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Adore F. Kurtz, Executive Director
Industrial Development Agency
61 Area Development Drive
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Dear Adore,

Good to meet you last evening at the IDA hearing in Churubusco. Nina & I appreciated the opportunity to testify and present documents.

Two of the documents included in that accordion file we submitted are included with this letter. No, I am not submitting additional documentation; both of these documents are, as I say, included in that file—it's just that I want to bring these two, in particular, to your attention (both these documents are found in the file titled "Wind turbine inefficiencies").

The first doc. is titled "Wind energy's colossal profits at the taxpayer's expense" (2-7-06). This was prepared by several members of our North Country Advocates this past winter, and it represents our best analysis of wind energy economics in NYS (we based our analysis on the documents included in the "Wind turbine inefficiencies" file you now have). I took much of my talk, yesterday, from this document. Read this over to get a fuller sense of the truly huge profits the wind companies will reap. For Noble & Marble River to ask for a PILOT and other tax relief in the face of these figures is outrageous, to put it mildly.

The second doc. is titled "The effects of integrating wind power on transmission system planning, reliability, and operations" (2-4-06), a report prepared for NYSERDA by General Electric, manufacturer of Noble's turbines. Both Nina & I referred to this document last evening. This entire document is found on the NYSERDA website, at

http://www.nyserda.org/publications/wind_integration_report.pdf

People are incredulous when we tell them GE's turbines are only 10% efficient in New York State. Well, here it is in black and white—from the manufacturer (p. 7.16). Thus, when the IDA weighs the larger economic benefit of these wind turbines, let this 10% figure be your guide.

continued ...

Finally, a few reflections on the two IDA hearings I attended, both of them highly interesting.

There is a war of investments going on here. Local people invest in themselves: their houses and properties, in jobs with pensions, and they would like to have more to invest in their children. Many people have been deceived by Noble into thinking Noble is investing in their community. What these people expect from Noble is a big infusion of money in a way that supports their investments—for the little stores in town, their schools, opportunities for their children to both stay home and better themselves.

The reality of the matter is that Noble & Marble River represent the efforts of investors from afar (including JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs) to make a lot of money, mainly from government subsidies, from a project that will palpably harm the principal investments of local people, which, as I say, are in their houses and properties. Meanwhile, the few who will earn money from turbines on their land are being underpaid.

The stock market is also investing heavily in wind energy, as you doubtless know. This means that people like Bruce Brewster (Chateaugay Lake), who described himself as an investment specialist, have a personal stake in these wind energy projects. I would not be surprised if a number of your correspondents (postcards and letters you read or referred to) also have a stock market interest in these windplants. (On this note, one cannot help but wonder how many people who speak in favor of windplants at these IDA hearings have a contract with Noble or Marble River. And how many people speak in favor of them who do not have a personal financial stake in them?)

Notice that Boyce Sherwin emphasized the difference between investing in our communities (renovating houses & improving neighborhoods)—a type of investment worthy of IDA support—and allowing harm to come to our communities. The question becomes, Whose investment will the IDA protect: Noble's or the community's? It seems to me the IDA's role is to force Noble to make the kind of community investment that community people are expecting. The money coming in via taxes has to more than compensate for the loss of property value and environmental degradation, so that communities improve in spite of the presence of turbines (i.e., an industrialized landscape). This, I believe, is what the people are expecting.

Just a few thoughts on this interesting, and vexing, process.

With all best wishes,

Calvin Luther Martin