taking on the  
14 responsibility of producing our own power.  
15 Through the Comprehensive Energy Plan, we've made  
16 a commitment to renewable energy, and I really  
17 hope that you do anything and everything that you  
18 can to help reach those goals that have been set  
19 out in the Comprehensive Energy Plan; because, as  
20 a state, we set a standard for sustainable  
21 initiatives across the nation and, to ban any form  
22 of renewable energy generation, will be a huge  
23 step backwards in the work that we've made to move  
24 away from fossil fuels.

25           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you. So

1 next, Jennifer Ely -- excuse me -- Kim Fried.

2 Sorry, Kim, I didn't mean to skip over you.

3 THE SPEAKER: Good evening. First,  
4 I want to thank the Siting Commission for having  
5 this public hearing. I'm Kim Fried from Newark,  
6 Vermont, in the Northeast Kingdom. The Siting  
7 Commission hosted tours today of the South  
8 Burlington solar facility, which was, for me,  
9 quite a treat, and then we went right to the  
10 McNeil Biomass facility in Burlington, which was  
11 also -- I would say the folks in Burlington are  
12 fortunate to have these types of facilities.

13 I have a soft spot for UVM; I had two  
14 sons that graduated here, so I've -- I'm familiar  
15 with the campus. I'm familiar with Red Door and  
16 Nectar's. I'm -- I'm also familiar with the  
17 Tunbridge Fair, which best in the state of  
18 Vermont.

19 I guess we can't get away from wind and,  
20 from Newark's standpoint, we're in the process of  
21 addressing the largest single wind potential  
22 project in the state of Vermont. It would be like  
23 taking the Lowell, adding it to Sheffield, and  
24 adding our other facilities into one single  
25 project, and that involves my community.

1           I want to thank the audience, too, not  
2 just the Siting Commission. We're all here  
3 because we're concerned about our environment, and  
4 the folks that live in the Northeast Kingdom, and  
5 the reason we have such a precious area that  
6 you're all invited to is because we have done,  
7 as communities and citizens, we've done the right  
8 things over the years, and we feel what's going on  
9 now is not the right thing for Vermont. I know on  
10 the University level there's a lot of discussion  
11 about alternative energies. There's also a lot of  
12 criticism on big corporate profit mongers, the  
13 BP's, the Exxon's, I'm sure you have groups looking  
14 at your portfolio. Well, I would say you're in a  
15 University community. You have -- you have a --  
16 the opportunity to look at all the alternatives,  
17 and I would say, Be careful trading in one large  
18 corporate interest for another large corporate  
19 interest, and, as I saw today, two wonderful,  
20 community-based facilities. I think we can do it  
21 without making that exchange. I think it's our  
22 responsibility to look very carefully at those  
23 alternatives.

24           And thank you for the opportunity.

25                           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

1 Jennifer?

2                   THE SPEAKER: Thank you. These guys  
3 have heard this before, so I changed it a little  
4 and brought these guys in. I'm a biologist with a  
5 master's degree in natural resources from here,  
6 and today I'm retired. However, for thirty years  
7 I worked in natural areas management, and one of  
8 the biggest challenges was balancing public access  
9 with the resident wildlife's privacy needs so that  
10 both groups could peacefully co-exist. So my  
11 remarks today are just going to focus on wildlife  
12 and particularly these three species. They're the  
13 best indicators of when our higher elevation  
14 landscapes are in good order, ecologically  
15 resilient. They all require a big area to live  
16 in, and they're -- they don't do well with us;  
17 they need more privacy. So it's the bear, the  
18 bobcat, and the last one's a fisher. You may  
19 never have seen them had Vermont, and that's  
20 because they don't do well with lots of us around.

21                   I would like to offer two specific design  
22 considerations, and I'm focusing on the wind  
23 turbines because they tend to be up in the ridges,  
24 which are very important wildlife corridor routes  
25 for these animals and others. In a warming world

1 they're going to need those travel routes. So any  
2 impact on a ridge in Vermont, it's really taking  
3 away our precious resource. I'm not against it,  
4 per se, but I think we ought to do them right and,  
5 with two design considerations, I think we might  
6 be able to strike a balance where they won't leave  
7 and we can have wind turbines. They shouldn't be  
8 on all ridges, but I don't think that's in the  
9 cards anyway. And wherever they are on a ridge we  
10 should be -- we should demand the developer have  
11 the smallest impact, footprint impact, on the  
12 ridge and in its environs. Don't allow big roads;  
13 we don't have to take those for granted. Maybe  
14 they could helicopter in the heavier equipment and  
15 have the wind turbines on a smaller scale, more a  
16 Vermont scale. And in that way you can leave the  
17 South facing craggy features that we don't have a  
18 lot of them but bobcat really rely on them. We  
19 can also leave more of the forest intact, which  
20 helps us all fight global warming. The second  
21 demand that any future turbines on the ridges I  
22 would hope would be that they -- roads they put in  
23 don't become public thoroughfares. I'm not saying  
24 reducing existing uses, but make sure that there  
25 just aren't a lot of people introduced to an area

1 that had formerly been remote.

2           This week in the Free Press, I don't know  
3 if you saw it, and here's the new part, it was  
4 reported that the State of Maine took a first step  
5 at approving one of the nation's first off-shore  
6 wind turbines off Booth Bay Harbor. The project  
7 is a four 3-megawatt wind turbine on floating  
8 sparbooy structures, this is from the article,  
9 tethered to the sea bed in 460 feet of water. And  
10 my question to the Commission is, Should we  
11 perhaps be looking at Lake Champlain as a suitable  
12 place for wind turbines, even instead of ridges?  
13 The lake is more than a hundred feet -- a hundred  
14 feet -- a hundred miles long, over ten miles wide,  
15 and the most important thing, perhaps, is that  
16 it's, at its deepest point, it's more shallow than  
17 what they're doing at Booth Bay, so conceivably  
18 you could have the wind turbines well off the  
19 shoreline. And, who knows, maybe New York's  
20 already looking at this. But, with wind turbines  
21 on the lake, there wouldn't be any forest or  
22 wildlife disturbed; the lake is already in public  
23 ownership.

24           If you would like a copy of that article.

25                           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

1           So next up, Michael Pendleton, Tim  
2 Hoopes, and Hannah McQuillen, and Doria Prince.

3           THE SPEAKER: Hey, that's the stuff.

4           My name is Mike Pendleton. I am a  
5 student here at the University of Vermont. I'm  
6 studying social work and, by the looks of things,  
7 you're all smarter than me so I'm a little bit  
8 nervous, but I'll try to be quick.

9           I'm actually from Maine, which I just  
10 heard about those wind turbines. That sounds  
11 great. I'm from Maine, and my family's all from  
12 Vermont, and I've grown up always wanting to come  
13 to Vermont, go hiking here, Camel's Hump and  
14 Mansfield and Zion, I'm really excited about going  
15 to Vermont. And, when I got here, I didn't know  
16 anything about this in high school, I got here and  
17 I started learning about global warming, it's  
18 actually happening. And I started to really care,  
19 and I realized that I'm invested in Vermont, I  
20 want to be here like ten years from now, maybe  
21 even more, and like, you know, raise a family and  
22 all that kind of stuff, which you guys have  
23 already been doing, and I know you're really  
24 invested --

25           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Slow down a

1 little bit

2 THE SPEAKER: I'm sorry. I know  
3 you're really invested in that, too.

4 MS. SYMINGTON: Slow down on having  
5 the family and all that stuff.

6 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Oh, I don't  
7 know.

8 THE SPEAKER: My mother is actually  
9 moving, and my family is moving to Plainfield,  
10 Vermont, soon, and they're -- they're putting a  
11 wind turbine on their land. So one of the things  
12 that they did, they've been talking with the local  
13 farm owners, because it's Plainfield, so it's, you  
14 know, farms. And they were enthused, they were  
15 ecstatic that they were putting a windmill on this  
16 beautiful view, you know, it's going to obstruct  
17 their view, and it's a spectacular view, and they  
18 were happy that there was going to be a windmill,  
19 they thought it would improve their view, because  
20 they believed in it, they were thinking about wind  
21 energy themselves. But I don't know too much  
22 about the facts, but I know that, I know that it's  
23 supported here, so we should be acting upon it.

24 So, thanks. Thanks for giving me the  
25 time to speak.

1 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: So Tim.

2 THE SPEAKER: My name is Tim Hoopes  
3 I work at NRG in Hinesburg, Vermont. Thank you to  
4 all the members of the Commission for listening to  
5 the public. I think that's extraordinarily  
6 important. When you feel listened to, you feel  
7 some power, and it's awful to feel powerless. So  
8 I appreciate the fact that you're listening to us.

9 The one point that I would like to bring  
10 up is, as an environmentalist, I want to see the  
11 cleanest sources of energy used moving forward.  
12 So, in terms of siting, when you put down a power  
13 plant, why don't you put down the cleanest power  
14 plant, and those kinds of questions are fairly  
15 deep and not so obvious in how to answer. One of  
16 the questions that people like to avoid is this  
17 great word "externalities." I just learned that  
18 word a couple years ago, and I was shocked, that  
19 you could make a list of good things about a power  
20 plant and a list of bad things, and then hold the  
21 good things close to you and push the bad ones far  
22 away. It's like, how can you do that. I can't do  
23 that in my life. Everything is together. Things  
24 are what they are. You can't divide up the  
25 nuclear waste from the nuclear power plant; you

1 can't divide the pollution from the burning of  
2 oil. So, when people ask me about wind, I say,  
3 "Compared to what?" "What are you doing now?"  
4 And the fact is that right now we're doing a  
5 terrible job, we're burning stuff and polluting  
6 like crazy, so please stop that.

7           Now, the next thing is to do something  
8 good, instead. Now, a good way to do that is to  
9 make a list. I'm an engineer; I like to  
10 calculate. So, when you make a list and you put a  
11 list of all the good things and a list of all the  
12 bad things, having wind turbines on your  
13 ridgelines doesn't seem so terrible when it's next  
14 to polluting all of the air and all of the water,  
15 so not only those three animals that were on the  
16 blackboard can't live, but neither can you or us,  
17 and that's where we're headed. So we need to turn  
18 around and get going in a better direction, and  
19 starting by including all of the externalities  
20 would be a good start.

21           Thank you.

22           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: So next up is  
23 Hannah McQuillen, then Doria Prince, Don Cummings,  
24 is it Annalena Barrett, and Rebecca White.

25           THE SPEAKER: Hi, there. I'm a

1 senior at UVM, and I've been here for three and a  
2 half years and getting ready to graduate.

3           So a huge part of what first attracted me  
4 to Vermont was just the natural beauty and the  
5 splendor and just the magic of this place. I came  
6 up here and was just immediately in love with this  
7 place, and three and a half -- the past three and  
8 a half years have just really provided me with an  
9 opportunity to keep fostering that love for this  
10 place and to get to know the community and the  
11 land and everything. And, similar to Michael, I,  
12 too, feel pretty confident that I want to stay  
13 here and raise a family and, while I may go away  
14 for grad school, right now I feel like I want to  
15 come back. And just recently, you know, I've been  
16 learning a little bit more about, you know, how we  
17 do our ecological system here, and it was pretty  
18 shocking for me when I found out that UVM is only  
19 run on fossil fuels and dirty energy, if you will,  
20 and it's just shocking, because UVM is known as  
21 one of the most sustainable green schools and,  
22 yet, we're not exactly doing that and, as a state,  
23 we're not exactly doing that, either. And, you  
24 know, just, I think, she spoke about over there,  
25 you know, how it's not -- it's not exactly fair

1 that we're taking energy from other communities at  
2 the expense of their livelihoods and their  
3 well-being and that we're polluting other parts of  
4 the world and -- and just the process of bringing  
5 energy here is detrimental to our health and to  
6 the environment. So I'm just a huge supporter of  
7 renewable energies; and, obviously, there are a  
8 lot of other factors we need to look into, like  
9 the natural corridors and the natural habitats and  
10 then, also, just investing in energy for the  
11 public good. I think that's a very important  
12 point that I hadn't thought too much of before  
13 someone -- yes -- you mentioned it. But, yeah, I  
14 think that's a huge part that we really need to  
15 look at and not just doing it so that some people  
16 somewhere can make a lot of money but we're doing  
17 it so it goes back to this beautiful, wonderful  
18 community that I've grown to love, and I'm sure  
19 all of you have, that's why you're here and  
20 speaking up and talking to the community. So  
21 thank you for doing all this.

22 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Doria Prince.

23 THE SPEAKER: My name is actually  
24 DOnia Prince, but that's okay.

25 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Sorry.

1           THE SPEAKER: Every body messes it  
2 up so that's par for the course. I am a supporter  
3 of wind energy and am opposed to the moratorium.  
4 I just wanted to make a few comments related to  
5 the environmental impacts of wind. I consider  
6 myself a very strong environmentalist, I worked in  
7 the conservation field. I generally agree with  
8 one of the earlier speakers who talked about the  
9 resilience of the natural areas in Vermont. I've  
10 heard many, many success stories in Vermont of,  
11 you know, horrible degradation which has come back  
12 within a generation or two, I know that it might  
13 take a generation or two, and I also accept and  
14 you know, eyes wide open that we might cause some  
15 damage which might not come back. However, I  
16 agree with what a couple of the recent speakers  
17 have said, that it's -- that we need to take  
18 responsibility for our own energy usage. It's  
19 simply not right that our continued use of energy  
20 is causing severe negative impacts to communities  
21 and environmental communities in other places. We  
22 really need to take responsibility here and, yet,  
23 I also see that it's not an all-or-nothing thing.  
24 It doesn't mean let's go and put a wind tower on  
25 every single ridgeline. There are areas and these

1 have been identified so it's not a secret where  
2 there are rare species and rare natural  
3 communities and critical wildlife corridors, and  
4 we can stay away from those and still have plenty  
5 of ridgelines available and, also, to make every  
6 effort within this to do best practices and things  
7 such as with the roads, being sure that best  
8 practices regarding environmental -- invasive  
9 species so that we're not just introducing  
10 invasive species. We know how to do that; we just  
11 have to make the demands that the construction  
12 companies do that so that we aren't introducing  
13 things that we don't need to.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Next up, Don  
16 Cummings.

17 THE SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Don Cummings  
18 from South Burlington. I just have a few comments  
19 here. I don't have any facts, per se, just some  
20 thoughts.

21 I think we've seen evidence that climate  
22 change is unfolding really faster than predicted  
23 by scientists. I think it's evident to most of us  
24 that we're contributing to that fast, unfolding  
25 climate change.

1           I have been a conservationist, I consider  
2 myself an environmentalist, and I think the first  
3 thrust for all of us in this room is to find ways  
4 to conserve the energy, reduce the amount of  
5 energy we're using. That's the first thing. The  
6 second thing is it may require a little investment  
7 to become more efficient, the equipment that we  
8 use that uses electricity. So conserve energy;  
9 convert, when you change your appliances, your  
10 furnaces, whatever, buy the best, most-efficient  
11 piece of equipment you can find. Make your next  
12 car the most-efficient car you can find. However,  
13 even with all due efforts on conservation  
14 efficiency, we're not going to make a significant  
15 or a sufficient impact on global warming. We have  
16 many new technologies; the photo voltaic solar  
17 cells, wind technology. They're matured  
18 significantly, they have ways to go, but they have  
19 matured significantly, and they can contribute to  
20 our minimizing our impact on climate.

21           One thing to consider is although our  
22 energy portfolio in Vermont is very green, it has  
23 come at a cost to other pieces, other places,  
24 other people. And, if we, say if we could  
25 magically reduce or electrical use by 20 percent

1 in this state, that energy goes somewhere else,  
2 somewhere else that has a higher carbon  
3 contribution in their energy supply. So although  
4 I think it's nice to consider that we're pretty  
5 green in the state, that energy will go elsewhere  
6 and solve carbon problems somewhere else. So what  
7 I'm concerned about is we have these emerging  
8 technologies that are quite mature. If we don't  
9 allow them to proceed with the appropriate care,  
10 and I think the PSB has a process that has engaged  
11 all parties, if we don't allow them to move ahead  
12 with appropriate care and necessary supervision,  
13 what other course of action do we have to improve  
14 our energy supply. I certainly don't think we're  
15 going to turn off our TV's and our dishwashers and  
16 turn out the lights. So my question is, if we  
17 can't build them here, where will we build them;  
18 and, if we can't build them now, when will we  
19 build them? And I think action is required soon,  
20 and I think we have to avail ourselves of using  
21 technology with all due care.

22 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you. So  
23 next up is Annalena Barrett and Rebecca White and  
24 Daniel -- is it Cmejla.

25 THE SPEAKER: Cmejla.

1 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Cmejla, and  
2 then Ben Gelb.

3 THE SPEAKER: Hey. I'm Annalena  
4 Barrett, and I'm a freshman at UVM; I'm 18 years  
5 old, and I'm terrified of the future, like really,  
6 genuinely scared.

7 MR. JOHNSTONE: Oh, it's great.

8 THE SPEAKER: Not for my future in  
9 particular, but I -- you know, that's not a good  
10 feeling to have when you're, you know, in college  
11 trying to figure things out. And that tells me  
12 that I have even less of a clue what it feels like  
13 to be in an island nation facing the prospect of  
14 your entire country being under water or, you  
15 know, living as the Inuit do and seeing the  
16 landscape that you've lived on for generations  
17 melt out from under you, literally. So,  
18 obviously, my very-privileged position here comes  
19 with a lot of guilt and, you know, I turn on the  
20 lights or I, you know, jack the thermostat way up  
21 because I'm a little bit chilly; and, when I think  
22 about who's actually paying for those actions,  
23 it's devastating. It's a lot like getting punched  
24 in the stomach. And so, wind power and, you know  
25 other renewables, but wind, especially, for me,

1 would mean turning those feelings of extreme fear  
2 and guilt into pride and hope, and I know that's a  
3 little cliché at this point, but I really mean it.  
4 I want to be able to take a nice hot shower and  
5 think about wind turbines creating that  
6 opportunity for me, so that's why I think wind  
7 power's really exciting and, yeah, it's a little  
8 selfish, I'm just like trying to alleviate my own  
9 bad emotions, but I promise it's not all selfish,  
10 and I think Vermont is beautiful, it's  
11 progressive, it's cutting edge, and it's the right  
12 place to start stepping away from fossil fuel and,  
13 with that said, I would be so proud of this state  
14 if we were to, you know, take away the moratorium  
15 on wind and really start taking steps away from  
16 fossil fuel.

17                   Thanks.

18                   CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Next up,  
19 Rebecca White.

20                   THE SPEAKER: Hi. My name's Rebecca  
21 White. I'm from Wilder, Vermont, which is right  
22 next to White River Junction. So, if you've ever  
23 taken a Greyhound bus, you've stopped in my town.

24                   Before I begin, I just want to tell you  
25 all a very important secret that I've been hiding,

1 and it's that I'm madly in love with the state of  
2 Vermont, but unfortunately this love I've taken  
3 everything and given very little back and, with  
4 that being said, I think that's a decision that  
5 you ultimately as a Commission have to come to, as  
6 well, whether or not a minor sacrifice when it  
7 comes to maybe not having the best view of a  
8 mountain or maybe having a drive that's a little  
9 bit longer, we have to look at the difference  
10 between the long term and the sacrifice we have to  
11 make as a state and the sacrifices that we're  
12 making as a nation. So what I really want to do  
13 first is thank you very much for holding this.  
14 This is very important. And I think this is  
15 actually an excellent example of where we can have  
16 a democratic process here on either a local or  
17 state level that does represent everyone, and I  
18 think we can do the same things when it comes to  
19 siting in the future.

20 But I also want to talk about the  
21 prospective long term, and what we see is a -- as  
22 a Commission you make the decision to make siting  
23 wind power so incredibly difficult that that means  
24 we're going to lose the years of momentum we've  
25 built up around these projects, we've built up

1 around things that actually allowed us to move  
2 forward with Lowell wind. So this doesn't mean  
3 that we're going to lose something like three or  
4 four years; because, let's be honest, it takes  
5 upwards of seven years to get these things off the  
6 ground. We're going to be losing things like ten  
7 to fifteen years of available wind power access,  
8 and that amount of time not only hurts us in that  
9 moment but it hurts us in the long term and not  
10 just here in Vermont, because I'd like to  
11 basically echo what Bernie Sanders said and that  
12 we stand as a beacon here in Vermont to the rest  
13 of the nation. If progressive Vermont doesn't  
14 support wind power, how can a state like Michigan  
15 or Kansas move forward with projects like that.

16           So I also want to harp on what we heard  
17 from Kerry earlier, and that's that the  
18 alternatives here are far worse than what we  
19 actually can move forward with with wind power,  
20 and that's things like -- and I've taken a geology  
21 class so this is going to be nice and fun --  
22 things like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, it  
23 creates things like acid rain. And, in fact, the  
24 same types of environmental concerns we've heard  
25 today about cutting down trees or hurting the

1 environment, acid rain, that has been created by  
2 these processes of pollution, have led to half of  
3 the red spruces here on Vermont's ridgelines to be  
4 destroyed. So we have to weigh the environmental  
5 impacts that this wind power will have, but look  
6 at the long-term effects it will have for  
7 generations and generations to come, and that's  
8 why I ask you, as a lover of Vermont and a fellow  
9 citizen, to truly consider what your decision  
10 means to the rest of the state and the nation.

11 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: So next up is  
12 Daniel, and then Ben Gelb, Sam Lewis, and Dean  
13 Orren, I think.

14 THE SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Dan Cmejla. I  
15 just came from Montpelier, which is why I'm  
16 wearing a bow tie and also why I'm super excited  
17 about alternative energy.

18 So I want to frame my recommendations to  
19 you guys in a sense to have you frame your thought  
20 process about it, because I really think that's an  
21 important part of this whole process. We need to  
22 acknowledge that Vermont wants to fight climate  
23 change, and we do need to acknowledge that any  
24 observation we have about wind needs to be  
25 compared to alternatives. What are we going to

1 replace with wind if we take away wind, and what  
2 kind of example are we going to be setting for the  
3 world?

4           So I really think that Vermont's an  
5 incredible state. I've only been here for a  
6 couple of years. I know I can never truly be a  
7 Vermonter because I wasn't born here, but I'd like  
8 to, you know, convince myself, Well, my kids could  
9 be Vermonters. There are a lot of opportunities.  
10 But what I've noticed from being involved with the  
11 activism community in Vermont is that far too  
12 often people say "no." They say "no" to this,  
13 "no" to that, because it's a lot easier to  
14 highlight problems and say "no" to something than  
15 to create solutions. You know, that's why I think  
16 it's really important that the Siting Committee  
17 right here says "no" to backwards progress on  
18 alternative energy so that thirty years from now I  
19 can look at my kids and say, Yes, I'm glad we're  
20 able to live in a state where people in the past  
21 decided they were going to think towards the  
22 future and think beyond their backyard, because I  
23 honestly believe -- here's another fact, totally  
24 deviating from my speech -- that one of the main  
25 problems with wind energy is NIMBY. People talk

1 about these bears and other animals that it's  
2 incredibly important to preserve, but we need to  
3 also realize that we set a global example and  
4 while it may be difficult for some bears to find  
5 their ways around wind mills, it's more difficult  
6 to find bears homes if they're on the top of the  
7 mountain that's been just removed for coal, and  
8 that's some of the alternatives that we have out  
9 there. We have hydro which is causing massive  
10 displacements of people, and, you know, we moved  
11 away from Vermont Yankee and we shifted a lot more  
12 towards hydro power from Canada. So why don't we  
13 create this energy in Vermont that can set an  
14 example for the world. You know, Bill said  
15 something really excellent today. He said that  
16 people in China and throughout the world, they  
17 know Vermont and California as this champion of  
18 the new energy ethic, and he also said something  
19 funny that they think the states are the same  
20 size, but, you know, we need to recognize, we're a  
21 tiny state but we can have a huge impact and, if  
22 we're setting an example for the rest of the world  
23 and that world precludes one possible avenue that  
24 can help get us closer to promoting a sustainable  
25 future where we have less climate change, then

1 we're really not holding true to the values that  
2 our state has always been able to endorse and  
3 always been able to promote for the rest of the  
4 country. You know, yes, we're the best in the  
5 country as far as carbon emissions go, according  
6 to some people, but United States is the worst  
7 country in the world. We need to do more and  
8 we're not doing close to enough.

9           So think about climate change,  
10 alternatives, and how we set a global example, and  
11 thank you so much for your time.

12           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: So next up is  
13 Ben Gelb, Sam Lewis, Dean Orren and then Noreen  
14 Hession. So Ben.

15           THE SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Ben  
16 Gelb. I'm from Thetford, Vermont.

17           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Can you speak  
18 up just a little, Ben.

19           THE SPEAKER: Yeah.

20           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

21           THE SPEAKER: I believe that solely  
22 promoting renewable energy is not enough. There  
23 needs to be a system put into place that considers  
24 putting taxes on carbon and further city or state  
25 taxes on gasoline and other fuel sources, in order

1 to nudge people in the direction of accepting  
2 renewable energy systems, could be solar or wind.  
3 Initially there should be also incentives for  
4 using alternative energy, and there need to be  
5 sizeable economic incentives to achieve these  
6 goals. Effectively, money does talk. And we need  
7 to allocate research towards things that matter,  
8 not just the newest iPhone. We each actually use  
9 the capabilities of our nation to find ways to  
10 solve these problems and, while no system is  
11 perfect, wind, while it's been attacked, it does  
12 have its positives and I think we need to realize  
13 that no system really is perfect. There isn't  
14 going to be some perfect solution and we need to  
15 realize that, and taking the first step towards  
16 something, I think, is important and then  
17 modifying that, possibly.

18 As I already said, solar and wind, they  
19 do adhere to rule of entropy, the materials that  
20 are used to create the turbines and solar panels,  
21 and that's important to notice, as well. They are  
22 always environmental impacts of these things.  
23 But, you know, when I work in -- I work many South  
24 America in the summers, and I see -- I see a  
25 country like Ecuador, a highly underdeveloped

1 country, using technologies that we should be  
2 using. People that make very, very little money  
3 investing in wind turbines because they know it's  
4 the right thing to do, and then we see our country  
5 not even able to -- not even able to, you know,  
6 solve problems and get this legislation into  
7 place. So that's terrible. I think the United  
8 States has no excuse not to be investing in these  
9 technologies and doing something. So it's not  
10 perfect but it's a step forward.

11           Also, I think that -- I think that UVM,  
12 in general, it is focused on -- it is focused on  
13 environmental, and it's focused on environmental  
14 well-being, you know, having very little impact on  
15 the environment. The problem with that is I think  
16 a lot of times it's sort of shown as this place  
17 that's very ecologically friendly, with places  
18 like the Davis Center and all of the new building.  
19 But then the building I live in, it leaks a lot of  
20 heat, it's very inefficient. I think that  
21 problems like that need to be addressed. It might  
22 look good on television or on the radio as a very  
23 eco-friendly school, but I think it needs to  
24 address problems like that, too, as well. They're  
25 very real, and it sort of balances out any

1 positives that we're doing with new projects.

2           Also, I think something that Dan said,  
3 people need to set aside their nihilistic and sort  
4 of self-determined views and realize that some  
5 change is possible and it's going to be slow, so.

6           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you. So  
7 next up is Sam, Sam Lewis.

8           THE SPEAKER: Yes. Hello. My name  
9 is Sam Lewis. I'm a student here at UVM and a  
10 current resident in Burlington.

11           After spending much of my childhood  
12 growing up in the south, I know what's it's like  
13 living in a warming climate and it's nothing like  
14 Vermont. I chose to return to this state because  
15 I love real winters. I don't like having my  
16 school shut down because of an inch of snow, like  
17 we're used to that up here. I grew up in Boston  
18 before; I know what it's like. I also enjoyed  
19 mild summers; they don't exist in South Texas, and  
20 a disappointing fact. So I came here because I  
21 wanted to once again live in a moderate climate,  
22 be able to ski and enjoy the outdoors. We're at  
23 risk of losing that here in this state. Vermont  
24 is defined by its beautiful scenery and outrock  
25 communities. It would be a shame and to lose it

1 due to national climate change. Predictions show  
2 that in fifty years the only two vital ski resorts  
3 in the entire northeast will be Jay Peak and Sugar  
4 Loaf Vermont. Vermont's economy would probably  
5 struggle if that happened.

6 I would also like to point out that, once  
7 again, in fifty years, the vital maple trees in  
8 Vermont will no longer exist if you don't actually  
9 do anything. The trees that are currently native  
10 to North Carolina will be what we have here.

11 They're beautiful. Of course, North Carolina,  
12 it's one of the most beautiful parts of this  
13 country. If you've ever been there, please come  
14 visit me. But you can't get any maple sap from it  
15 so no more maple syrup.

16 So those are just two bellwethers, I  
17 guess, to this larger issue in climate change. It  
18 very well could destroy this planet, or myself, or  
19 my future children, hopefully. So along with  
20 reducing our energy use in this country, I believe  
21 that renewable resources like wind are vital to  
22 combat climate change, and Vermont, alone, is not  
23 going to have a tremendous impact on global  
24 emissions, but this state has developed a very  
25 strong reputation in the past ten or fifteen years

1 as being one of the more environmental places on  
2 this planet, and I think it would be extremely  
3 unfortunate to let that leadership lapse. So I  
4 encourage you to further develop wind in this  
5 state and not accept a moratorium.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thanks. So  
8 Dean Orren, then Noreen Hession, then Lauren  
9 Dennis, and Peter Fisk.

10 THE SPEAKER: Hi. Thank you for  
11 coming to Burlington. My name is Dean Dorren.

12 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Sorry.

13 THE SPEAKER: I was formerly in the  
14 legislature and formerly on the Burlington  
15 Electric Commission. For those of you who took a  
16 tour of the McNeil Biomass plant, I hope you  
17 remind UVM that it should be hooked up to the  
18 district heating system that it was built to do.  
19 That would help not only UVM but the entire city  
20 of Burlington and State of Vermont.

21 MS. McCARREN: The manager was  
22 intently questioned about that issue.

23 THE SPEAKER: I'm really glad to  
24 hear that. I'm glad to hear that, that's current.  
25 But I'm here actually to talk about what is also

1 current, the wind moratorium issue, so I should  
2 mention that I also was the Vermont outreach  
3 director for Congressman Bernie Sanders then.  
4 He's moved on to better things and I went back to  
5 my original work, which was energy research, and  
6 I'm going to tell you very -- very quick story,  
7 and forgive me if you've heard it before, but my  
8 department at N.Y.U. was doing research on  
9 atmospheric and on energy, traditional and  
10 renewable, and way back in the late '70s we were  
11 starting to get very concerned about what we then  
12 called "the greenhouse effect." That's gone on  
13 and made tremendous progress, I'm sorry to say.  
14 On the other hand, we were doing renewable energy  
15 work, and we've made some progress there. And  
16 back then we did a lot of things and one of them  
17 was we built the ugliest wind turbine ever built  
18 in the worse place ever imaginable, the lower east  
19 side of Manhattan in the historic district that  
20 fought every kind of development allowed us to put  
21 a gigantic and unbelievably ugly wind turbine on  
22 top of our historic building so that we could test  
23 it. And, after doing so, it stayed an extra  
24 couple of years, because the developer who built  
25 it wasn't around anymore to take it down, and

1 eventually we had a wind storm, not unlike  
2 tonight, and we had to take it down ourselves at  
3 N.Y.U.; and by that time this community said,  
4 Where did our wind turbine go? They fell in love  
5 with it, it was theirs, they were proud of it;  
6 and, if that can happen there, it can happen  
7 anywhere. Now I work on underwater turbines that  
8 nobody sees or hears, so everyone loves them, but  
9 there's a story of love, and someone else  
10 mentioned love and I think that's very important.

11           The one thing I want to say about a  
12 moratorium is that we're way behind in the state  
13 of Vermont. We've had two successive  
14 administrations of both major parties who were  
15 very anti-wind, and we're a decade, decade and a  
16 half, two decades behind where we ought to be in  
17 wind development. One of the things that should  
18 have happened then, that would have happened if  
19 they weren't so opposed to wind, would have been  
20 comprehensive planning in advance so everybody  
21 could be clear, everybody could know what's going  
22 to happen, it would be predictable, but we've been  
23 pretty good in Vermont about passing environmental  
24 protections but not planning. If we had planning,  
25 it would be much easier now, but a moratorium is

1 exactly the wrong thing at this point in time,  
2 because a moratorium is useful when there's  
3 specific information you're waiting for. We  
4 already have more than enough information. We're  
5 very, very late. A moratorium would just be an  
6 exercise in political power, drawing out the  
7 inevitable, meanwhile, a lot of extra harm being  
8 done. So in this case I would ask you really to  
9 come out in opposition to any moratorium.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thanks.  
12 Noreen.

13 THE SPEAKER: Are there other people  
14 you would like to hear from first?

15 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: No, no, you  
16 deserve your shot.

17 THE SPEAKER: Okay.

18 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: You're next on  
19 the list. I appreciate you waiting.

20 THE SPEAKER: All right. So I'm  
21 Noreen Hession. I'm also from Newark, which is in  
22 the Northeast Kingdom, and I'm not sure where to  
23 begin. It's nice to see so many young people who  
24 have come out, interested in this. I consider  
25 myself an environmentalist. I live in the

1 Northeast Kingdom because I'm an environmentalist.  
2 I moved to that part of the state because it's  
3 absolutely gorgeous and it's isolated. We're in  
4 the middle of no place. I like it that way. I'm  
5 willing to give up a lot. I don't go to  
6 Starbucks, there's a one paved road in our town,  
7 we don't have a gas station, we don't have a store  
8 where we can buy milk and bread, we don't have a  
9 post office, we have nothing. We've got one paved  
10 road and we have a really good school, I'm really  
11 proud of the school; but, other than that, it's a  
12 very isolated, rural place, and I love it there.  
13 And what I've heard tonight is there are a lot of  
14 people in South Burlington who are interested in  
15 wind, so I think it would be really interesting if  
16 the wind developers started focusing on South  
17 Burlington and stopped focusing on my home. So I  
18 am for the moratorium. I was excited tonight to  
19 hear Steve Marshall talk about the idea of no  
20 longer anybody making any private profit. I think  
21 that's a great idea, really good idea; because I  
22 think, if people weren't making a lot of money off  
23 these things, they wouldn't be happening. This  
24 really isn't about energy; this is about money for  
25 them.

1           You know, I think one of the things about  
2 the process, I'm not sure, you know, I'll try to  
3 right it up for you just to drive home, the  
4 process -- how the process disenfranchises small  
5 towns. Because someone here tonight was talking  
6 about it's awful to feel powerless, Tim Hoopes  
7 said that, and that's pretty much how I've been  
8 feeling for the past nine months when I found out  
9 developers were coming to my town. So in our town  
10 we have a town plan that says that we are  
11 interested in renewable energy. That was  
12 misinterpreted by the developers, they believed  
13 that that was an invitation to come and dynamite  
14 the tops of our mountains to put up industrial  
15 wind turbines. It's not an invitation, it was  
16 never meant to be an invitation. If you look  
17 further in our town plan, what it says is that 80  
18 percent of the people that were surveyed said, We  
19 really care about our town and our environment and  
20 we don't want to be industrialized in any way,  
21 shape, or form. But what ends up happening is,  
22 rather than people who write the town plans, who  
23 all, by the way, are all volunteers, small town  
24 guys, volunteers, not lawyers, they write the town  
25 plan; and, rather than them getting an opportunity

1 to interpret the town plan, what ends up happening  
2 is that lawyers who work for the Public Service  
3 Board and lawyers who work for the developers are  
4 the' who interpret the town plan, and their  
5 interpretation is, it's an invitation, we're good  
6 to go. So, briefly, what I can tell you is that  
7 we spent seven months researching. We've invited  
8 many people on this committee to come and talk to  
9 us in Newark to learn about industrial wind. We  
10 made a decision, 76 percent of the people of the  
11 town voted against industrial wind in our town.  
12 So, in the largest town meeting in the history of  
13 the town, we said, No, thanks, we don't want it  
14 here. And supposedly the Governor said, you know,  
15 I'm behind small towns; I'm with communities.  
16 If communities say "no," that's okay. We told the  
17 Governor, the Governor told the head of the  
18 Department of Public Services, the head of the  
19 Department of Public Services had one of their  
20 lawyers tell the Public Service Board. Public  
21 Service Board ignored that. The small towns and  
22 communities are being ignored in Vermont. The  
23 process doesn't work.

24 But, also, the only other thing, I just  
25 want to say really quickly, is one person -- a

1 number of other people have said, What are the  
2 other options? Kerry Wilson asked what were the  
3 other options, Rebecca White. Go to  
4 energizevermont, one word, dot org,  
5 energizevermont.org. Spend 23 minutes of your  
6 life looking at a video and learning about what  
7 some of the other options are. There are a lot of  
8 other options that are right for Vermont.  
9 Dynamiting the tops of our mountains, they're not  
10 nonrenewable. Takes 250 million years to grow a  
11 mountain; they're not coming back.

12 Thanks.

13 JEFF HASLETT: What's that site  
14 again?

15 THE SPEAKER: energizevermont --  
16 energizevermont.org, one word,  
17 energizevermont.org.

18 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.  
19 So we've got Lauren Dennis, then I think it's  
20 Peter Fisk, Lucy Hahn, and Alex Bullock.

21 MR. JOHNSTONE: Jan, this gentleman  
22 here was out of the room, I think, when you called  
23 his name, Jeff Haslett.

24 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: No, you're up  
25 after Alex.

1           You want to sit down, everybody?

2           While you're moving around, I do want to  
3 remind everybody that, you know, I've got enough  
4 time for everybody on the list so far. We have  
5 until seven, okay, and so I'm still maybe be able  
6 to go, okay, so far.

7           So Lauren.

8           THE SPEAKER: Um, hi, I'm Lauren  
9 Dennis. I'm from Jericho, and right now I'm a  
10 junior at UVM, and I was born and raised here, and  
11 I believe -- sorry. I believe that Vermont has  
12 always been a leader in this country, especially  
13 in the field of renewables. You've heard a lot of  
14 people say that.

15          CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: A little  
16 slower.

17          THE SPEAKER: Okay. Sorry. And I  
18 am proud to see the state making such an effort to  
19 incorporate more clean energy, and I'm happy to  
20 see an overall public outcry such as tonight for  
21 this effort to continue and to go further, but  
22 there is one area, obviously, that we can be doing  
23 much better in, and it's been pointed out tonight,  
24 and that is wind development.

25          Growing up in Jericho is right at the

1 base of Mount Mansfield, and I loved looking at it  
2 every night, it's beautiful, it's gorgeous, every  
3 day on my way to school, and it really made me  
4 appreciate Vermont's landscape, I love its beauty.  
5 Also made me realize how vital our geography is to  
6 our economy so, as a Vermonter, I would never want  
7 to do anything intentionally to harm it, but I am  
8 an advocate for wind power because I know that, if  
9 it's done the right way, it will not harm our  
10 mountaintops. In fact, I've been to Sheffield,  
11 I've stood under the wind turbines, I felt no  
12 danger in any way. I saw the beautiful wildlife  
13 around me, and Sheffield also has seen an increase  
14 in their water quality because of the drainage  
15 systems they had to put in when they were building  
16 the site. Also, the wildlife has flourished more  
17 than ever because the project has cleared away  
18 some of the more dense forest, and a lot of the  
19 animals and some of wildlife plant species to  
20 flourish even more. Like I said, I didn't feel  
21 any danger there. I looked out across the  
22 mountaintops and all the wind turbines and just  
23 felt so incredibly proud at that moment to call  
24 myself a Vermonter and say that my state started  
25 this, and we can start a trend across the nation.

1           Sheffield, alone, is providing clean  
2 power for about 16,000 homes in Vermont and has  
3 brought us one step closer to becoming an energy-  
4 independent state, which I feel is very vital to  
5 our future and to my future in Vermont, and I want  
6 to live here for the rest of my life, like a lot  
7 of other young kids have said here today. So  
8 right now we have had a chance to set an example  
9 for a state with a strong environmental clean  
10 energy legislation, but also to put it in place  
11 and actually put it to use, and not just say we  
12 have it on paper like so many other people are  
13 doing right now.

14           So today I'm asking the Siting Commission  
15 to keep these goals in mind and secure Vermont  
16 once again as a leader to the country and to the  
17 rest of the world. And we need to make drastic  
18 changes in our energy production and incorporate  
19 all sources of renewable energy, I don't want to  
20 rule anything out, and that means we can't rule  
21 out one for the sake of saving a few views across  
22 the state. We have to make up for decades of  
23 dirty energy that we needed to start years ago  
24 like there's also setbacks that have been said  
25 tonight. I'm urging you to consider what we have

1 to lose, and please do what is necessary to  
2 guarantee that we give all renewables equal  
3 opportunity to be developed and sited in Vermont.

4 Thank you.

5 THE COURT: Thank you. The next is  
6 Peter Fisk.

7 THE SPEAKER: Hi, my name is Peter  
8 Fisk. I was a Boy Scout in Vermont, in  
9 Burlington, and I have a BA in environmental  
10 studies, and I have camped all over the mountains  
11 in Vermont, and I really appreciate the ridgelines  
12 and I really appreciate the wild nature of  
13 Vermont, but I see that siting wind power on the  
14 mountains is not -- is not a horrible, devastating  
15 thing like we might see in nuclear power which  
16 could, for instance, nuclear power that could make  
17 much of Vermont or all of Vermont, even,  
18 uninhabitable. It could destroy the Vermont  
19 brand, could destroy the Vermont economy. And, on  
20 the other hand, I see that wind power and local  
21 energy could revitalize economies here and there  
22 around Vermont, and it could allow us to be able  
23 to have -- build the infrastructure, built more  
24 efficient buildings and more -- more alternative  
25 energy, because people would be more empowered to

1 do those sort of things. And, also, regarding the  
2 ridge tops and the cutting of trees for -- for  
3 these wind developments, the transition zones  
4 where they have roadways, trees cut down, actually  
5 are good for wildlife, particularly in places  
6 where there is not a lot of traffic, because --  
7 and there is not a lot of traffic compared to a  
8 highway on these, to service these sites.

9           So that's all I've got to say. Thank you  
10 very much.

11           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.  
12 Next, Lucy Hahn, then Alex Bullock, Jeff Haslett,  
13 Jeff Forward, I think it's Forward.

14           THE SPEAKER: Uh, Lucy Hahn couldn't  
15 make it today. I'm Lucas Hahn, actually. I'm  
16 sorry about that.

17           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: I'm sorry.

18           THE SPEAKER: Just some chicken  
19 scratch. I apologize.

20           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Somebody has to  
21 read everybody. I think they're all going to be  
22 doctors, that's what I think. Sorry, Lucas.

23           THE SPEAKER: So what I brought with  
24 me today are just a couple numbers. In 2009 the  
25 state of Vermont totaled 6.4 million metric tons

1 of emission, in CO2, of course. Of these 6.4  
2 million, 3.7 of them resulted in or were a result  
3 of transportation needs. So what I'm here to say  
4 is that what wind power does is it provides  
5 electricity and it puts that back in the grid.  
6 What I've heard today is that most of this  
7 electricity is actually going out of state. So in  
8 terms of reducing electric emissions, we heard  
9 earlier they these actually round down to zero  
10 metric tons, when they're viewed by the EIA. So  
11 what I'm here to say is the McNeil Biomass  
12 station, which occupies 40 acres of land, has  
13 provided 55 -- can provide 55 megawatts. This is  
14 in relation to Sheffield Wind and Lowell Wind,  
15 which are respectively two and a half miles,  
16 square miles, and three and a half square miles,  
17 which provide 40 and 63 megawatts. What I'm here  
18 to say is that this biomass is much more efficient  
19 and it can be used to fuel our transportation and  
20 which the electricity from wind power cannot.  
21 That's all there is to it.

22 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.  
23 Alex Bullock, have I got that right?  
24 It's not Alice, right?

25 THE SPEAKER: My name is Alex

1 Bullock, and I was born and raised in Vermont, and  
2 I'm very happy for it. And I'm going to start  
3 somewhere a little weird. You might not expect  
4 this. I'm going to quote a video game, yes, a  
5 video game, because the fact that I've remembered  
6 it, I hope that you might remember it, as well.  
7 It's a video game called "Civilization Revolution"  
8 by Sid Meier. Not important. What is important  
9 is what Sid Meier decided to say in there is that  
10 a city is the greatest achievement of civilization  
11 and of mankind, and that stuck with me for a lot,  
12 because there is something, you know, pretty  
13 beautiful, pretty amazing, in a city, you have to  
14 admit. But the truth is, the more I think about  
15 this and the more I was thinking about this and my  
16 friends were telling me what's going on here  
17 today, the more I think about it, there's really  
18 something really special here, and the way you  
19 feel in Vermont with the mountains there you feel  
20 in Vermont with the mountains there, you feel  
21 protected by that, the freedom you can feel when I  
22 step out my front door and end up in this  
23 beautiful, such a real and vibrant place, the  
24 truth is that people feel that everywhere, no  
25 matter where you live, and in most places, and the

1 truth is that's what's happening around the world  
2 is affecting everybody. Vermont has a unique  
3 situation, and some people have already mentioned  
4 it today, in that it has a privilege, and I'm  
5 going to get this at the end of my speech because  
6 I think it's the most important part, but we do  
7 have a privilege as Vermonters and an opportunity  
8 that not many places have. So the truth is  
9 everyone feels like this, and that's great, and  
10 this innumerable opportunity for us in Vermont to  
11 experience this and to value this, we've taken for  
12 granted, and we've done it for quite a long time,  
13 as have most people around the world.

14 I think that man's next greatest  
15 achievement is going to be the reconciliation  
16 between this nature, what we want to protect and  
17 what we love, and these cities, because right now  
18 we're not doing a very good job of it, as you've  
19 heard today. What I want to see is Vermont take  
20 up the mantle of the flagship that it has the  
21 opportunity to take up. We've already heard today  
22 how Vermont is, how it has the opportunity to do  
23 this. How many times can you actually be a hero  
24 that takes an opportunity that you may not even be  
25 able to find the outcome for before you die,

1 before you might not even see the outcome that  
2 happens. Vermont is actually in that situation  
3 right now. The problem is that we're in a battle  
4 against time, because right now nobody else is  
5 going to do it. If we don't do it, if Vermont  
6 doesn't do it, there's not many other people who  
7 are even going to consider it. So Vermont has  
8 this opportunity to be this symbol, to make a  
9 windmill a symbol for advancement for allowing  
10 people to have this special place that everyone  
11 has somewhere in their heart somewhere in this  
12 world. Vermont has that opportunity to actually  
13 be this hero and, as I was writing some of this  
14 stuff down, I realized that I don't expect much of  
15 what I'm saying right here to be new to anybody  
16 here. I think, you know, it didn't make me feel  
17 great, but most of my story's pretty much wrote,  
18 like it's almost a cliché now. The hope that that  
19 did give me is that, because what I'm saying is  
20 almost at cliché level, so many people feel the  
21 same, and it gave me hope that we could actually  
22 get something done here, we can actually be the  
23 heroes that can set this in motion and start the  
24 domino effect; and, if that's the case, if so many  
25 people feel the same way, we have to be able to

1 agree to sacrifice this small aesthetic appeal for  
2 the survival of what so many people around the  
3 world feel is so dear to them. For that, I'm  
4 very, very proud to say that I think that  
5 windmills should be considered.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

8 So is Jeff Haslett?

9 THE SPEAKER: Haslett, yes.

10 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: And then  
11 Jeff -- is it Jeff Forward, and then Jack Hanson,  
12 Sam -- is it Ghazey or Dazey.

13 THE SPEAKER: Ghazey.

14 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Ghazey, doing  
15 better, and Ben Weaver.

16 THE SPEAKER: You've probably seen  
17 this study.

18 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Yes.

19 THE SPEAKER: Anybody that hasn't  
20 seen it, and the second page in here, okay?

21 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Actually, it's  
22 online.

23 THE SPEAKER: It's online, as well.

24 Jeffrey Haslett from Williston. The  
25 reason I handed out that study is the second page

1 had two pie charts, and one pie chart showed the  
2 mix of energy we use today and then twenty years  
3 out where we could be okay with a mix of cleaner  
4 energy. Now, so many of you talked elegantly  
5 about the specifics of that, so I just wanted to  
6 give that to you as a reminder of the direction we  
7 should be going in as all the testimonies here  
8 have reminded you of the direction we should be  
9 going into a more sustainable cleaner energy, and  
10 ask you this: This is the Constitution for the  
11 State of Vermont. As members of this Commission,  
12 do you -- there's an Allegiance in here and an  
13 Oath of Office. As members of the Commission, do  
14 you swear to that Allegiance and Oath?

15 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: No, we're not  
16 required to.

17 THE SPEAKER: So those of you that  
18 are officers or employees of the State would do  
19 such. Those of you that have not, I assumed that  
20 you would, okay, if we had you raise your hands  
21 here?

22 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Well, we did it  
23 at one point.

24 THE SPEAKER: Okay. So on that  
25 basis I would like to go to Article 7 of our state

1 Constitution. Am I talking to fast? And I'll  
2 paraphrase part of this. That the Government is  
3 or ought to be instituted for the common benefit,  
4 common benefit, this is what you're all obligated  
5 to do, the common benefit to protect and the  
6 security of the people, of the people, not the  
7 money-powered corporations, doesn't say anything  
8 about money-powered corporations or corporate  
9 interest here, for the common benefit, protection,  
10 and security of the people, and then it goes on to  
11 say "and not for the advantage of any single  
12 person, family, or set of persons." So what's  
13 that's telling you and what our Constitution is  
14 directing our state government to do is to do the  
15 things that'll benefit the greatest numbers of  
16 people and not focus on just the few, and keep in  
17 mind that doesn't talk at all about money-powered  
18 corporate interest, so we're not here, your role  
19 is not to serve any lobbyist or money-powered  
20 interest, in terms of Vermont Yankee, fossil fuel,  
21 we don't want a pipeline going across Vermont,  
22 okay, or any of the other corporations that are  
23 here. You're not here to serve their interest;  
24 your role is to find the widest possible way to  
25 serve the common interest. And in it and in the

1 Oath, I would like to go to the people that were  
2 talking about the concern for wind power, finding  
3 the balance is very important. You also have a  
4 right to protect the interest of the minorities  
5 and those people that object, okay, to their  
6 rights being infringed upon and find that balance  
7 along with respecting and doing what's right for  
8 the common good of the masses by respecting the  
9 interest of the few, but we're not talking about  
10 the interest of corporations, we're talking all  
11 cases about the interest of people.

12 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

13 So next, Jeff Forward, is it?

14 THE SPEAKER: Thank you for your  
15 time. One thing I feel really good about is our  
16 investment in UVM. It's really fun to see these  
17 students talk, I would say.

18 I'm the town energy coordinator in  
19 Richman, I have been for twenty years. I have  
20 been a renewable energy consultant. I do a lot of  
21 work with schools. I was a lead champion for the  
22 woodchip boiler and the 116-kilowatt solar array  
23 at Camel's Hump Middle School, over the years. I  
24 want to thank you for your work. To me, I think  
25 we're hearing a lot about wind, and I think the

1 reason we're hearing a lot about wind is this talk  
2 about a ban or a moratorium in the legislature. I  
3 think that's a very technical issue, and I think  
4 that you are more suited for that, that technical  
5 discussion, than the legislature. It should not  
6 be a political decision; it should be more a  
7 technical decision and I think you're better  
8 suited to deal with it, so I thank you for your  
9 time.

10 I don't know if any of you had a chance  
11 to hear Bill McKibben at the State House. You  
12 probably have heard him before, but I thought he  
13 was excellent today, a little bit more positive  
14 than I've heard him in other venues at other  
15 times, but he did talk about how climate change  
16 will be an impact on those ridgelines, and there  
17 will be an impact on habitat, as was mentioned  
18 earlier. He talked about something that I think a  
19 lot of us have talked about and a lot of us  
20 believe, is that Vermont should be a leader, it  
21 should be a leader in renewable energy for now,  
22 and we could be. A moratorium would be a  
23 significant ding on that leadership, and it would  
24 put us back, I think Dean Dorren was correct, it  
25 would put us back decades, and it would send a

1 powerful message, and I think would send the wrong  
2 message, to both the country and beyond, frankly.  
3 Because, you know, yes, we're a little state. I  
4 would disagree with the comment that our mix is  
5 green in that it's not our mix. There is no  
6 Vermont grid. It's ISO New England, and what we  
7 put out offsets what is put out over the grid in  
8 New England. So what I will suggest to you is it  
9 would be very significant if you folks did deal  
10 with this issue of a ban, if you came out against  
11 it, I would encourage you strongly to do so. That  
12 would be helpful. And that, frankly, we can't  
13 afford to wait, and we can't afford to wait three  
14 years, five years, ten years, fifteen years,  
15 because that's what it would do.

16           So I encourage you to do your work, and I  
17 really appreciate your commitment to public  
18 service and your commitment to the Vermont  
19 Constitution.

20                           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thanks.

21           Actually, I'm an attorney. I did take that Oath.  
22 You know, with the bar, you have to do that.

23                           Jack Hanson.

24                           The older I get, the more I know how  
25 necessary I am.

1                   THE SPEAKER: Hi, I'm Jack Hanson  
2 and a freshman here at UVM. Since coming to  
3 Vermont, I've been inspired by the vast array of  
4 interest and concern for protecting the  
5 environment. I've been able to live in a lead-  
6 certified gold building, take a clean-burning bus  
7 to class, where I learn about our environment and  
8 how I can better interact with it from leaders in  
9 the field. I have easy access to locally-grown  
10 organic food, and I've been able to see famous  
11 environmentalists, such as Sandra Steingraber, Van  
12 Jones, and Bill McKibben, all for free. After all  
13 this, I was amazed to hear that the State's  
14 considering legislation that would make it more  
15 difficult to develop local renewable energy.

16                   Where do we expect to get our energy  
17 from? How do we expect to run a 90-percent  
18 renewable energy by the time I'm 55? Not by  
19 continuing to depend on coal, oil, and natural gas  
20 from other states and countries. The time for  
21 local renewable energy is now. Governor Shumlin's  
22 energy plan is one of the many progressive actions  
23 that has really impressed me as a new Vermont  
24 citizen, so I would ask the Commission to use this  
25 plan as a road map in determining energy

1 decisions. This is our opportunity to help  
2 Vermont be a state that inspires young  
3 environmentalists like myself by leading the way  
4 in a country addicted to fossil fuels.

5           And one more thing I wanted to respond to  
6 was the idea of development around Burlington  
7 being looked into, as a new resident I would  
8 definitely support that, and I think my roomMate  
9 would, as well. He's from Milton, Vermont. I  
10 remember just a couple weeks ago him pointing out  
11 the window, and he had never really pointed this  
12 out to me, but you can see his town from our  
13 window, and he pointed out and he said, "You see  
14 those wind turbines right there? That's my town."  
15 And I think he said it with a sense of pride.

16           CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

17           So next up is Sam Ghazey and then Ben  
18 Weaver, Will Bennington, Corey McMullen, and Keith  
19 Brummel. Have I got those right?

20           Okay.

21           THE SPEAKER: Hello, everyone. I  
22 would first like to thank the Siting Commission  
23 for having this public hearing tonight and for  
24 giving residents of Vermont a voice in this  
25 matter. I do love democracy. I love to be in a

1 country that likes to think that they're a  
2 democratic society.

3 I'm Sam Ghazey, a local Vermont resident,  
4 and a concerned UVM student. Now, you may ask why  
5 I'm concerned at the moment. I live in such a  
6 beautiful place, beautiful people, beautiful  
7 environment, that I can pride in. Well, the  
8 reason I'm concerned is the same beautiful  
9 environment I just mentioned is under attack, and  
10 some of the only people that can have an effect as  
11 to whether or not it gets saved are you fellas.

12 According to the Hubbert Peak Theory, we  
13 hit peak production of oil sometime in the past  
14 decade. That being said, we must realize now that  
15 we cannot keep relying on renewable sources of  
16 energy to live our daily lives. This is why we  
17 must immediately start investigating new sources  
18 of clean, renewable energy, such as wind power, in  
19 our state, and we must start right now. We  
20 already have momentum and, if production of these  
21 projects is delayed, it will kill that progress  
22 and turn off companies willing to create energy  
23 for Vermont citizens, reduce the chances of  
24 development of some of the only solutions we have  
25 of fighting and protecting ourselves from this

1 global issue we know as climate change. Our state  
2 has a chance to be on the forefront of this battle  
3 and become a model for other states to follow and  
4 become a national leader in this struggle. We  
5 cannot let large corporations dictate how we live  
6 and how Washington operates. We must invest in  
7 these renewable resources and become energy  
8 independent within our own state and take power  
9 away from businesses such as Exxon and BP and give  
10 it back to the people.

11 I know plenty of environmentalists who,  
12 when they see turbines spinning at the top of  
13 mountains, they're heartened by the fact, and  
14 gives them hope for the future. They're very  
15 right for thinking, because renewable energy is  
16 the only hope for the future that we have. So I  
17 would like to ask you, when going through the  
18 siting process, please think on a larger level  
19 than just locally, because this issue impacts  
20 everyone, I mean all of us, and I would also like  
21 to ask you to think about my generation and my  
22 future and all of my colleagues' future, because  
23 this is something that is going to affect all of  
24 us much more greatly down the road than it is  
25 going to affect your generation.

1 Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Ben Weaver.

3 THE SPEAKER: Hi, my name's Ben. I  
4 would like to thank you guys for letting me speak  
5 up here. It feels really good to be able to voice  
6 my opinion when I feel strongly about something.

7 Wind energy is very important for not  
8 only our generation, generations behind us and the  
9 generations -- I think most importantly renewable  
10 energy is a moral issue. I think ignoring the  
11 fact that fossils fuels are detrimental to not  
12 only humans but life on earth in general is not  
13 only ignorant but is morally a bad thing. It's  
14 hard to ignore something so bad or so wrong as  
15 killing life on earth and ending it before its  
16 time. I think we need to consider that life is a  
17 value resource and there's a lot to learn. We  
18 still have a lot of things that we can take from  
19 this earth and give back, and I think the  
20 longevity of our decisions is not considered to  
21 the full extent that it needs to be. And that's  
22 really all I have to say.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

25 So Will, Will Bennington.

1           THE SPEAKER: Hi, my name's Will  
2 Bennington. I live in Burlington. And I got an  
3 e-mail about tonight from an advocacy group, that  
4 doesn't need to be named, warning me of extreme  
5 anti-wind activists that were going to be here,  
6 but I haven't seen them yet. You seem pretty  
7 reasonable to me. So it's unfortunate that people  
8 feel the need to insert language like that into  
9 the debate, because that's really gets closer to  
10 the root of the problem which is what I want to  
11 talk about as someone who's maybe an extremist or  
12 a radical because I like to focus on the roots of  
13 problems. And the root of the problem we face  
14 today is not whether or not we get our power from  
15 Vermont Yankee or from wind turbines or from  
16 fossil fuels or from Hydro-Quebec. It's that we  
17 use too damn much electricity and we have to  
18 figure out how to stop using so much. We use a  
19 disproportionate, inequitable amount of  
20 electricity in this country. We need to use less  
21 energy. I think I would go so far as to support a  
22 moratorium on all new energy projects in this  
23 state. We have time to figure this out. The  
24 things, the effects of climate change that we're  
25 seeing now, didn't happen -- are not coming from

1 carbon emissions in the past ten years, they're  
2 coming from carbon emissions over the past fifty,  
3 a hundred years. We have time to figure this out  
4 and get it right. Last time people rushed for  
5 clean energy, you know what they did? They dammed  
6 all the rivers in Quebec and displaced many, many  
7 Inuit -- not Inuit, Inu and Cree communities.  
8 That was bad. And that didn't happen because we  
9 took a long time and really considered the impacts  
10 of our energy; that happened because people moved  
11 fast, they moved quick, they didn't have  
12 conversations about justice and about equity, and  
13 that's what we need to do now. It's not about  
14 renewables, it's not about carbon emissions. It's  
15 about how do we live on this planet with millions  
16 and millions of other people; how do we live in  
17 this country with millions and millions of other  
18 people, and use less energy and make sure that our  
19 energy choices aren't negatively affecting people  
20 the way they are now. And, as I understand it,  
21 this Siting Commission was not created as a  
22 reaction to the moratorium but just on the fact  
23 that the Public Service Board process is totally  
24 broken and doesn't work for anyone. The Public  
25 Service Board process is why folks in Monkton and

1 Hinesburg are facing a natural gas pipeline going  
2 through their front yards, which thankfully for  
3 some of them they've been able to work with  
4 Vermont Gas, however hard they had to try to  
5 change that. But the Public Service Board process  
6 is broken, the way that we make decisions around  
7 energy is broken, and a lot of that has to do with  
8 the fact that we're not facing consumption. That  
9 is the root of the problem here, in case you  
10 didn't get it, that that was my point, yeah.

11           And a story, it's funny being in this  
12 room right now, because I got my degree in  
13 forestry from UVM a few years ago. I remember  
14 being in this room, although it wasn't quite so  
15 nice back then, with Mike Snyder who used to be  
16 the Chittenden County Forester, he's now the  
17 commissioner for Forest Parks and Recreation,  
18 brilliant guy, the most brilliant person in terms  
19 of forestry ecology we have in the state, I think,  
20 and he stood up here and he said, You know, folks,  
21 wood is good, wood is good. And he was talking  
22 about biomass. He was mostly talking about people  
23 using wood to heat their homes in wood stoves,  
24 which I think is great, but he was also talking  
25 about biomass electricity, and I agreed, and I was

1 like, Yeah, that's great, McNeil is awesome,  
2 biomass is the way to go, it's renewable. And I  
3 took some time, and for four or five years after  
4 that I realized that I rushed to a conclusion  
5 there. I listened to this rhetoric that wood is  
6 good, and I was wrong, because biomass, as a  
7 matter of fact, might release more carbon emission  
8 short term than burning coal. So we really need  
9 to slow down and think about consumption and not  
10 just jump to all of these -- these solutions that  
11 are being put out there that are not really  
12 addressing the root of the problem. So I hope you  
13 all can do that in your work. Thanks.

14 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Corey McMullen.

15 THE SPEAKER: Hi, my name is Corey  
16 McMullen and I'm a sophomore at UVM. I think  
17 there's something special about going to school in  
18 New England. You simply can't beat studying  
19 underneath beautiful foliage or walking our  
20 mountains among the rich oranges, reds, and  
21 yellows. When all the leaves fall, the mountains  
22 are rendered colorless. Nature covers it all with  
23 an immaculate blanket of white snow. Walking to  
24 class surrounded by pristine whiteness always  
25 makes me smile. Vermont's wonderful climate is at

1 risk, and I want to protect it. Last winter it  
2 was uncommonly warm. In addition, there was  
3 less-than-average snowfall. I attribute these  
4 erratic weather patterns to the exponentially  
5 rising levels of CO2 in our atmosphere. Rising  
6 CO2 levels are directly related to rising global  
7 temperatures. Using coal and oil for energy  
8 contributes greatly to the unwelcome greenhouse  
9 gases in our atmosphere. We cannot ignore this  
10 fact. It is time they stop depending on finite  
11 economically and environmentally costly sources of  
12 energy. The United States is the largest CO2  
13 emitter. We must take responsibility for our  
14 country's emissions by being the first to adapt.  
15 We must lead the country in lowering greenhouse  
16 gas emissions by switching to clean, local, and  
17 renewable sources of energy. We if we use just 4  
18 percent of Vermont's ridgelines for wind energy,  
19 we can provide 25 percent of the state's  
20 electrical needs. If 25 percent of Vermont's  
21 electrical needs were met by wind energy, we could  
22 avoid spewing 1.27 billion pounds of CO2 into the  
23 atmosphere. According to the Environment America  
24 Research and Policy Center in 2009, Vermonters  
25 spent more than \$3,000 for every man, woman, and

1 child in the state on fossil fuels. We cannot  
2 afford to depend on dirty energy any longer. By  
3 creating sustainable forms of energy in Vermont,  
4 we can keep our money here instead of watching it  
5 pulled straight out of our local economy. In the  
6 long term sustainable, renewable energy will  
7 protect our environment and our wallets. Vermont  
8 is uniquely known for its refreshing positive and  
9 realistic view of the environment. We have the  
10 power to preserve the most awe-inspiring autumns,  
11 winters, and economy by supporting renewable  
12 energy. I urge you to keep climate change in mind  
13 when determining which projects should be  
14 prioritized in the siting process.

15 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

16 Keith Brummel?

17 THE SPEAKER: No, Brunner. I  
18 scribbled it in there.

19 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Okay.

20 THE SPEAKER: Hey, everyone, my  
21 name's Keith. I live here in Burlington. I  
22 work -- I've been involved with the Youth Climate  
23 Movement for probably like five or six years now.  
24 I've traveled internationally, been involved in a  
25 lot of different gatherings, and currently work on

1 the campaigns to stop Vermont Gas and Gas Metro  
2 from building a gas pipeline under Lake Champlain,  
3 as does Will. We work alongside each other. I  
4 think we have a similar message here tonight and,  
5 frankly, and, actually, he said what I was  
6 thinking. I wanted to say, for folks who have  
7 been listening to the discourse around wind,  
8 there's a lot of vitriol being thrown around, and  
9 I'm, frankly, finding some of the language pretty  
10 repugnant coming from the big greens casting  
11 people like yourself coming down from Newport as  
12 extremists and out there, and I think that that's  
13 super problematic and offensive. Yeah, so I  
14 support you coming down here. And I wanted to  
15 follow up with that and say, so it's the  
16 low-income communities, it's the communities of  
17 color, it's the indigenous communities, these are  
18 the communities that have always had energy siting  
19 in their backyards, they have always had resource  
20 extraction in their backyards. And so when we're  
21 up here with our -- on our high horse, talking  
22 about, These people are crazy, they're extremists,  
23 they're coming out to all these forums and saying  
24 we don't want giant fricking wind turbines that  
25 are selling energy to the grid and owned by some

1 Canadian multinational in our backyard, they're  
2 crazy, what are they doing. So I would like to  
3 propose that we think about something like  
4 principles, we think about how we can use  
5 principles like equity, talk about equity. Is this  
6 an equitable decision, when we're considering  
7 projects, when we're considering the siting of  
8 projects, when we're considering policies around  
9 energy and climate, are they equitable, are they  
10 universal, are they accountable, is the process  
11 participatory, is it a transparent process? These  
12 are the questions we need to be asking. It's not  
13 a yes, it's not a no, it's not a pro-wind, it's  
14 not an anti-wind. It's who's getting screwed,  
15 who's getting the benefits, how can -- and,  
16 essentially, how can we work together on the land  
17 and make a living in the face of all these things  
18 that we're dealing with.

19           So I just want to thank you all tonight.  
20 I really hope that this is just the beginning. I  
21 see this as there's going to be decades more  
22 community-involved meetings like this where we all  
23 work together to figure out how we're going to  
24 deal with this stuff that's coming up pretty fast.  
25 So thanks, everyone.

1 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.  
2 That's it for the sign-up sheet.

3 MR. LOSTER: I've got one more.

4 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: One more sign-  
5 up sheet? Jack Steele?

6 THE SPEAKER: Hi, everyone. My name  
7 is Jack Steele. I'm a junior here at UVM, and I'm  
8 originally from New York City, so Burlington's  
9 definitely a big change for me, and I'm loving it  
10 so far, and I hope to be here for many more years.

11 So I wanted to talk a little bit about  
12 U.S. energy policy in general and then specific  
13 toward Vermont, because I think that, if we look  
14 at the trends on a national level, that we can  
15 really see ourselves as the leader, not just a  
16 leader but the leader, in renewable energy policy.  
17 So I just want to hop back to the presidential  
18 debates that happened recently, and we heard all  
19 this rhetoric about localizing energy. You know,  
20 I want to bring energy back to the U.S., and both  
21 Barack Obama and Mitt Romney had this sort of  
22 rhetoric about them. And I think that that really  
23 harps sort of the unspoken story behind that is  
24 that for the first time in a while America doesn't  
25 really know, we're kind of scared about the fact

1 that we can't really control all of our exploits,  
2 you know, that's sort of America's biggest fear in  
3 any foreign policy is that we -- Uh-oh, we don't  
4 have all the power in this situation, and we're  
5 sort of relying on somebody else for the  
6 exportation/importation of fossil fuels, mainly,  
7 and, you know, it also harps on xenophobia about  
8 the Arab world, but that's whole other  
9 conversation we can have at a later date. But  
10 what I came here today to say is that, you know,  
11 people, that fear has been projected from a top-  
12 down approach, that we don't really have a lid on  
13 things right now and we're trying to localize  
14 energy. But in the process of that being  
15 projected out, people have sort of thought to  
16 themselves that, you know, localizing energy  
17 production is really important so we're not going  
18 to focus on the negative effects of localizing  
19 energy production. So, for example, you know, the  
20 moratorium that went on in New York State, which  
21 is pretty near and dear to my heart, on hydro  
22 fracking. A lot of residents would rather have a  
23 local energy source than, you know, deal with the  
24 negative effects of hydrofracking, having their  
25 water being contaminated, just because, you know,

1 we're importing our energy from somewhere else and  
2 we forget about the fact that there are really  
3 serious health effects and environmental effects.

4           So focusing in on Vermont, I think that  
5 we can take that fear, we can take that -- that  
6 didn't come out right. We can take that -- that  
7 skepticism of importing energy from -- from  
8 elsewhere and really do it right here in Vermont,  
9 because I think that, whether it be wind power,  
10 whether it be biomass, whether it be the  
11 suggestions people have made, I think a renewable  
12 energy portfolio that uses people's -- the trend  
13 to want to localize energy sources here but,  
14 instead of going out and saying, Oh, you know,  
15 people are afraid, let's just go hydrofrack and  
16 give them the energy that they need right away, we  
17 can really think and be methodical, as Keith  
18 mentioned, about, you know, really creating a  
19 diverse renewable energy portfolio. And,  
20 honestly, you know, I don't really -- I'm kind of  
21 a novice towards the wind projects that are going  
22 on, but I would say after this I'm going to read  
23 about it, but I just think that creating that  
24 diverse portfolio that works with the people that  
25 are honestly afraid that we might not have energy

1 for many years to come.

2 So thank you, thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: Thank you.

4 MR. HASLETT: Could I just make one  
5 just senior citizen comment here.

6 MR. JOHNSTONE: Yes.

7 MR. HASLETT: I would like to say,  
8 people of my generation, you need to know you  
9 young people here, how much hope you give to some  
10 of us that you might undo what we have done. And  
11 so I just want to tell you I walk away with great  
12 inspiration and hope seeing so many young people  
13 here today. I want to thank you all.

14 MS. MARKOWITZ: And let me also say  
15 as the secretary of the Agency of Natural  
16 Resources is that we're looking for good interns.

17 MS. McCARREN: She's got her card.

18 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: And I want to  
19 thank you all for coming, but the thing I would  
20 like to say is for all the comments, especially  
21 from -- all the comments about the moratorium,  
22 just so you know, I mean, that's a senate bill  
23 before the senate Natural Resources Committee, and  
24 they're the ones discussing it. And, in fact, we  
25 were created before the moratorium was discussed,

1 and we're going to -- and our work is scheduled to  
2 be done by the end of April and with drafts  
3 hopefully by the end of March that deal with a  
4 variety of issues about these things, like public  
5 process and, you know, how do we -- what public  
6 conversations do we need about something but still  
7 how do we implement? We're given the policy that  
8 the State of Vermont has, how do we implement it  
9 but being careful to balance all those issues.  
10 So, please, go to the website, send us suggestions  
11 and, you know, and comments about what we could  
12 specifically do, and what can we do underwater,  
13 Dean? I'm all for it.

14 MR. DORREN: Sadly, not much in  
15 Vermont.

16 CHAIRWOMAN EASTMAN: So thank you so  
17 much. We really do appreciate all the comments  
18 [sitingcommission.vermont.gov](http://sitingcommission.vermont.gov), okay.

19 MS. MCGINNIS: And it's on the paper  
20 outside.

21 (The hearing adjourned at 6:52 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Marilee J. Young, Court Reporter and Notary Public, hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 90, inclusive, are a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes of the Public Hearing of the Energy Generation Siting Policy Commission held on January 30, 2013, in Burlington, Vermont, starting at 5:00 p.m., and transcribed by me with use of computer-aided transcription and produced under my supervision.

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My commission expires February 10, 2015

February 6, 2013

mjy