

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

PSB Rule 5.700

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7 p.m.

5 High School Drive
Montpelier, Vermont

Public Hearing held before the Vermont Public Service Board, at the Montpelier High School, 5 High School Drive, Montpelier, Vermont, on May 5, 2017, beginning at 7 p.m.

P R E S E N T

BOARD MEMBERS: James Volz, Chairman
Margaret Cheney
Sarah Hofmann

STAFF: Kevin Fink

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1 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Good evening everyone.
2 Thank you for coming out tonight. We're here this
3 evening for a public hearing as part of the Public
4 Service Board's rulemaking process for a rule
5 regulating sound for wind electric generation
6 facilities, and that was pursuant to Section 12A of
7 Act 174. My name is Jim Volz. I'm the Chair of the
8 Public Service Board. With me tonight is Margaret
9 Cheney to my right.

10 AUDIENCE: We can't hear you.

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: They are trying to fix
12 it. The purpose of tonight's hearing is to provide
13 an opportunity for the Public Service Board to hear
14 input from members of the public concerning this rule
15 about sound from wind facilities. I want to be clear
16 the rule applies to future wind projects not to
17 existing ones.

18 So that tonight's hearing will be
19 transcribed by a court reporter. She is down front.
20 We'll hear from people who want to speak. If you
21 wanted to speak, you need to sign up. We've already
22 got around 40 people who have signed up and there's a
23 sign-up sheet down front. The way this will work is
24 I'll call the names on the list that I have, and if
25 you would come up to the microphone and speak to us

1 about whatever comments you want to make about the
2 rule. I'll call three names to start and if the
3 three names I call will get ready so that we can do
4 this more quickly. With 40 -- over 40 people signing
5 up if I give each person three minutes, that's over
6 two hours. So that's what I'm going to have to do
7 limit the time period to three hours. You can also
8 submit anything you want in writing to us through our
9 web site or you can e-mail us and that information is
10 on our web site as well.

11 BOARD MEMBER HOFMANN: The only thing I
12 would ask is if you have spoken at one of the other
13 ones, you know we've been in Bennington and Lowell,
14 if you have spoken at one of those, please we're
15 going to ask you to speak last tonight so people who
16 haven't had a chance to speak get to speak first and
17 then we'll try to get through other people who have
18 signed up. So if we come to you, you have already
19 spoken once at an event please pass. We'll try to
20 get back to you if we have enough time.

21 BOARD MEMBER CHENEY: I might add also
22 if you have more than three minutes worth of things
23 to say, please you could also submit your comments in
24 writing and then the deadline for written comments is
25 May 11th either by regular mail or by e-mail to the

1 Public Service Board.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: And the public hearings
3 we've already had have been transcribed just like
4 this one is, we will read all those comments. So if
5 you have already commented, we've already heard you
6 so there's no need to repeat it tonight. Okay. So
7 with that I think maybe we can get started. The
8 first -- I'll call three names. Get ready to come up
9 to the microphone. First person is Justin Lindholm.
10 Then Bill Dunkel and then Liisa Kissel. Why don't
11 you go ahead and if you would identify your name and
12 spell your last name for the court reporter if it's
13 not obvious.

14 MR. LINDHOLM: Okay. Justin Lindholm
15 L-I-N-D-H-O-L-M and I'll be the sound guinea pig.
16 Can everybody hear? I have a pretty booming voice
17 anyway. Vermont has always done things the Vermont
18 way. We've always lifted the little guy up with
19 everybody else when we do something that is a big
20 project, good for society. We've never lost track of
21 the little guy. This is something that we've done.
22 It was taught to me in first grade when the teacher
23 told me that she said the wind and the sun saw this
24 little kid down below, and the wind said I can blow
25 the jacket off that little kid, and he blew and blew

1 and blew and the kid just made the jacket tighter and
2 the sun took over and did a nice job of shining on
3 him and he took the jacket off.

4 We can do the same thing here. European
5 standards -- Europe is way ahead of us on renewable
6 energy. They have decent standards now. They have
7 really done this a lot longer than we have and what
8 we're calling for here is European standards, and
9 there is -- this is the way to go. We have a lot of
10 people in this country don't understand what we need
11 to do to get to our 90 percent. David Blittersdorf I
12 recorded him saying it and so did Art Wolff in the
13 Burlington Free Press 90 percent means we basically
14 got to get off jet airplanes. We need to move to
15 little apartments, but we're not going to suffer like
16 that to get to 90 percent. Why should we require the
17 little people to suffer. You know these little
18 people should be compensated, and if we don't build
19 wind turbines, we actually will build wind turbines
20 if you compensate these little people. They will say
21 okay the sound levels are going to be too high for
22 that person over there and this person over there.
23 Then the wind turbine industry can negotiate with
24 these people if we have the standards proper. Then
25 they can say okay I will accept a higher standard

1 where my house is if I'm being compensated. There's
2 nothing wrong with that.

3 Now on the animal level we had just a
4 National Public Radio today at 2 o'clock was talking
5 about national parks, the sound levels are getting
6 two and more times higher than the background noise
7 which is affecting animal life. That was pretty neat
8 that this came on National Public Radio at 2 o'clock
9 today. So what we need to do is to be very careful
10 with the little person. The little person needs to
11 be lifted up with the rest of us when we do any
12 project. That's the Vermont way. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Bill Dunkel,
14 and if Liisa Kissel can get ready. Thank you.

15 MR. DUNKEL: Good evening. My name is
16 Bill Dunkel D-U-N-K-E-L. I live in the Town of
17 Windham where I serve on the Planning Commission and
18 the Energy Committee and am one of our two appointed
19 representatives to the Windham Regional Commission.
20 I've lived in Vermont a long time. When I first
21 moved to Windham about three years ago and became
22 aware of the turbine proposal my initial reaction was
23 it probably would be a good idea. I consider myself
24 an environmentalist. I'm worried about climate
25 change. So I thought it might make sense to do this.

1 However, the more I studied the issue,
2 the more I talked to people on both sides of the
3 issue, the more concerned I became about the
4 environmental damage that would be done by installing
5 these massive machines. Wildlife habitat disturbance
6 and so on. I became even more concerned about
7 potential negative health impacts from audible and
8 inaudible sound. I read a lot of studies, I'm sure
9 you have read those too, about people suffering from
10 headaches and nausea and sleeplessness and so on. So
11 when I heard that this Public Service Board is
12 considering much stricter sound standards I was
13 elated, and I would strongly urge you for the sake of
14 protecting public health to adopt the standard of a
15 maximum threshold of 35 decibels day or night, not an
16 average but a threshold, and also please consider a
17 setback of at least 10 times the height -- maximum
18 height of the turbine. I think we need to protect
19 people who might be living within a mile of the wind
20 turbine. There were nearly a hundred homes in
21 Windham that would have been less than a mile from a
22 turbine had that project gone through, and I think in
23 order to protect public health we need a strict
24 standard that's strictly enforced and I would urge
25 you to resist the pressure. I'm sure you will get to

1 weaken that standard.

2 Last point I would like to make please
3 is that every person I know in Windham who opposed
4 the wind turbines believes sincerely that climate
5 change is a problem and is worried about it and
6 concerned about it. We think there are other ways to
7 deal with this, especially by conservation of energy
8 and properly scaled and properly sited green energy,
9 primarily solar, but also other forms of green
10 energy, but massive turbines are not the way to go.
11 If it happens, I hope it will protect us and I think
12 this is in line with Vermont's values more than
13 anything else. Thank you for hearing me.

14 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Liisa Kissel
15 and Steve Thurston. Go ahead. Ready? He says give
16 my time to the next person. So Monique Thurston.

17 MS. KISSEL: My name is Liisa Kissel.
18 It's spelled L-I-I-S-A K-I-S-S-E-L and I live in
19 Grafton, Vermont. The sound standard must be lowered
20 for two reasons. First, to protect Vermonters from
21 more harm being inflicted on them. Vermont families
22 have served as collateral damage in the pursuit of
23 big wind. The Sheffield, Lowell, and Georgia
24 Mountain wind projects have left people suffering
25 lodging complaints without relief and in some cases

1 abandoning or selling their homes. Vermont must not
2 allow more families to suffer.

3 The second reason is directly related to
4 the first; to ensure the success of Vermont's
5 renewable energy goals. How likely are Vermonters to
6 want more big wind knowing about the harm it has
7 caused. Like most of my neighbors I was all in favor
8 of renewable energy and still am, but when a large
9 project was proposed in my town I started doing
10 research. I found out about the Therriens, the
11 Nelsons, the Brouhas, the McLanes, and others who
12 suffered from the noise from the wind project.

13 In the end Grafton and Windham
14 overwhelmingly voted down the wind project. We did
15 not want our neighbors to become the next Therriens,
16 Nelsons, Brouhas, or McLanes. Vermont will have a
17 hard time meeting its highly ambitious renewable
18 energy goals if more citizens and towns are
19 sacrificed and more people are harmed by harmful
20 projects. Please establish sensible safe sound
21 standards that people can support and live with. 35
22 dBA maximum is the right standard in our quiet
23 natural place and that must be measured from the
24 property line not from the residence. Let Vermont
25 set an example of protecting its citizens and its

1 environment while doing its part in renewable energy.
2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next we
4 would like to hear from Monique Thurston, and if
5 Suzanne Seymour can get ready.

6 MS. THURSTON: So if I can have my
7 husband's time, I have an accent so I have to speak
8 slowly.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Sure.

10 MS. THURSTON: Thank you very much. My
11 name is Monique Thurston. I'm a retired doctor
12 residing in Ferrisburg. In 2009 in Maine I
13 co-founded a group Citizens of Wind Power, and in
14 2011 we successfully petitioned the State of Maine to
15 adopt new noise standards which recognized wind
16 turbine noise is unique and requires specific
17 regulation not applicable to other type of industrial
18 community noise.

19 Of interest when I testified in 2011 the
20 wind industry did not reject our suggestion, but was
21 mostly concerned about their profit margin and the
22 investors. As a member of a profession whose purpose
23 is to improve lives I cringe at what I have seen for
24 eight years now the new concept in public health as
25 it relates to individuals exposed to turbine noise.

1 This comes with diminished empathy which includes the
2 dismissal of well established symptoms related to
3 wind turbine noise and the imposition amazingly of a
4 new concept of tolerable or reasonable annoyance.

5 Chronic sleep disturbance is a serious
6 medical problem, but wind industry advocates consider
7 sleep disturbance as an acceptable byproduct of the
8 industry. Dismissing the importance of sleep
9 disturbance is not practical and should not be
10 supported by politicians or regulators. I am glad to
11 choose health over profit.

12 The proposed rules here show
13 responsibility and leadership from you. You have
14 listened carefully to the complaints of Vermont
15 residents. The opposition disagreed with the level
16 of 35 dBA. I wonder why. With the proposed night
17 nighttime limit of 35 dBA you accomplish three
18 things. You validate a 2004 Peterson and Wayne study
19 that showed that noise from wind turbines creates
20 annoyance, a lower decible level than any other type
21 of industrial noise, and the degree of annoyance
22 increases more rapidly with wind turbine as the
23 decible level is rising than it does with other
24 industry noise.

25 Peterson Wayne demonstrate wind turbine

1 noise has unique characteristics. It's different
2 than other noise and it's different from common
3 household noise such as conversation, air
4 conditioning system, a TV, and refrigerator. You
5 also validate research concluding that 35 dBA
6 nighttime dBA will be only sporadic or no complaint,
7 and you validate Germany's current 35 dBA nighttime,
8 a country that has a decade of wind power
9 development. 35 dBA is not protective of the most
10 sensitive, I'm one of them, but at least those will
11 reflect increasing awareness of turbine noise in
12 human health.

13 There are several flaws in the law
14 though. Elimination of interior bedroom 30 dBA
15 limit. 30 dBA is essential to protect sleep as is
16 recognized in the CPG of Vermont Wind project. It's
17 reasonable to assume that sleeping with window open
18 is a practice of many Vermonters. Act 174 stipulated
19 that a new rule should not be less protective than
20 the current rules. Your finding of fact in this
21 rulemaking proceeding should clearly explain why
22 eliminating the 30 dBA interior bedroom limit
23 complains with the intent of the law. As I said
24 before, wind project noise limit should be at a
25 property line not a hundred feet of the residence.

1 In conclusion, wind turbine noise is a
2 worldwide problem attracting the attention of the
3 entire scientific community. More projects get built
4 more people exposed more problem arise and modern
5 science will be used to confirm symptoms experienced
6 by the victim. This is a curse that keeps giving.
7 Magnetic resonance imaging, also called MRI, has
8 become a tool of choice to demonstrate the organic
9 nature of the symptom both in sleep deprivation and
10 in the brain reaction of infrasound exposure. In my
11 testimony I will give you the link to an article and
12 I will just go three sentences from this article
13 because it's very important.

14 A study was done a few months ago
15 exposing patients to infrasound and recording the MRI
16 pattern. That study is the first to demonstrate that
17 infrasound near the hearing threshold may induce
18 changes of neural activity across several brain
19 regions some of which are known to be involved in the
20 artery process while others are regarded as key
21 players in emotional and ergonomic control. This
22 finding does allow us to speculate on continuous
23 exposure to subliminal infrasound could affect
24 inference on the organism. Basically could harm you.

25 So you are correct to work at

1 establishing rules on the side of the precautionary
2 principal. The time is coming when the discrediting
3 the victims of wind turbine noise will be seen as an
4 archaic concept and deniers of wind turbine noise
5 complaints will be challenged in a court of law with
6 MRI as evidence. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. We would
8 also like to hear from Suzan Seymore, and if Steve
9 Gorelick could get ready to come up.

10 MS. SEYMOUR: Hi. Suzan Seymour
11 S-E-Y-M-O-U-R. I'm from Fairfield on Fairfield Pond.
12 My thoughts are that tonight we're talking to the
13 Public Service Board specifically and that you're
14 listening to get to the level of what the greatest
15 good is for Vermonters regarding industrial wind
16 turbines. I mean that's my impression on being here
17 tonight on my very busy life just like yours. I've
18 been a greenie forever and I'm not talking about my
19 vest. I've been concerned about the environment.
20 I've given to Greenpeace, Defenders of the Wildlife.
21 You know even last year I gave a third of my salary
22 to Bernie Sanders. So I just want you to know that I
23 think we're all on the same page here on doing what's
24 best for our planet.

25 You can say that I really do care a lot

1 about my planet and the people that are inhabited in
2 it. Only recently I got word two years ago about
3 Swanton Wind coming to my sacred little place called
4 Fairfield Pond where they are going to build
5 supposedly right across from the water from us, and
6 it was only then that I began to do research on how
7 turbines were manufactured. I actually had no idea.
8 To my surprise I learned that they are anything but
9 green, free, or clean which is surprising because I
10 gave a lot of money to VPIRG before that. If only
11 they were. If only they were the things that would
12 save our planet, but alas they are not.

13 Industrial wind turbines are just that.
14 An industry to make money and not adjust. As I
15 educated myself on all things wind turbines in the
16 last two years, sleepless nights on the computer for
17 many hours, I've taken wind turbine college. I've
18 become educated on the fact that human beings are
19 affected and inflicted by noise and infrasound. Is
20 everyone? No. Are some people? Yes.

21 Vermonters, especially rural Vermonters,
22 are becoming collateral damage for the greater good
23 one might say. If one is concerned about combating
24 climate change, and I'm sure everyone in this room
25 would agree they are, an efficient means of using

1 energy or using less energy or even eating less meat
2 has been proven to reduce our carbon footprint. Who
3 knew? I became a vegetarian after all this. I want
4 small scale renewables in Vermont and I think most
5 Vermonters would agree it makes sense for our
6 terrain, it makes sense for our small state, it makes
7 a lot of sense. So none of this is making sense to
8 me.

9 In the south in Connecticut,
10 Massachusetts, Rhode Island I see the businesses with
11 their lights on all night long wasting electricity
12 and here we are about to destroy our precious
13 mountaintops all in the sake of more energy for
14 people to keep your lights on all night long, but in
15 the meantime sound standards that allow all
16 Vermonters to live and sleep in the state that they
17 love and cherish should be tantamount to your
18 decision as a Public Service Board. Please be
19 courageous leaders who choose people over profit and
20 save our mountains for they are surely our greatest
21 resource. I believe all Vermont lives matters and
22 hope you do too. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Steve
24 Gorelick. Then if Rick could get ready to come up.

25 MR. GORELICK: Steve Gorelick

1 G-O-R-E-L-I-C-K from Walden. I'm going to be reading
2 some excerpts from the noise log of Shirley Nelson.
3 Different excerpts than what were read in Lowell a
4 couple nights ago. As you probably know the Nelsons
5 live just under a mile from the nearest Lowell wind
6 turbine. They were eventually forced to sell their
7 home because it became unliveable. Green Mountain
8 Power bought their home but imposed a gag order on
9 preventing them from speaking about their health
10 experiences and that's why Shirley is not here
11 tonight. Most of what I read is from a period when
12 the Nelsons had a noise monitor, a decible monitor,
13 and if you note there are effects recorded when
14 decible averages were in the 30's and 40's.

15 February 14, 2013 woke up twice during
16 the night with a dull headache. 6:30 this morning
17 got up because the back of my head aches and feels
18 like a tight band around it. Need to finish a
19 project today, but don't think I can if this doesn't
20 stop. Ears ringing. 41.7 decibels maximum 29.4
21 minimum. That pulsing noise outside makes my head
22 feel the same way. Feeling very irritable and
23 concentration is off. Went to Newport. Headache
24 went away.

25 February 17 ears ringing and temples

1 hurt when I woke up. 37.6 max 23.5 minimum. March
2 2nd woke up with a headache, ears ringing, can hear
3 noise like the roaring chimney fire, something
4 rolling. Temples and forehead hurt. Very irritable.
5 Noise worse in bathroom. No windows. Can't wait to
6 leave for ball game. Headache will go away. Decible
7 rating 46.7 max 37.4 minimum. They are out of
8 compliance and they don't care. Went to ball game
9 headache gone before we got there.

10 March 13 woke up at 11:45 and couldn't
11 go back to sleep. Stomach didn't feel right. While
12 downstairs I realized I could hear and feel the
13 turbines. Feeling in my stomach was matching the
14 sound of the turbines almost like the feeling and
15 motion while baling hay. Sound is within legal
16 limits, but I could feel it. March 20 ears ringing
17 decible reading north side 39.5 max 23.6 minimum
18 seemed.

19 March 23 ears ringing very loudly all
20 night. Didn't sleep well at all. Kept waking up.
21 Tossing and turning. Got up at 4:30. Head felt
22 tight. Didn't notice noise in our bedroom, but could
23 hear it as I went through the office. 48.8 max.
24 23.9 minimum. Ears rang loudly all day. April 22,
25 went out to hang laundry. Would have been a perfect

1 morning except for that damn plane noise. 42.8 max.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Sir, your time is up.

3 If you only have a few more second left -- we have
4 read all of those entries. They have been sent to us
5 before.

6 AUDIENCE: I would cede my time to
7 Steve.

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Okay.

9 MR. GORELICK: 42.8 max 35 minimum. This
10 is supposed to be all right. This is an invasion in
11 this area. We used to have something special. Ears
12 ringing so loud making me feel irritated, angry, and
13 depressed. So sick of ear ringing all shrill all the
14 time. Beginning to take longer amounts of time away
15 from here to make it stop.

16 April 29 ears ringing. I am very
17 irritable and concentration not good. April 30 ears
18 ringing, headache mostly on left side of forehead.
19 Laying in bed this morning sounded like house was
20 humming kind of like roof was vibrating. Don had
21 headache too. Used to have migraines, but this is
22 not a migraine it is different. I never had -- never
23 had headaches until this crap started. Downstairs
24 can still hear a noise. Something running. Gone for
25 two and a half hours headache went away. Ears still

1 ringing. After being back two hours headache is
2 coming back on the left side. Don still has
3 headache. Evening Don has headache on left side. He
4 has had a headache most of the day. He took an
5 Sumatriptan. Thought it might help, but headache
6 came back after a few minutes so it wasn't a
7 migraine. Thanks.

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. So that was
9 Carmen who gave up your time.

10 AUDIENCE: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Kathy Hepburn is next
12 and then Steve Halford.

13 MS. HEPBURN: My name is Kathy Hepburn
14 H-E-P-B-U-R-N. We have all heard the saying that
15 money equals power and power equals money. We in the
16 green vests are not the rich or the powerful. We are
17 fighting for the right of a peaceful existence in our
18 own home and on our entire property. Manifest
19 Destiny, eminent domain, Act 174, they all threaten
20 that peaceful existence. When threatened with a wind
21 turbine on a mountain next to our quiet home in
22 Tinmouth we did research and have learned the
23 simplistic good sound rhetoric from the wind
24 developers promoting wind to save the planet is
25 usually lacking in facts. The burden of proof in

1 providing facts has been on the offended party.
2 Health is damaged from living in close proximity to a
3 turbine. The statement has been circulated by wind
4 promoters that because you don't like wind you
5 imagine these symptoms or make them up. People all
6 over the world are suffering the same symptoms. We
7 have not found evidence that wind energy reduces CO2
8 emissions. People who once embraced renewable
9 energy, myself included, I used to have a windmill.
10 In the form of wind I now know the facts and do not.

11 90 percent of our CO2 emissions come
12 from home heating fuel, air travel, and car
13 emissions. There's no guarantee of a peaceful
14 existence on our family farm after being threatened
15 with eminent domain from a proposed gas line and then
16 a proposed industrial wind turbine. Please pass a
17 sound standard of no more than 10 decibels over
18 ambient sound that protects people from being
19 sacrificed for technology that has been proven to
20 have dubious benefits. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Steve
22 Halford and Steven Whitaker.

23 MR. HALFORD: I'm Steve Halford
24 S-T-E-V-E H-A-L-F-O-R-D and I'm from South
25 Wallingford, Vermont. I have to admit that sound

1 standards and decibels and all that kind of make my
2 eyes glaze over when I'm hearing all this. I'm a
3 visual person and I brought my visual and this is
4 what it's really all about. We are industrializing
5 our -- or want to industrialize our green mountains
6 so somebody can make a profit. Right now the RECs
7 are being sold to Connecticut and other states south
8 of us. Why? Because they have to buy into their
9 portfolios green energy. They have dirty energy they
10 are producing and they need to counter that. So what
11 are we? Surrogates for that energy, green energy
12 needs, and what's happening with this? Somebody is
13 making money and all we are surrogates, like I said,
14 and it shouldn't be.

15 This is a beautiful state. It's a
16 wonderful state, and as George Atkins once said be
17 aware of the utilities boys. Thank you. This is
18 what I have to say about that. It's an empty bucket.

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Steve
20 Whitaker and then David Butterfield.

21 MR. WHITAKER: Good evening. I would
22 start with a touchstone for whatever value you would
23 put on it. Governor Scott ran on a platform and won
24 on a platform of restoring trust in government, and
25 for the Board's proposed rule and the position being

1 advocated by the Department to use A-weighted
2 measurements for this complex science is eroding the
3 trust and confidence in the Board and the Department.
4 A-weighting is absolutely the inappropriate tool when
5 -- awaiting skews the science. It's not putting a
6 finger on the scale it's putting a foot on the scale
7 when you're talking about sound content and sound
8 pressure levels that are below the hearing threshold,
9 the infrasound or the ultra low frequency. That
10 requires measurement with an unwaited scale ideally.
11 Just clean honest measure it across the board and
12 then correlate that with the health effects and with
13 the wildlife impacts. You cannot weight the scale to
14 a weighting standard developed for human hearing only
15 and when we know these machines are putting out sound
16 pressure vibrations that are well below the hearing
17 threshold.

18 So I do have -- I'm not prowind. I'm
19 not against wind. I'm for credible science, honest
20 objective science, and we're not practicing it yet
21 here, and I would encourage you to take that into
22 consideration. I've spoken with members of the
23 Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules and
24 this Board can and should ask for more time beyond
25 the July deadline to complete this rule and do it

1 properly. All it takes is a request from the Board
2 to get granted more time.

3 Fairness and well being. Fairness to
4 the ideals and the goals of an energy independent
5 standard or fairness to the people who are most
6 affected who are living in close proximity. I know
7 -- I believe that there are some people who are more
8 sensitive than others. I live in a very quiet area,
9 you know, and 20, 25 decibels above ambient would be
10 outrageous. People who live in loud areas it would
11 be -- I'm not going to try to get into the science
12 here tonight. What I'm arguing for -- I brought a
13 show and tell because I have studied this enough too.
14 So here's a microphone made by Berliner. I spoke at
15 one of your workshops. This microphone will measure
16 flat down to 800ths of one hertz, okay, and while
17 you're bascially going to throw away all the value of
18 your microphone by using your A-weighting I'll be
19 equipped to go up and measure and time record this
20 information for you so that you can -- watching the
21 clock.

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I you ran out of time.

23 MR. WHITAKER: I'm running out of time.

24 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: You're at 3 minutes and
25 20 seconds.

1 MR. WHITAKER: Okay. We know there's
2 emerging science. We know that these frequencies are
3 measurable and recordable even if we can't hear them.
4 We need to take the proper time to set up a process
5 to correlate these with real human impacts with the
6 medical professionals. Even turn it into a cottage
7 industry. We can finally settle the science on wind
8 impacts. I'll use an analogy. The prior blind
9 fervor for the freedom nuclear power was going to
10 give us we don't want to make the same mistakes with
11 the lasting impacts. I'm not saying wind is
12 radioactive, but I think you get the point.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. David
14 Butterfield and then Paula Pearsall I think it is.

15 MR. BUTTERFIELD: Dave Butterfield.
16 B-U-T-T-E-R-F-I-E-L-D. Like about three years ago my
17 wife was having a little issue sleeping at night.
18 She was rolling, tossing, and she couldn't sleep and
19 so I said to her what's going on? Why aren't you
20 sleeping? She's like can you hear that sound? And
21 I'm like no I can't hear that sound. So finally
22 after two nights taking into consideration my wife
23 works 12 hour days in the medical field she was just
24 like totally exhausted. So I'm like pinpoint this
25 noise to me. So come to find out well I finally

1 heard the noise so I went out and I opened all the
2 windows in the house to see where it was coming from,
3 and it was coming from one of my neighbor's house.
4 It was a rhythmic sound, okay, and I said to her you
5 know when I get home from work tonight I will go and
6 consult with the neighbor and see what's going on.
7 Unfortunately I got home late that night. The next
8 night it was gone, but come to find out there was
9 some testing of a windmill, an older version, smaller
10 version and it was that rhythmic sound, sound like
11 dogs barking, and my wife was like ecstatic.

12 With that said I would like to thank the
13 Board for understanding the science that points to
14 the 35 dBA maximum is the right standard for Vermont.
15 I would also like to request that they set a standard
16 for the low frequency portion of the spectrum. Most
17 important I would like to say to set those standards
18 on the property line for all tax paying residents.
19 I'm not against renewables. I just would like to
20 have the citizens of this state, which we pay a lot
21 of taxes, we spend a lot of money to live here, we
22 ought to be able to have a high quality of life.
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Paula
25 Pearsall and Anthony Iarrapino.

1 MS. PEARSALL: My name is Paula
2 P-E-A-R-S-A-L-L and I'm from Fairfield, Vermont. The
3 setback rule of 10 times the height of the turbine
4 leans towards greater protection. Again this setback
5 should be at the property line and not their
6 residence. If my home is 5,000 feet away from the
7 nearest turbine I would be considered safe, but what
8 about the rest of my property. What if I planted a
9 huge garden that is at the edge of my property and
10 only 500 to 1,000 feet away from the nearest turbine?
11 This rule would eliminate my being able to raise my
12 food, feed my family, and enjoy my property.

13 Senator Brian Campbell stated when he
14 visited the McLanes' home on Georgia Mountain he
15 would not be able to enjoy the outdoors and garden as
16 he does. The setback of 10 times total height has
17 been adopted by Oregon, Poland, and Bavaria and
18 Germany. Vermont has been a leader in so many ways
19 that I have become proud of. Industrial wind is not
20 one of them. You have the ability to protect
21 Vermonters with these new standards. Vermont can be
22 a leader in our renewable energy goals without
23 sacrificing our citizens. Strong standards will
24 reduce, possibly even eliminate, complaints being
25 brought before the PSB. We can protect our citizens,

1 respect our communities, and still achieve our goals.
2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Anthony
4 Iarrapino then Daniel Michaelson after that.

5 MR. IARRAPINO: Okay. Good evening. My
6 name is Anthony Iarrapino. I am proud to say that I
7 work as part of the state's clean energy economy.
8 Specifically I work with the Belisle family and
9 Swanton Wind, but no one is paying me to be here
10 tonight and the views I'm expressing to you now are
11 my own personal and deeply held views as a citizen.

12 I want to thank you also for your
13 service on the Public Service Board. It's a
14 difficult time made more so because the challenge of
15 climate change has put our state in a leadership
16 position when it comes to the development of
17 renewable energy which a lot of people say they
18 support, but many people here tonight aren't willing
19 to live with in their backyard. It's a difficult
20 time for science and it's a difficult time again to
21 do your job.

22 One of the reasons why we're here
23 tonight is because the Legislature delegated this
24 policy making authority to you because you are
25 perceived as an expert board that is willing and able

1 and has technical competency to weigh evidence, and
2 you have the evidence before you of decades and
3 decades of public health studies that have shown that
4 people can live safely and healthfully at distances
5 much nearer to wind turbines than your rule proposes
6 and at decible levels much higher than what you
7 propose.

8 Sadly I think the science in this debate
9 is being driven not by data and peer review and
10 scientific data, but by anecdotal, the powerful and
11 personal stories of a small handful. You have heard
12 their names tonight. I have heard them over and over
13 again of people who have complained time and time
14 again, but the anonymous majority of people, many of
15 whom are near neighbors to some of those families,
16 have never picked up the phone to call you and
17 complain and they don't come to things like this
18 because their life went on just as it had before wind
19 turbines were built.

20 I understand personal stories are
21 powerful and persuasive. They are particularly good
22 at capturing the media's attention, but when they
23 represent aberrations and outliers these chronic
24 complaints cannot be the basis for a sound policy
25 that affects the many. With the peer review

1 literature the Board has received in this process the
2 Board cannot claim that its rule is based on public
3 health considerations. If it were, the decible
4 levels would be higher and the setback would not be
5 part of it. Rather it appears to be based on the
6 squishy and very subjective concept of aesthetics, a
7 concept that is almost impossible to measure
8 scientifically because it really depends on personal
9 preferences rather than physically observable
10 phenomena.

11 In reality we all live in a world where
12 sounds much louder than what your rule proposes exist
13 and come into our households on a detail basis. We
14 do that in good health and we do that without
15 complaint. I hear the highway more than a mile away
16 from my house. I hear motorcycles. I hear all sorts
17 of noises that I just live with and other Vermonters
18 do too. Vermonters have been living for decades by
19 train tracks without complaining, without asking for
20 special setbacks and rules.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your time is up.

22 MR. IARRAPINO: All right.

23 MR. GILL: I will yield my time. Adam
24 Gill G-I-L-L, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Okay.

1 MR. IARRAPINO: I think the reality of
2 what's going on here is wind power opponents have
3 tried a number of arguments to stop wind development
4 in Vermont and to stop Vermont from making a
5 contribution to the fight against climate change.
6 They have been unsuccessful thus far and wind and its
7 tenuous connection to public health seems to be the
8 one they are driving home the most, but really make
9 no mistake this is not about protecting public
10 health. This is about stopping wind power. This is
11 about NIMBYism, and I think your rule needs to be on
12 the right side of science on the right side of the
13 climate solution spectrum.

14 I urge you to reconsider the voluminous
15 evidence you have before you that other states have
16 been able to successfully protect public health and
17 have wind turbine development at levels that are much
18 higher than what you have proposed and without the
19 arbitrary setbacks you propose. Really and truly we
20 need to be on the right side of science here. We
21 need to be on the right side of the struggle against
22 climate change. Wind power in a state that is dark
23 and cloudy and cold and winter peaking utilities as
24 Vermont we cannot get to our ambitious energy
25 renewable energy goals without wind in the mix, and

1 I'm afraid to say that if your rule is adopted you
2 will close the door on wind power and that will be a
3 big mistake. It will also send a message to other
4 states who look to Vermont as a green leader and will
5 say, you know what, if wind isn't good enough for
6 Vermont we shouldn't have wind in our state too.
7 That would be a horrible outcome.

8 I hope you will change your mind and
9 make a rule that's based on the record you have with
10 peer reviewed science rather than the anecdotal and
11 allowed persistent complaints of people who don't
12 want wind in their own backyard. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you.

14 MR. WHITAKER: I forgot to give you
15 these three peer reviewed scientific papers.

16 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Daniel Michaelson.

17 MR. MICHAELSON: I spoke at Bennington
18 so I'll pass.

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Ashley Belisle and after
20 Ashley is Sarah Luneau Swan.

21 MS. BELISLE: As you know I'm Ashley
22 Belisle from Swanton Wind. The seven turbine wind
23 project we propose to build on our property is right
24 in our own backyard. My father-in-law who lives part
25 of the year in a home not far from us built the home

1 I live in with my husband. We have four dogs and we
2 just completed a barn on the property to house our
3 three horses. Ours will be one of the closest houses
4 to Swanton Wind and we intend to live there for years
5 to come. We value our health and the health of our
6 community. My husband works long hours running an
7 excavation company and several days a week I work two
8 jobs. We value our sleep and overall quality of
9 life, and for these reasons we've invested much of
10 our hard life savings to ensure our wind project is
11 right. Our property is a good site for wind like the
12 cornfields that are often bustling with farm tractors
13 much of the year, and the 20 plus businesses around
14 us, including a nearby rock quarry. The hill behind
15 our home is part of our working landscape. Our home
16 and the homes of many of our nearest neighbors are
17 very close to Route 105, a busy road with traffic
18 running at all hours of the day.

19 Swanton Wind site is not a pristine high
20 elevation ridgeline. It has a long history of
21 logging. It's currently home to an extensive maple
22 sugaring operation. The the neighborhood is one
23 where residents like my husband and I hear many
24 sounds of modern life, like the nearby road, that
25 often go well beyond 45 decible needed to protect the

1 public health, much less the historically low 35
2 decible level the Board's rule proposes.

3 We're among the vast majority of
4 Vermonters who understand how important it is for the
5 state to do its part to fight climate change and who
6 are ready and willing to live with wind power in our
7 community where it can contribute to the economy,
8 produce greenhouse gas emissions without compromising
9 quality of life. I hope that you guys will adopt a
10 more reasonable final wind rule that allows a well
11 sited homegrown project like ours in our own
12 backyard.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Sarah Luneau
14 Swan.

15 MS. SWAN: Sarah L-U-N-E-A-U-S-W-A-N.
16 As a mental health counselor I wonder how we can deny
17 the World Health Organization's 30 dBA interior noise
18 standard for a good night's sleep. We all have a
19 brain and a heart, but every individual has different
20 sensitivities depending on experiences,
21 neurotransmitters, and genetic makeup. Some people
22 experience motion sickness and others do not. So
23 many people drink alcohol and are addicted and others
24 are not. Mental health counselors stress the
25 importance of routines and a good night's sleep to

1 teachers, parents, and people seeking positive well
2 being and peace of mind. If you live close to a
3 train, your body becomes accustomed to when the train
4 will be coming as it is on a regular schedule.
5 Industrial wind turbines are not on a schedule. We
6 cannot predict when the wind will blow nor for how
7 long. The turbine noise doesn't become a part of our
8 routine and it's more likely to stress response. At
9 least with the proposed standards those living in
10 proximity to industrial turbines can be assured that
11 the noise generated will be within a reasonable
12 level. For those who think the proposed standards
13 will halt industrial wind turbines and renewable
14 energy in Vermont I wonder then how is it possible
15 that Denmark and Germany are leaders in renewable
16 energy including wind turbines. Look to Denmark and
17 Germany, the expert countries of achieving renewable
18 energy, and garner their knowledge of adopting strict
19 noise standards based on their historical experience.
20 If it does curtail a few projects in Vermont, then
21 perhaps the topography of Vermont is not suitable for
22 the siting for a proposed project is not adequate.

23 We cannot sacrifice the well being of
24 property owners and the residents and Vermonters for
25 some ideal. Renewable energy is vital and our lives

1 are vital as well, and the Public Service Board has a
2 duty to protect today's public. I care about the
3 well being of a hundred Swanton and Fairfield
4 residents who will be a mile or less from the
5 proposed wind turbines. Tuesday night in Lowell I
6 heard several residents say they couldn't hear the
7 turbines. They weren't bothered by them. Research
8 has uncovered that Steve Mason who said he lived
9 three-quarters of a mile away actually is 2.4 miles
10 from the nearest turbine, and I would hope Hilary
11 Almer can hear her goats more than the turbines and
12 she lives 4.4 miles away east of the nearest turbine.
13 Ted Fletcher only hears them as a rustling up high
14 when the wind comes from the southeast yet he lives
15 two miles from the nearest turbine.

16 I wonder how many of the 100 residents
17 living within a mile of the proposed Swanton Wind
18 project will be able to say that they don't hear the
19 turbines and that their well being is not impacted.
20 Don't they deserve a good night's sleep. Please
21 adopt stricter standards, include an interior
22 standard, monitor and enforce the standards, base the
23 standards from property lines not the existing
24 dwellings. A property owner has a right to enjoy all
25 of their land. Finally base standards on a maximum

1 amount and not an average.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Next we would like to
3 hear from Joslyn Wilschek.

4 MS. WILSCHEK: Good evening. My name is
5 Joslyn Wilschek. Thank you very much for your
6 service to Vermont by sitting here and listening. I
7 would like to encourage the Public Service Board to
8 raise the sound standard because the current sound
9 standards are out of context were the sounds that we
10 all live with on a daily basis in a civilized society
11 and no one has a right to silence who lives in
12 Vermont. Let me give you some examples.

13 My relatively brand new dishwasher is at
14 44 db. I can barely hear it. It's on quite often.
15 My sister who lives in Vermont her brand new
16 dishwasher is 42 db. She has two kids so she does
17 dishes way more than me. My nieces are fine, she's
18 fine, and they barely can hear it. My washing
19 machine which I recently checked is at 44 and that's
20 running and you don't even know it's in the
21 background. There are many things in our everyday
22 lives that are way louder than 42 that we've come to
23 accept. For example, when I'm hiking down the Long
24 Trail the last quarter mile I hear the cars in
25 Smuggler's Notch. That's higher than 42. It doesn't

1 ruin my hike, but the dogs that bark in my
2 neighborhood between 5 and 6 a.m. that's above 42 db
3 and I get on with my life. The snowplows that make
4 our roads safe and our driveways safe, the
5 motorcycles that go on a Harley ride on bad roads
6 that's way louder than 42 dBA.

7 Wind is not a hobby. It's not a
8 discretionary item. It's critical. It's a critical
9 mix to the future of humanity on this planet. The
10 sound goal will make it very difficult for wind
11 developers to further deploy wind in Vermont. I urge
12 the Public Service Board to please base the rule on
13 science not on alternative facts, not on personal
14 anecdotes, and I really appreciate your time. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Next we would like to
17 hear from Ann Jameson and after that Diane Mermaid.

18 MS. JAMESON: My name is Ann Jameson.
19 I'm from Marshfield. Last name J-A-M-E-S-O-N. Thank
20 you very much, Board, for having this hearing so we
21 may all speak. I believe that wind energy is
22 critical to Vermont's sustainable energy future. We
23 must have it as an integral part of our efforts to
24 achieve our state goal of 90 percent of energy
25 sustainable energy by 2050. I'm very concerned that

1 the recent proposal of 35 decible sound level is so
2 unrealistically low that it poses a severe threat to
3 the future of wind power in the state making it
4 functionally impossible to build new wind projects
5 and by inference to meet the 90 by 2050 goal.

6 While a standard of wind sound levels
7 might be needed, surely it should not come at the
8 expense of a whole purpose of wind energy use.
9 Vermont's current regulations of 45 decibels are
10 consistent with standards in states around the
11 country who have actually set the standards and/or
12 World Health Organization's recommended sound levels.
13 Many states have not seen a reason to develop wind
14 turbine specific noise regulations rather placing the
15 turbines under general sound standards. States which
16 have a wind sound noise standard have used 50
17 decibels or above. The wind turbines regulations
18 currently in place limit turbines to a level far
19 quieter than most home and farm noises that Vermonters
20 experience everyday. On a sound comparison chart 35
21 decibels falls between rustling leaves and bird song.
22 If other sound sources were held to the same
23 standards as those being proposed for wind turbines,
24 we could be banning vehicles, dogs, and farms.

25 Complaints about the noise of wind

1 turbines seem to have come from only a small minority
2 of people with homes near projects. Out of 164 homes
3 within a mile and a half of the Georgia Mountain
4 Community Project only four complainants recorded 77
5 different complaints. For Sheffield out of 54 homes
6 within that mile and a half radius there were only
7 four complainants. Yes I do understand that some
8 people are more sensitive than others. Most
9 residents, however, seem to get on with life as has
10 been said knowing that their electricity is not being
11 produced by fossil fuels.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your three minutes are
13 up if you can wrap it up quickly.

14 MS. JAMESON: Okay. Thank you. For
15 setting sound levels for wind turbines more
16 realistically at or above 45 decibels I believe we
17 can continue to make a winning investment in
18 sustainable local energy future. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you.

20 MR. NARMEGH: Dhyan Narmegh and I did
21 speak over at Lowell, but it was in response to a
22 comment that somebody had about Mr. Chen saying that
23 there was nothing to -- there was no health effect.
24 So I was going to comment here. I have something
25 else here. I have there are -- I have these

1 different studies. This is the altered cortical and
2 subcortical connectivity wind turbines affects on
3 humans and animals.

4 BOARD MEMBER HOFMANN: We'll come around
5 and get those from you.

6 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Can you spell your name?

7 MR. NARMEGH: D-H-Y-A-N N-A-R-M-E-G-H
8 and then I have says do wind turbines harm animals
9 and this is another one. Wind farms and birth
10 defects. Farmer in Wisconsin lost 17 calves and 15
11 cows to abortions and just dying being near wind
12 turbines, and this is wind turbines affecting
13 lipizzaner horses in Portugal, and also I have here
14 pictures of ears from different animals in Vermont,
15 and I also wrote this thing or testified about three
16 or four years ago on sound. I don't know if anybody
17 ever read it or not, but anyway I gave it to the
18 Board.

19 If there are studies that show malformed feet
20 on horses in Portugal, animal deformed feet in
21 livestock in Canada, it shows that geese are sick and
22 confused in Wales and aborted cows in Wisconsin, what
23 is happening to our ground animals that reside near
24 the wind facilities? Learn from existing statewide
25 projects is what the Vermont Comprehensive Energy

1 Plan says, and it is a mystery how anyone on this
2 Board can make an accurate safe determination on
3 sound and infrasound when none of you live near a
4 facility.

5 I have spent two nights sleeping out at Lowell
6 and Sheffield, Vermont. The sound goes right to your
7 pineal gland in your head. It's like being -- like
8 Mr. Nelson said being in the bathroom and feeling it
9 in the bathroom. It goes right to the center of your
10 head. You notice on all these pictures that ears of
11 all animals in Vermont are large and they have a lot
12 of hair in them and the hair catches the sound and it
13 goes to their stem of their brain and then it goes to
14 -- this helps go to help them hear.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Sir, you have used up
16 your three minutes if you can wrap it up.

17 MR. NARMEGH: Three already. Holy cow.

18 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Since you spoke the
19 other night I think you should allow other people to
20 have a chance. So if you can wrap it up quickly,
21 that would be useful. You can come back at the end
22 if we have time or you can submit it in writing.

23 AUDIENCE: Excuse me. He can have mine.

24 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: What's your name? But
25 you have already spoken too so you're not up for

1 tonight either.

2 AUDIENCE: Geez. Well I thought that
3 was okay if everyone --

4 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: We got a long way to go.
5 It's just fairness to other people too.

6 MR. NARMEGH: I'll wrap it up because
7 I've been about I don't know four or five days of
8 anxiety just putting this stuff together because
9 nobody on the Board really talks about animals and
10 hearing and I take -- three or four nights I've been
11 trying to get this down.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: We'll be happy to look
13 at the stuff you have put in.

14 MR. NARMEGH: There it's right there.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Ian Stokes next and then
16 Ron Holland.

17 MR. STOKES: Thank you. My name is Ian
18 Stokes S-T-O-K-E-S. I live in Richmond. I was
19 trained as an engineer and as a scientist, but I'm
20 not a climate scientist so I trust the climate
21 scientists who have done the hard work of gathering
22 and analyzing data to show the consequences of human
23 activity on our climate. I also trust the entirety
24 of the evidence from scientists and others who have
25 shown the consequences of human exposure to noise,

1 though it appears that the harmful levels are
2 significantly higher than those currently being
3 considered by the Board.

4 However, people who live in cities and
5 those who live close to busy highways are exposed to
6 noise from traffic powered by noisy internal
7 combustion engines burning fossil fuels, and wind
8 power is potentially the solution to both of those
9 problems in transportation. So in transportation we
10 have a dual problem, pollution and noise. The most
11 likely solution consists of quieter battery powered
12 vehicles powered realistically considering the need
13 for a mix of renewable energy sources powered by wind
14 power, and that keeps our dollars in Vermont if those
15 turbines are in Vermont.

16 While Vermont has achieved a reasonably
17 good record of finding renewable outsource of energy
18 so far albeit largely at the financial benefit of
19 out-of-state electricity generation, the future
20 expanded use of electric vehicles and electric heat
21 pumps will substantially increase the demand for
22 renewable electricity. I also live close to the
23 Burlington airport that hosts very noisy commercial
24 and military planes. Very large numbers of families
25 of houses have been bought up and demolished to

1 achieve a noise target level of 65 decibels in
2 residences. So that is about 35 decibels greater
3 than the proposal -- the current proposal for wind
4 turbines. As you know this is a logarithmic scale so
5 30 decibels is a factor of about a thousand. So
6 there are solutions to siting of noise generating
7 public facilities. If wind turbines have to be near
8 residences and those residences really would be
9 exposed to harmful sound levels, there are ways to
10 solve that problem. Extra costs should be met by
11 wind turbine owners or from other sources. I believe
12 it's the responsibility of government and regulators
13 to find solutions to problems like this and
14 eliminating options is not acceptable. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Ron Holland
16 and then Luke Deslaundes. Mr. Holland.

17 MR. HOLLAND: So my name is Ron Holland
18 from Irasburg H-O-L-L-A-N-D. This topic for
19 discussion tonight of course is sound and setbacks,
20 but it's in the context of some incredibly aggressive
21 renewable energy goals which are on the figure. You
22 can't see the figure so I'll have to describe it to
23 you. Imagine here there's a line that goes to the
24 ceiling that goes from zero to 100 percent, and then
25 across this way is a line that goes from 2020 to

1 2050, and I plotted on this figure all the renewable
2 energy goals from every state in the Continental
3 United States and they all cluster between 2020 and
4 2040 between 10 and 50 percent. Okay. So here is
5 the mainstream of the bell curve and Vermont is way
6 up there. Vermont at 2050 is up by that ventilator
7 up there, and then back here about 2020 75 percent
8 and right now it's 55 percent, and so clearly Vermont
9 is an outlier which makes you outliers too because
10 you have to manage this program.

11 So the history of outliers is, you know,
12 geniuses are outliers, then there's something on the
13 other hand too, and so the question is why -- why
14 does the state with the least carbon footprint per
15 capita have the most aggressive goals. That's a good
16 question, but the second question is what is the
17 impact of that on the Vermont economy? State
18 documents indicate that the capital costs of going to
19 that 90 percent by 2050 is 30 billion dollars. Now
20 30 billion dollars is basically one year's worth of
21 Vermont's gross state product, and that capital, that
22 30 billion dollars of capital, will command somewhere
23 between five and ten percent return on investment
24 which over the course of 600,000 people over 25 years
25 is between three and five thousand dollars per

1 citizen. Okay. But more significantly than that
2 cost what -- how does that impact what goes on in the
3 Vermont economy?

4 For the last 18 years the average growth
5 rate of the Vermont economy is 3.8 percent. Most
6 recently 2.5 percent. What happens in an economy
7 when the return on capital --

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your three minutes are
9 up.

10 MR. HOLLAND: Can you give me --

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Yeah.

12 MR. HOLLAND: I'm very fast. I got 20
13 seconds.

14 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Good.

15 MR. HOLLAND: When the return on capital
16 exceeds the growth rate of an economy currently 2.5
17 percent, when Green Mountain Power can get 10 percent
18 return on investment, the rich, the capital class
19 gets richer. The poorer gets poorer. Okay. So what
20 I would encourage you to do since Vermont is an
21 outlier and you're an outlier I would encourage you
22 to protect Vermont homes from the sounds of the
23 capital class.

24 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Luke Deslaundes.

25 MR. DESLAUNDES: My name is Luke

1 D-E-S-L-A-U-N-D-E-S.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: And if Gill Tremblay
3 could get ready to come up.

4 MR. DESLAUNDES: And I'm from Swanton on
5 Route 105. Thank you for being here. This proposal
6 -- this proposed noise and setback standards are not
7 about the industrial wind developers or climate
8 change. They are about the people. The people of
9 Vermont who have been left with a renewable energy
10 plan that was written by a former -- resumed by a
11 former Governor who was a great political advocate.
12 As a result a portion of the population is suffering
13 because of it.

14 To take advantage of the light wind
15 resources in this area of the country bigger wind
16 turbines will larger hub diameters are required as a
17 result of these increased turbine size, renewable
18 rates, RPM, and blade pass frequencies have dropped
19 create low frequencies. Sounds in .1 to 1 hertz
20 range, things not observed in smaller faster turning
21 turbines. Our technology -- our topography is
22 numbness and irregular reflecting sounds unevenly and
23 explained why some people are affected and others are
24 not. As close as next door when you start building
25 some taller wind turbines and place them closer to

1 houses you exert -- exacerbate these effects.
2 Combine this with dusty winds which even Lieutenant
3 Governor acknowledged to be -- to mean during last
4 year's campaign are a problem for the smooth and
5 effective operations of the turbines. As the blades
6 pitch constantly must be projected to catch the light
7 wind and spill the strong gusts like a sailboat.
8 These blades are like the reed in a clarinet or a
9 xachsaphone. With the addition of wind and the
10 varying pitch of the blade vibrate and invent noise
11 along with the turbine's generator, and the standards
12 of the Germany and Denmark have succeeded why should
13 we -- we should succeed the same way as they do and
14 why should we be putting turbines here or even solar
15 when they don't even put them on their property. It
16 should be for us. The standards should be for us not
17 for the wind developers and thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next Gill
19 Tremblay and then Patty Rainville.

20 MR. TREMBLAY: I'm Gill T-R-E-M-B-L-A-Y.
21 I live about 1200 feet I guess from the turbine, and
22 my grandkids are about 25 feet away. I got four
23 grandkids that are home schooled. They are going to
24 be home all day long listening to this. How would
25 you like to be living there with your four grandkids

1 and listening to that all day long? Plus I've got a
2 wife whose had triple bypass and she's got hard times
3 and with the flicker it's not good for her. My
4 sister-in-law whose had a heart attack living with us
5 and then there's another little kid lives out on the
6 road that's got epilepsy. I think it's epilepsy. He
7 has seizures all the time. This is going to affect
8 everybody. I mean I love Travis. He's my cousin. I
9 wish he would reconsider on this because it's going
10 to affect our lives a lot. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Patty
12 Rainville and then Pamela Hathaway.

13 MS. RAINVILLE: My name is Patty
14 Rainville. I live in Swanton. For the subject of
15 health issues I think you have heard a significant
16 amount of information on the subject and I would ask
17 in the entire scheme of the universe is there any
18 priority higher than the overall well being of our
19 families and friends. My neighbors are the
20 Tremblays. Their daughter lives in between us. They
21 have five kids. She is terrified as to what will
22 happen to her kids. Anybody who has kids or nieces
23 and nephews certainly don't have to dig to understand
24 why they would be concerned.

25 Should anyone willingly put their family

1 or friends in harm's way after reading all of the
2 reports, specifically the diaries of the Nelsons?
3 With the current rate of advancement in technology
4 does the life span of wind turbines validate the
5 disruption of the immeasurable wealth of fresh air,
6 fresh water, healthy wildlife, and the unbroken
7 vistas that make this land what it is.

8 On the subject of health of waterways,
9 Lake Champlain, Fairfield Pond, rivers and streams,
10 as a long time board member of the Friends of
11 Northern Lake Champlain this subject is familiar and
12 it matters. Having spent my entire life in, on, or
13 around the lakes I recognize the integral role our
14 waterways play in our economy. With all of the
15 evidence of the significance and connections of our
16 forest and streams working together naturally, what
17 is the real reason Swanton Wind is opting to dismiss
18 all of our concerns? And I would say -- I would ask
19 if this gets to you, if it gets in will you move or
20 will you grin and bear it? You'll have kids by then.
21 Would that matter? It should bother you.

22 There are alternate solutions and the
23 undeniable reason to oppose industrial wind 98
24 percent of the state's annual emissions are captured
25 by our existing forested land. We need to protect

1 our forested areas along with additional important
2 habitats such as wetlands. We know from existing
3 data how forested areas capture carbon dioxide. We
4 must identify and protect these areas from
5 alteration. In addition, we must begin immediately
6 -- immediate emissions reduction in two areas
7 providing 75 percent of our contribution.
8 Transportation and home structural heating --

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your three minutes are
10 up.

11 MS. RAINVILLE: Subsidies should be
12 redirected to Efficiency Vermont. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Pamela
14 Hathaway and then Christine Lang.

15 AUDIENCE: I spoke in Lowell so I'll
16 pass.

17 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Then after
18 Christine Lang will be Bennett Shapiro.

19 MS. HATHAWAY: My name is Pamela
20 H-A-T-H-A-W-A-Y. I'm from Marshfield. I've spent
21 about 35 years of my life on energy environmental
22 sustainability issues after having a master degree in
23 science, and I have seen the costs of many forms of
24 energy and worked on different -- many different
25 forms of energy including fracking in the west and

1 some of the other incredible fossil fuel options that
2 are out there.

3 I just want to applaud Vermont's
4 commitment to renewable energy and I want to thank
5 you for all the great work you have done to encourage
6 the development of renewable energy and the meeting
7 of a high level standard of renewable energy in this
8 state. I want -- I'm going to keep my comments short
9 because a lot of other people have spoken to some of
10 the points that I was planning on making, but I just
11 want to encourage you again, as I have heard others
12 say, as policy makers you're taking into account the
13 entire population and the environment and future
14 generations. I've seen opposition to this -- to wind
15 energy by very few people compared to the numbers of
16 people that I have heard speak in favor of wind
17 energy as an important and critical component of our
18 renewable energy mix in the future. I feel like it's
19 very important to give our future generations the
20 opportunities to have choices, and if we limit the
21 amount of diversity of energy options that are
22 available to us now, particularly clean energy
23 options like wind, we will be reducing the options we
24 have -- future generations have available.

25 We really can't wait. We have viable

1 technologies that have been developed over many
2 decades. Stopping wind energy in Vermont will limit
3 the opportunities now and in the future. I just
4 think again it's vitally important that as leaders of
5 our public sector here in Vermont that you do
6 consider the large picture and the bigger picture and
7 the importance of that as you make your decision.
8 Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next Bennett
10 Shapiro and then Brian Dubie.

11 MR. SHAPIRO: My name is Bennett Shapiro
12 S-H-A-P-I-R-O. I've been working as an audio
13 engineer and technician here in Central Vermont for
14 about 25 years. I'm not sure if everybody here
15 understands just how quiet 35 decibels is. 35
16 decibels within the audible audio range is incredibly
17 quiet. If I could just not talk for a second,
18 without talking the ambient level of audio in this
19 room is about 42 decibels. That's just people moving
20 around and breathing. 35 decibels is quiet. With
21 that said I think it's a ridiculous level to set. I
22 think wind blowing through trees is louder than 35
23 decibels. I mean at least at my house on a regular
24 day wind blowing through trees is louder than 35
25 decibels. With that said that's in the audible audio

1 range. We're not talking about extended low
2 frequency. We're not talking about non A-weighted
3 sound. I'm just talking about audible sound as
4 picked up by a regular measurement device the way
5 that this probably would be because chances are
6 people aren't going to measure these things properly.

7 In a state where the F35 is being
8 allowed to be housed and used, the idea of a 35
9 decible level for wind power makes no sense
10 whatsoever. If you're going to have the F35, have a
11 reasonable level for wind -- for wind power noise.
12 35 decibels is nuts. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Brian Dubie and then
14 Keith Ballock.

15 MR. DUBIE: Hello. My name is Brian
16 Dubie. I live in Fairfield, Vermont. First of all,
17 thank you for your service. Thank you for the
18 opportunity. I would like to compliment the
19 attendees have been very civil. I'm going to try to
20 continue in that vein.

21 About two years ago this Board, not the
22 same members, conducted a hearing in Morrisville,
23 Vermont and it was on this very subject and it was to
24 learn information on existing wind projects in our
25 state. I was shocked quite frankly and disappointed

1 when one of my high school friends testified that he
2 supported Georgia Mountain before it was built and
3 that he was very upset that his high school son,
4 college level son, chose to move out of his house
5 because of the impact of this new wind project. He
6 was really shocked and I was shocked because both of
7 us had supported the project before it was
8 constructed.

9 Our Comprehensive Energy Plan says that
10 we will learn from existing projects. I've learned,
11 a lot of people in green vests that are here tonight
12 have learned, and I've learned from people that are
13 maybe not audio experts as the previous speaker, but
14 I've learned from people like the Nelsons and the
15 McLanes and the Brouhas who share with me their
16 stories. On my lunch break -- I work one day a week
17 in Georgia, Vermont. I started on the bottom of the
18 hill I started knocking on doors and I said tell me
19 what it's like to live here, and the people that were
20 at 6500 feet said hey no big problem. The people at
21 5,000 feet they said well I hear them once in a
22 while. When you got -- what I found from listening
23 to the experts that with the people that live within
24 5,000 feet as you get to the -- some of the people,
25 the Johnsons, within 3800 feet it's unbearable. It

1 is a significant diminishment of the quality of life
2 of these Vermonters.

3 So I would like to compliment the Board
4 for not arbitrarily and reacting, but by doing your
5 due diligence, looking at people like Denmark and
6 Germany, learning from people that are world leaders
7 in renewable energy, picking the best standard
8 because at the end of the day if you really care
9 about sustainability you won't say okay we're going
10 to have some collateral damage here that's going to
11 create all these people that come out in green vests
12 and say we have to tighten this up folks. So you're
13 doing what I expect government to do. You're
14 listening, you're studying, and I would like to
15 compliment you on a 35 db standard. I think it
16 should be at the property line.

17 I would like to compliment you that you
18 have a 10 times turbine height. I'm a little
19 concerned when I hear about six megawatt machines
20 that are 600 feet, and I wonder if -- the standard
21 used to be 1.5 now it's 2.5, and to compare a wind
22 turbine, which is like a 747, on Hubbard Mountain, if
23 you look out the Public Service Board window on the
24 street level and you look at Hubbard Falls, the tower
25 on the top, that's what Swanton Wind is. It's the

1 same height. It's a 500 foot tower with a 747. It's
2 not a dishwasher. It's rated at 109 decibels of
3 noise. It's all about how close you are to that
4 noise. Noise as we all know attenuates. So I'm
5 really concerned about the monitoring. I'm very
6 concerned about the enforcement. I'm sure you are
7 too. These things are very difficult. When I take
8 off out of Denver in my airplane if I deviate from
9 the sound track from the ground track geographically,
10 if I'm slow in a pullup, I get fined. I think this
11 is not a hobby industry. This is an industry. It
12 should be regulated as an industry. There should be
13 constant monitoring. There should be penalties for
14 enforcement if we want something that's sustainable.
15 Vermonters expect good government. I compliment you
16 for doing the due diligence that you have done.
17 Please continue to look at the science. It's not all
18 about health. People that are annoyed lose sleep and
19 if you lose sleep you have a diminished quality of
20 life. Thank you for the opportunity and thank you
21 for your service.

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you.

23 MR. BALLOCK: Hi.

24 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Keith Ballock and then
25 John Smitty. Mr. Ballock, you spoke at Lowell.

1 MR. BALLOCK: Yes I did.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: So if we could go on to
3 somebody else.

4 MR. BALLOCK: Is there many people?

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Yeah behind you.

6 BOARD MEMBER HOFMANN: We'll try to come
7 back to you.

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. John Smitty
9 and after John Smitty, Allan Sands. Santos or Sands.

10 MR. SMITH: Good evening. My name is
11 John A. Smith. S-M-I-T-H.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Sorry about that.

13 MR. SMITH: I live in Swanton. Last
14 three years I have had to do a lot of research on
15 industrial wind turbines, and by searching for the
16 truth and I've been reading articles and medical
17 reports both, and what I have seem to have found
18 relating to wind turbine noise and infrasound that
19 they bring also with them a lot of medical problems.
20 Dangerous ones. Some including death. Now the
21 standard level that you were looking at I personally
22 think should be 42 decible level at the property line
23 and 30 decible at night from the bedroom with the
24 windows open. The setback of 10 times the height of
25 a wind turbine is fine. In Australia and New Zealand

1 they are 42 and 30 and they have a setback of 20
2 times the height of a turbine.

3 To put a project in where you
4 deliberately know that you're creating both medical
5 problems, possibly death, to me I would have to
6 consider that knowingly that you're trying to commit
7 genocide and as far as I know genocide is still
8 illegal. Thank you.

9 MR. SANDS: Good evening. My name a
10 A-L-L-A-N S-A-N-D-S of Grafton, Vermont. I'm a
11 Selectboard member and past chair of the Board. I
12 was the chair when the controversy -- when a courtesy
13 visit from Meadows End Timber and Iberdrola
14 announcing an application for met towers and a
15 potential wind project in Grafton and Windham. I
16 remember asking a few questions about timelines and
17 thinking this will be a major event for the town with
18 both concerns and potential opportunities for the
19 town, but the decision should be made by the town's
20 voters; not just the selectboard or the Planning
21 Commission, but the whole town should weigh in after
22 quality information is collected and exchanged and
23 discussed, the pros, the cons, and then voted on.
24 How very naive I was.

25 The reality is it only takes one person

1 in town that is opposed and has time and money to
2 make the majority of the town believe the same. Much
3 like the story of chicken little. If you read the
4 national PR report which I have attached, you will
5 see this is bigger than just a few folks in Grafton
6 and Windham. A meeting with the state level lobbyist
7 gets the national plan rolling at the local level.
8 I've also attached more examples of what took place
9 in Grafton and Windham, but for tonight I ask how
10 many of you have smartphones and how many have a
11 sound meter app on their smartphone. It's a free
12 download. How many have tested decible numbers and
13 know what they mean. 30 decibles is a whisper. 45
14 moderate. 50 moderate rainfall. 60 normal
15 conversation. Go out and monitor. You will see it's
16 very hard to get 30 decibels without -- without wind
17 turbines. The production model Ford 150 with dual
18 exhaust registers 95 decibels. We have lots of those
19 on the road.

20 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next
21 Kathleen Scott and William April after that.

22 MS. SCOTT: Good evening. My name is
23 Kathleen Scott S-C-O-T-T and I'm from Windham,
24 Vermont. In 2016 I participated with two neighbors
25 in my community in negotiating with Iberdrola for

1 protections and benefits for our community related to
2 the proposed wind project should it come to our town.
3 The Comprehensive Energy Plan I see as a winning
4 proposition for the future of Vermont, and it
5 demonstrates again Vermont's historic leadership in
6 attacking the critical issues such as global concerns
7 related to energy production, use, and climate
8 change.

9 At the same time I believe many of whom
10 are against wind energy play to the fears of wind
11 turbine noise and visuals to take wind technology out
12 of the CEP solution equation. When I look at the
13 energy resources noted as pathways to achieving the
14 goal of 90 percent by 2050 wind energy is noted as
15 one of the least costly resources. Without the
16 inclusion of wind technology it will be very
17 difficult to achieve the goals in a balanced way.

18 My personal background is in the
19 rotating equipment industry; pumps, compressors,
20 motors, varying frequency drives. These products
21 drives other products such as water, wastewater, and
22 sewage. I'm not a technical expert, but from a
23 customer service standpoint I was frequently the
24 person contacted with any concerns or complaints, and
25 I learned over 30 some years in that industry that

1 people frequently come with one of two issues, a
2 perception firmly in place already or susceptible to
3 the opinions of the loudest voice in the arena.
4 Through these experiences I've always found and
5 counted on Public Service Boards who have a
6 responsibility to review issues before them through
7 the filter of the overall public good, the best
8 appropriate place for deciding infrastructure issues.

9 The proposed sound standards you are
10 recommending make me question that judgment. The
11 rule of 35 dBA from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. essentially
12 eliminates wind from the pathways to achieving the
13 goals of the CEP based on an unreasonable standard
14 and giving credibility to an unrealistic
15 unnecessarily low sound level. The Comprehensive
16 Energy Plan has had broad bipartisan support across
17 the state. A balanced approach to achieving the goal
18 is paramount if Vermonters are to truly win in the
19 larger sense. To that end I would encourage you to
20 change the decible limit to an overall 45 dBA. Thank
21 you for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next William
23 April and after that Sally Callopy.

24 MR. APRIL: My name is William A-P-R-I-L
25 and I live in Waterbury Center. I have not been

1 exposed to any wind power, but I do have tinnitus. I
2 got it about 12 years ago when I went to a casino and
3 there's no fix for it. Some people get a fix for it,
4 but I haven't found one. I tried acupuncture and
5 hypnotism and drugs and chiropractic and neuropathic
6 and it doesn't help it. My wife goes in a casino
7 every six to seven weeks. When she goes there she
8 goes in with her friends. They have a wonderful
9 time. Comes back never has any problems.

10 So everything is very subjective as to
11 individuals and how they are affected by the sounds
12 around them, and I think this proposed 3500 is
13 considerably too restrictive for wind power and it's
14 going to take the industry out of the loop and we do
15 need a mix. I've got a solar tracker at my house and
16 I haven't paid an electric bill for several years and
17 I give money back -- get money back from Green
18 Mountain Power as a matter of fact. So I am all for
19 renewable energy. I'm all for energy that is able to
20 mix in with everything else and I think wind power is
21 a good piece of it. Not everything is going to be a
22 good piece of it. Thank you. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Ms. Callopy, you spoke
24 the other night. I'll keep track of the other
25 people. We'll see if we have time at the end. Carol

1 Irons and then Bill white.

2 MS. IRONS: Good evening. Can you hear
3 me? My name is Carol I-R-O-N-S. I come to speak for
4 those who have been voiceless in these proceedings.
5 Giant machines are noisy. Giant industrial size
6 turbines are very noisy and create a heavy throbbing
7 vibration that pulses out across the land. I live
8 two and a half miles from the Lowells and I hear them
9 off and on. To insist that such a condition has no
10 effect on living organisms is a bald faced lie. The
11 answers, though, about how it affects depends on the
12 weather conditions and it depends on the features of
13 the terrain. Start with trees. The standing ones as
14 we call them in the Abanacki culture absorb carbon,
15 reducing significant amounts of our carbon emissions.
16 Trees communicate with each other. This is a
17 scientific reality that the foresters are
18 understanding better and better.

19 Several decades ago a study demonstrated
20 that when chainsaws began cutting trees noisy at the
21 edge of a forest the trees showed measurable stress
22 with technology up to a mile away. The sound and the
23 harm of miles of trees cut or exposed to chemicals on
24 industrial sites creates stress all over the forest.
25 Those huge throbbing machines continue to broadcast

1 hard noise into miles of forest land day and night.
2 In the past two years we have seen along the side of
3 the Lowell Mountain range a broad swatch of stressed
4 trees whose leaves are brownish. Speculation was
5 that it is drought, but we did not have drought last
6 year in the Northeast Kingdom even though we had dry
7 weather. We were in the fifth year of noise induced
8 stress. Well maybe the tree problem was due to bugs,
9 huh. Maybe so. Isn't it the songbirds who control
10 the balance of harmful insects and isn't it well
11 known that giant wind turbines kill thousands of
12 songbirds? When it's the concussive noise which is
13 very possible or the change in air pressure from huge
14 spinning blades. It's a moot point. Dead songbirds
15 don't eat insects. So it is -- is it just a
16 coincidence that a large recent reduction in the
17 songbird populations are occurring just as the
18 industrial wind projects are increasing? What else
19 do birds have to do with noise?

20 Since wind proponents point to decibels
21 of bird calls look at the massive difference in the
22 tonal quality, the timing, and the impact on other
23 living beings of various noises. A Canadian farmer
24 shared research with me that indicates that the high
25 multi-pitched calls of numerous songbirds actually

1 has its vibrational effect on plants. It stimulates
2 their growth. Note the timing. So strong in spring
3 and early summer and most especially in early morning
4 and evening times. In contrast, the audible noise
5 from turbines is variously described in machine terms
6 as lawn mowers, as a roar, or an airplane over the
7 mountain, and it continues day and night as well as
8 in all seasons.

9 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your three minutes are
10 up. Do you want to wrap it up.

11 MS. IRONS: I will wrap it up. Yes,
12 sir. Wildlife is more sensitive. We have seen huge
13 changes in wildlife patterns on the Lowell Mountain.
14 They have come down off the mountain. They have
15 crossed the river. They have had to abandon that
16 very pristine area because the sound is affecting
17 them also. You can't -- you can't look at one
18 segment of a whole ecosystem, and I know this is what
19 you're supposed to be about, but all these segments
20 affect all the other segments and so you have to look
21 at it as a whole ecosystem. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I just would urge you --
23 I appreciate why you want to clap, but it slows
24 everything down and we'll hear fewer people the more
25 time we spend clapping. The next person is Will

1 White and after that Rhea Wilson. At some point
2 we're going to run out of time. If we don't get to
3 everybody by 10 or so, we're going to end the public
4 hearing.

5 MR. WHITE: Good evening my name is --

6 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I misspoke. We only
7 have until 9:30.

8 MR. WHITE: My name is Will White. I'm
9 from Brookfield. The proposed rules will result in
10 the defacto ban on wind. This will have a negative
11 impact on jobs, our ability to fight climate change,
12 and our ability to reach our goal of 90 percent
13 renewable energy. I am all in favor of regulating
14 wind noise as long as it's reasonable and these
15 proposed regulations are not reasonable. That's my
16 comments. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next Rhea
18 Wilson and after that Greg Freeman.

19 MS. WILSON: Hello. My name is Rhea
20 R-H-E-A Wilson. I just want to say that all the
21 issues discussed here far and away the most important
22 is the potentially devastating planetary effects of
23 climate change, and so I want to make sure the Board
24 takes that into consideration as it sets these
25 standards that it must not set standards which

1 prohibit the development of wind power.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Gregg
3 Freeman then Donald Dvoil.

4 MR. FREEMAN: My name is Gregg Freeman
5 G-R-E-G-G F-R-E-E-M-A-N. I work for Aegis Renewable
6 Energy, commercial solar and wind. I got involved in
7 renewable energy because I'm trying to reduce the
8 disastrous effects of climate change. I would like
9 to -- just to start with a list of infrastructure
10 that has a lot of sound louder than 45 dBA; gravel
11 pits, roads, railways, dams, transmission
12 substations, farms, sawmills, landfills, marinas,
13 airports, manufacturing plants, automobile mechanic
14 shops. Many people in this room are involved in
15 those types of industries. Why are wind powered
16 facilities any different? Why are we singling them
17 out?

18 If this proposed rule is implemented, it
19 will be the most restrictive sound rule relating to
20 wind turbines in the entire country. It will shut
21 down wind development in Vermont. Without a diverse
22 source of renewable energy it will be impossible to
23 meet the comprehensive energy goals. Before a rule
24 is implemented we want several answers to questions
25 -- several questions answered. Where is the data

1 that the Board is relying on for this rule? Has the
2 Board conducted a cost benefit analysis in order to
3 weigh the proposed effects on the environment cost to
4 industries such as ski resorts, maple syrup, tourism,
5 tax benefits to towns, job creation? Has the Board
6 taken surveys and polling in Vermont to get an
7 accurate record of Vermont residents views on wind
8 power? What proof does the Board have to justify the
9 proposed rule? And we wanted to know who is leading
10 the effort on this proposed rule?

11 We agree that the industry should be
12 regulated. We agree to standards. We would rather
13 work together to find a solution instead of sneaking
14 this in the back door. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next Donald
16 Dvoil, and after that Chris McKay.

17 MR. DVOIL: Hello. My name is Donald
18 D-O-N-A-L-D D-V-O-I-L. Sorry I have a cold. I'm a
19 resident of Montpelier and I'm a college instructor
20 for the Vermont State Colleges. I wanted to try to
21 maybe say a few things which are different from what
22 are being said by other people to add something else
23 to the debate something. So I some thoughts on what
24 it means if Vermont decides to set a limit for wind
25 power that makes it impossible for any future wind

1 development to take place here which is what this
2 limit will mean.

3 Vermont is a state which is a net
4 importer of energy. It is a net importer of
5 electricity. Vermont has enjoyed a luxury of being
6 able to use electricity without having to deal with
7 the reality of what producing electricity means. The
8 development of wind in Vermont has changed that. All
9 energy development has an impact. Every form of
10 energy production we have has disadvantages, has
11 environmental impacts. In making a decision about
12 whether wind is the right way to go I think we can't
13 write it off simply because it has impacts. Every
14 form of energy production has them. We have to look
15 at the impacts and compare them with what the
16 alternatives are because unless every single one of
17 us is willing to turn off our phones, our lights, and
18 every other electrical device we have because that's
19 really what we're talking about here, we all use
20 energy, then you know we have to use power, and it's
21 not right for Vermont to expect other people to deal
22 with the reality of power production if we're not
23 willing to deal with it in our own state.

24 If you look at what the realities are of
25 producing electricity from most of the other options

1 that on the table are, wind is a pretty good bet.
2 Environmentally it's a good bet. We have heard a
3 speaker just talk about ecological impacts. I'm
4 telling you wind okay logically is a good bet.
5 Vermont suffers from acid rain. It's suffers from
6 acid rain because of coal production in other parts
7 of the United States. If you look at the other
8 options on the table, wind really is environmentally
9 benign and it's socially benign compared to most of
10 those impacts as well.

11 Are we as a state really willing to let
12 people in other places put up with carcinogens in
13 their air that kill children from coal-fired plants
14 or fracking and so forth because we've decided wind
15 is too detrimental to our communities. That I think
16 is a pretty sad statement if that's the case. So I
17 just think wind is something we have to be willing to
18 look at.

19 One final thing I would like to add.
20 I'm an originally from Scotland. I've lived here for
21 about 12 years. The debate about wind going on here
22 right now reminds me about the debate about wind in
23 Scotland 25 years ago. That country didn't have wind
24 then. It now has more than one hundred percent
25 municipal generating capacity for wind. Wind is

1 everywhere. When I go back and visit my family there
2 are wind turbines right outside my hometown. There
3 are wind turbines in the city where I grew up.
4 People have got used to it. There's no health crisis
5 in Scotland caused by wind. It hasn't lost its
6 tourist industry. Does everybody love wind? No.
7 Does it have no impact? No, but at the end of the
8 day when I go back and visit people don't even notice
9 the wind turbines any more. They have just got used
10 to them and I think in Vermont maybe we can give it a
11 chance. We can get used to turbines here too and I
12 think we need to do it. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Next up Chris McKay and
14 Peter Blod.

15 MR. MCKAY: Chris McKay, Waterbury
16 M-C-K-A-Y. I'm proud to say that I work at Northern
17 Power Systems where we design and build wind turbines
18 right in Barre, Vermont here. Some of my co-workers
19 are here. We were all at work today. There were
20 dozens of people down in the factory floor building
21 wind turbines and getting them ready to ship around
22 the U.S. and really all over the world. So -- and,
23 you know, we're not a multi-billion dollar company
24 looking to make getting rich and making huge profits.
25 We're actually, you know, just trying to make a

1 living and make a difference and these kind of rules
2 would definitely kill wind in Vermont. So, you know,
3 this is not in our view my view about -- you know
4 it's really about trying to just stop wind, and at
5 that level of where this rule is it would really
6 prevent wind development altogether here which I
7 think would be a sad thing.

8 We have -- you know there's a reasonable
9 proposal that was put forward by Renewable Energy
10 Vermont that takes, you know, what I think would be a
11 more balanced approach to respecting our neighbors
12 and our citizens and our fellow Vermonters and
13 allowing wind to be competitive with other industries
14 that are here in Vermont. So I think, you know,
15 we're a small business and I wouldn't want to see any
16 other small business prevented from making a living
17 by giving rules that were outliers and very different
18 in terms of what they can do compared to everybody
19 else.

20 Also we have hundreds of our turbines
21 that have gone into Europe. There's been a lot of
22 comments about Europe. You know we have turbines in
23 England, Scotland, Ireland, Italy, all over Europe,
24 and you know the absolute number the db's are only
25 part of how these rules are. There's more subtlety

1 to it and I can tell you if this rule that's being
2 proposed that was in those countries, we would not
3 have been able to put most of the turbines that are
4 in those places up, and our turbines are just some of
5 many thousands of turbines that are there. If you go
6 to Germany and Denmark, there are thousands and
7 thousands of wind turbines and those are done within
8 their guidelines. So this is -- I think I would like
9 to see the rule considered that would allowed for
10 wind to be competitive and for our jobs and our
11 factory to be kept vital in this state.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next Peter
13 Blosd and after that Alton Smith.

14 MR. BLOSD: Hi my name is Pete Blosd
15 B-L-O-S-D. I'm from Barnet, Vermont and I am here to
16 speak in support of a compromise. I should say that
17 I played a very minor role in the construction of the
18 Sheffield Wind Farm. I was employed for a short time
19 by the company that did material testing on concrete
20 soil. I've not been employed by that company for
21 several years. I believe it's fair to say that my
22 employment has no influence or bearing on my
23 statement today one way or the other.

24 I am no longer a member of any
25 environmental organization. I was prompted to attend

1 today's hearing by VPIRG, however, I do not
2 necessarily agree with every position taken by that
3 organization. For example, I do believe that
4 infrasound is probably real at least to some extent.
5 I also believe that the proposed 35 dBA limit for
6 nighttime outside residence is probably the ideal
7 standard. A somewhat similar standard is used in
8 Germany, however, 35 dBA is a much, much, much lower
9 limit than 45 as I'm sure you well know. The 45
10 limit is the standard for the World Health
11 Organization and the current Vermont standard of
12 course. The State of Maine currently has a standard
13 of 42 for nighttime which is I believe the lowest
14 standard in this country.

15 It seems to me that the situation calls
16 for a compromise. I propose a nighttime outdoor
17 standard for residences of 40. Split the difference.
18 40 dBA. But I'm sure many will ask why compromise?
19 Why compromise with public health? Why compromise
20 when it comes to the defense of mother earth? Why
21 compromise that which is sacred because these are
22 terrible times. These are times like before the
23 climate crisis requires us to reevaluate everything.
24 Now I suspect that there are some people here today
25 who might identify as so-called climate deniers, but

1 most of us here I think probably accept that the
2 earth is warming. Most will accept that the warming
3 is human caused, but I suspect for many the
4 acceptance stops there. Not everyone accepts that
5 the climate crisis is actually a crisis. Not
6 everyone fully appreciates the urgency of climate
7 change. It's what I like to call climate denial
8 light, but Bill McKibben just, for example, says
9 climate change is the most urgent challenge we face.
10 It's not like global warming is a like a war. It is
11 a war. We need wholesale changes in energy
12 production. James Hanson and I won't list --

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your time is up. Your
14 three minutes are up if you could wrap it up.

15 MR. BLOSD: One more paragraph, but what
16 does this have to do with wind turbines in Vermont.
17 A few wind turbines in Vermont will not save the
18 world, but despite the limitations of wind, despite
19 Vermont's renewable energy credits, there remains an
20 urgent and overarching need to build renewable energy
21 through solar and wind. It is my hope that the Board
22 will fully consider the urgency of the climate
23 crisis, and it's my hope that the Board will consider
24 a compromise 40 dBA for nighttime outside residence
25 is a reasonable compromise. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next Alton
2 Smith and then Bill Kaplan.

3 MR. SMITH: Hello. I'm Alton Smith
4 S-M-I-T-H. I've traveling a lot in the west. I've
5 seen a lot of wind towers out there and I've never
6 seen one on a mountain anywhere. As a matter of
7 fact, I take the Amtrak back from west to east and in
8 Denver in the west we looked out, the towers are in
9 the valley, and when it comes to New England nothing
10 works on our medium to higher mountains and the
11 blasting that takes place there is just unbelievable.
12 People will look at mountains 300 years from now and
13 will say what were they thinking when they blew the
14 top off these mountains. I think we have to look at
15 more restrictive standards as far as placement of
16 windmills go and I would urge you to use European
17 standards for doing that. We tend to be in our lives
18 here in the United States to favor businesses and if
19 it's not profitable for the company and well let's go
20 with business. So I would say use the European
21 standards. They are less likely biased toward
22 business.

23 The other thing I would like to see the
24 Public Service Board do is consider long and short
25 term effects of projects proposed. So, for example,

1 if you have a field for solar panels and people don't
2 like those solar panels, 10, 20, 50 years down the
3 road you take them out plant corn if you want, but
4 with wind if you decide to use a mountain range for
5 your wind towers, it's gone and you can't get the
6 mountain back. It's gone and that's all I guess I
7 have to say. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Bill Kaplan
9 and then after that William Long.

10 MR. KAPLAN: Hi. My name is Bill Kaplan
11 K-A-P-L-A-N and you have heard a lot of stories here
12 tonight and I remember seeing photographs when the
13 first wind towers were going up and being constructed
14 and I think that mistakes, abuses have been made and
15 it's caused this big debate, this big conflict among
16 citizens. We have heard neighbors. We have heard
17 relatives going against each other. I just think
18 that what's happening here is we have a pendulum and
19 it's swinging back and forth trying to get to a place
20 that makes sense for everybody trying to meet this
21 compromise. Whether everybody in the end is happy is
22 probably not the case, but we do need to do
23 something. The earth has needs. We need to solve
24 this.

25 One of the concerns I have about the

1 current sound rule is it -- as written it does not
2 make distinctions between industrial wind and small
3 scale wind, and I think that there are enormous
4 orders of magnitudes difference when you look at
5 those and you try and apply the same standards to
6 each. You have, you know, it's the airplane going
7 over on a windy day you can't hear it. On a quiet
8 day you hear it. If the mountaintop is above you,
9 you hear it. What happens in small scale wind, and
10 you have seen it, you know, small wind has been
11 around. People have put them right next to their own
12 homes by choice, and I think it's important to look
13 at it. It's different because they are in the same
14 sound environment as the neighbors and that
15 everything is scaled down, and so I would ask that
16 will there be a distinction in the sound levels and
17 the height levels and the buffers for small scale.
18 It hasn't -- it's been said here that it hasn't been
19 successful yet it exists. It may not be economically
20 successful yet, but I think that part of the charge
21 the Vermont Legislature gave in some of the proposals
22 to the Public Service Board was to help developing
23 technology, and I think it's really important to not
24 cast the dolphins with the tuna on this. Let's let
25 the two evolve differently. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. William Wall
2 and then after that Maureen McCracken.

3 MR. WALL: I spoke at Lowell.

4 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Maureen
5 McCracker then -- I know you spoke at Lowell. Skip
6 down. Landon Mariano.

7 MS. McCracken: Hi. Maureen McCracken
8 Waterbury M-C-C-R-A-C-K-E-N. I also work at Northern
9 Power with Chris and I hadn't planned to come up and
10 say something, but just really briefly I started
11 working for Northern just this year and I was so
12 excited to be in the renewable energy field and
13 excited to be working with such a diverse group of
14 colleagues. We have people in manufacturing,
15 engineering, people that work at desks like me. It's
16 really great to be in that kind of company right here
17 in Vermont, and you know we actually have clients
18 around the world that put turbines in. They are
19 small businesses. They are schools. They are
20 farmers. They are not big corporations. I actually
21 was just at an open turbine day last week in Buffalo
22 and it was held by a small business owner. He owns a
23 turbine so that he can save money and so that he can
24 have -- take back a little bit of independence in his
25 energy costs, and so these are the people that we

1 need to be thinking of as well, and these kinds of
2 applications are -- would be shut down from this kind
3 of regulation. Not only -- not just putting aside
4 even the sound level, there's the regulatory
5 compliance issues that would just add costs and make
6 it really difficult.

7 I was thrilled today to be able to watch
8 three turbines get shipped out of our Barre facility.
9 So exciting. What was not so exciting is that
10 container was not going anywhere in Vermont, and my
11 point there is to say it's not like it's really easy
12 to develop wind in Vermont in the first place. So
13 people who -- not just because of compliance. People
14 who develop these projects they think long and hard
15 about it. They put a lot of thought into it and
16 there is a lot of compliance as well. So I don't
17 think that it's not like we're trying to stop some
18 major floodgates or whatever, and I just implore you
19 to think about jobs here in Vermont, not only in
20 Barre, but we have business partners in Vermont that
21 could benefit from more wind development as well as
22 farmers, small businesses. Again most of our clients
23 they think about -- they are fiercely independent.
24 They want to save money. Those are Vermont values
25 and I hope you can consider that when you go through

1 this rule and what you're going to do next.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Landon
3 Mariano.

4 MR. MARIANO: Hi there. My name is
5 Landon L-A-N-D-O-N M-A-R-I-A-N-O. So like my
6 colleagues you heard from I work at Northern Power
7 Systems in Barre. I'm a trained research scientist
8 and an engineer. Not from Vermont. My wife and I
9 actually moved up to Cabot a couple months ago and it
10 was hard pressed to find a job in my field that use
11 my kind of skills, and Northern Power Systems is one
12 of the few places that was able to take me on and use
13 skills I developed my education to and put it to good
14 use towards a cause I believe in and a cause that I
15 think is going to help save the direction of our
16 country and our world in terms of climate change and
17 renewable energy.

18 That being said, the people that I work
19 with are Vermonters. They were born here. They were
20 raised on the lake so -- raised on the lakes, raised
21 in the green hills, and the 35 dBA restriction that's
22 planned on being implemented here would not only
23 cripple Vermont's future for wind energy, but would
24 help take away the jobs from these people that I work
25 with everyday from 9 to -- 6 in the morning until 4

1 in the afternoon. Hard working down to earth people,
2 and would make it difficult to bring people like me
3 from out of state to come in and find these high
4 paying jobs that are able to help support a family.
5 That's about it.

6 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next we
7 would like to hear from and Robin Clark. We'll come
8 back.

9 BOARD MEMBER HOFMANN: She spoke in
10 Lowell. You both spoke in Lowell. Ms. Clark spoke
11 in Lowell.

12 MS. COMBS: Lynette Combs L-Y-N-E-T-T-E
13 C-O-M-B-S. I am just a private citizen living right
14 here in Montpelier. We all have our reasons for
15 being here, though, and my reason main reason for
16 being here is because I grew up in eastern Kentucky
17 and I know what it's like to have your environment
18 destroyed. I'm only going to repeat basically two
19 points. One the very well spoken gentleman from
20 Scotland said it so well. We do not live in a
21 vacuum. We have to make choices. What we want to do
22 is make the most environmentally benign choices.

23 I believe wind power is much, much more
24 benign than burning fossil fuels and extracting
25 fossil fuels. The other thing is that I believe you

1 as the Public Service Board should have two sets of
2 regulations; one for so-called industrial wind
3 projects and another one for those smaller scale wind
4 projects. I came to the very interesting
5 presentation this morning and heard different people
6 speak about very different issues of those two types
7 of installations, the smaller scale being such that
8 individuals use on farms, they are more easily sited,
9 but the noise levels are received in a much different
10 way than so-called industrial wind really comes
11 under. It's a big, big production, maybe probably
12 more -- subject to more regulations, but I would also
13 urge not to change the db level to 35 because that
14 would eventually -- it would be end of wind power in
15 Vermont. I think we have the chance to be leaders in
16 green energy. We need all the green energy we can
17 get everywhere in the world and we don't want to be
18 the cause of suffering in other parts of the country.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next we
21 would like to hear from Eric Brattstrom. After that
22 we can hear from Mr. Ballek.

23 MR. BRATTSTROM: Hi. My name is Eric
24 BRATTSTROM. I'm from Warren with the energy
25 committee in Warren. We also were managing the solar

1 farm in Waitsfield, my wife and I. About five years
2 ago Bernie Sanders invited the Ambassador from
3 Denmark to the Unitarian Church in Montpelier and he
4 basically embarrassed the audience by telling us all
5 the things that Denmark was doing for decades with
6 wind and solar and basically making the country
7 fossil fuel free, and they have only done better
8 since that time, and Vermont has caught up a little
9 bit, and after he was finished talking about wind
10 power, et cetera, I asked him about wildlife and he
11 asked me if I had a cat and I asked him why a cat.
12 Cats kill so many more birds than turbines ever
13 could. Don't worry about it. Wildlife is -- as much
14 as you really should worry about wildlife, but worry
15 about the right thing. Worry about wildlife in the
16 right way.

17 Global warming is going to destroy us in
18 our life if we don't do something about it. He also
19 talked about decible levels and he said they seem to
20 be pretty sane even after decades of wind generation.
21 He also talked about the landscape and he asked me if
22 I've ever driven on Route 100. If you're worried
23 about a wind turbine on the horizon and the sound it
24 makes and you basically have something that's moving,
25 that's reasonably small compared to 250 miles of

1 power lines on Route 100 which is where all our
2 tourists come up, and so the basic premise that wind
3 turbines are noisy, they destroy anecdotally at least
4 people's lives, Denmark shows us that is not the
5 case.

6 About a year ago I spoke to the new
7 Ambassador from Denmark and it seems like they must
8 have their act together because he gave me the same
9 story. I think the main thing we could worry about
10 here is not to hurt wind generation, and I think if
11 we lowered the level too much let's keep -- see what
12 Denmark has done instead of reinventing the wheel.
13 They have already done the testing for us. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next up is
16 Andrew Shapiro. Mr. Balleck.

17 MR. BALLECK: I'm Keith Balleck. I live
18 in Sheffield B-A-L-L-E-C-K and I just want to say for
19 starters comparing these -- the noise levels to
20 washing machines, cars going down the road, driver,
21 whatever, there's no comparison. This is a throbbing
22 pulsating sound, reverberates through the walls.
23 It's come -- comes up through the ground, the
24 terrain. I probably have a lot more experience than
25 some of these people here tonight because I spend a

1 lot of time around some of the wind projects in
2 Sheffield and Lowell and I'm going to read from here.
3 I mean as most people probably know by now the
4 current sound standards are inadequate and there is
5 no setback standards. If there are resident
6 dwellings near a protective turbine site, a protected
7 site, the current standard or lack of were written by
8 the wind industry. So be it that's where it goes.
9 There really is no setback.

10 The lobbyist non-profit advocacy groups
11 worked hard to speed up the process. That's why the
12 projects are sited with such recklessness at this
13 point and that's why there's such disregard for
14 humans and the environment and wildlife habitat.
15 Right now we're in a position to learn from these
16 colossal mistakes and the damage that has been done.
17 Setback standards needs to start at the property line
18 and be a mile and a half from that point.

19 The new proposed noise standards they
20 are in an improvement, but should be stricter for
21 rural areas and areas where the terrain enhances the
22 noise level, and as you know the World Health
23 Organization I believe they recommend 30 decibels.
24 Before these industrial projects were built people
25 were told by proponents there wouldn't be any noise

1 issues. It would be no louder than a refrigerator or
2 car. Then people were told it was all in their
3 heads, they should just suck it up, they were
4 probably just against wind towers, and well there's a
5 pattern of deception.

6 People were also told it would decrease
7 Vermont's carbon emissions. Wrong again. It's
8 something which is supposed to help fight climate
9 change. The Federal Trade Commission and State
10 Attorneys General Office warned project owners that
11 it was false tiding because renewable energy credits
12 were sold to other states allowing the states to
13 continue to burn fossil fuels. In fact, some of the
14 fossil fuel companies own some of these wind projects
15 so they are kind of helping themselves. Vermonters
16 were also told projects were good for the environment
17 while the construction of these facilities damaged
18 the very attributes that helped nature cope with
19 extreme weather events. They take away the
20 mountains' ability to absorb all this damage that has
21 been caused by clearcutting, blasting vegetation
22 removal along with the soil, paving over with stay
23 mat, spraying of toxic herbicides on the ridgelines
24 to fight invasive species that were brought in by
25 then construction. Invasive plant species resulting

1 in aquatic plant die-off. Iron seeps also seeping
2 out of the level spreaders which is supposed to
3 control the runoff. These iron seeps they are not
4 working. The iron seeps are coming out of the soil,
5 lowering the PH, and they are killing off more plant
6 life.

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Your three minutes are
8 up.

9 MR. BALLEK: Okay. I was just going to
10 say the failing of these also is call stream
11 diversion. Wetlands are drying up, and if anyone
12 really wants to know what's going on, don't take the
13 company tour. Go up in some of these mountains
14 yourself and look and see what's really going on. We
15 need to learn from our mistakes here, and I was just
16 going to say this deception has been driven by
17 politics and corporate money, and we've done enough
18 damage to the ridgelines. Let's do something else.
19 We've got enough industrial wind in the mix already.

20 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Now I'm
21 going to come back around to people who have also
22 spoken at the other hearings. So Dustin Lang, did
23 you want to add any comments.

24 MR. LANG: I didn't sign up.

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: William Wahl.

1 MR. WAHL: I'm William W-A-H-L. I live
2 on Kidder Hill Ridge. I'm a Connecticut resident.
3 As of last year I moved up here. I still work in
4 Connecticut until next year, but I've been coming
5 here for 35 years and it's -- I want to retire here
6 and see the beauty of everything. I mean I look out
7 my window and see Sheffield which I mean it's far
8 away. It's not that bothersome. I'm not against
9 renewable energy, but I am against putting them too
10 close to people's properties which is their proposed
11 one on Kidder Hill Ridge. That's why I started
12 studying all this stuff and gotten into all this.

13 The only person -- I think they are
14 putting them in Swanton. The other lady -- I'm not
15 sure if she's still here -- said she's putting them
16 right next to her own house. She's willingly doing
17 that, but it seems to me that towns or people should
18 have say have far. So I support obviously 5,000 feet
19 which I think putting it that far away is going to
20 help with the decibels. Everyone is talking about
21 sound and all that, but a lot of the people that are
22 saying they are for it don't realize that it's not
23 just the hearable sound. I don't know if they are
24 doing their research or just avoiding it or I just
25 think they don't know enough that the low sound for

1 people. So I think pushing in the state LED bulbs
2 would be a more even incentive for people. I think
3 would help more than a lot of some of the projects.
4 Even when new heating equipment is put in put a
5 standard to a certain efficiency.

6 So I just strongly support the setback.
7 I think it would immensely help people and it's not
8 going to shut the whole wind industry down. It's
9 just going to help people from owners, taxpayers,
10 that are being forced right now with projects too
11 close. So I strongly urge you to help us with the
12 setback at least. I appreciate it. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. If Christine
14 Lang would like to speak. We would be happy to hear
15 from her.

16 MR. LANG: I'm Christine Lang. You know
17 I heard a lot of people talking today saying how
18 these new rules of yours are going to stop wind in
19 Vermont. I don't think that's true at all. I think
20 the new rules are a step in the right direction. I
21 think that's what the Legislature asked you to do and
22 because they knew there was a problem. The only
23 reason we're here is because there's a problem with
24 the existing wind project sites. If everything was
25 going fine at all the wind project sites, we wouldn't

1 be here. You know everything would be good, and
2 someone commented that well there's only four people
3 complaining in Georgia. So you have four people and
4 they are complaining in Georgia and there's actually
5 more, but anyway so you don't go and put bigger
6 turbines closer to a whole lot more people in
7 Swanton. There's 130 people within a mile. That's
8 more people than what's anywhere else.

9 So the setback rule makes perfect sense.
10 You put the setback rule in, the developers can work
11 with the neighbors and put in a project that can work
12 for everybody. Something smaller, whatever it takes,
13 but that's -- that rule, you know, is going to bring
14 about collaboration and we don't have that right now.
15 Right now it's just, you know, put whatever they want
16 up there and, you know, all day today they are
17 talking about all the ways to measure sound and all
18 of that. It's so complicated and the setback helps
19 take some of that complication out. You have got
20 that rule. You then work with the neighbors and you
21 figure out what you can fit, what can work in there.
22 And the other thing, you know, they talk about
23 there's people that talk about how these people are
24 making it up when they are complaining about the
25 problems with the wind turbines and the noise, and

1 it's not -- it's like other people said it's not like
2 any other noise. It's all different kinds. I felt
3 it up in Georgia. I've been up in Georgia and felt
4 it. My father gets seasick and I don't get seasick.
5 So I'm on a boat and he's complaining because he's
6 getting seasick. Am I going to ridicule him? I'm
7 fine so you're not having a problem, and that's what
8 people do to these people who suffer from the wind
9 turbines. They are like we're fine, we're a mile
10 away, I don't feel them, I'm fine so you don't
11 matter, and I don't think that's appropriate. So I
12 will really appreciate your new standards and I hope
13 you stick with them. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. I have three
15 people who spoke already before. We're running out
16 -- we only have until 9:30. So Sally Collopy, Robbin
17 Clark, and Giselle Chevalley. Can't give you three
18 minutes. One or two minutes. Sorry you spoke once.
19 We have your transcript of your previous time.

20 MS. COLLOPY: Well this is totally
21 different.

22 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: That's fine. We only
23 have this building until 9:30.

24 MS. COLLOPY: Sally Collopy from
25 Fairfield. So I've been in this fight, which is what

1 it is, for two years. It's ugly, divides community,
2 friends, and even family, and I'm tired of the lies
3 the industry keeps spouting. I'm happy the Public
4 Service Board has proposed new standards. Please
5 don't be influenced by the misrepresentations. For
6 instance, REV's recent two page flyer uses a quote
7 from Linda Barrows from 2014. Truth is Barrows sent
8 another letter on July 5, 2016 asking them to never
9 use that 2014 letter again. They lied to them about
10 the reasons for writing it. It was supposed to help
11 them learn why the residents -- some residents are
12 bothered more than others, not to use these letters
13 against other neighbors. The Barrows live one mile
14 away from Georgia Mountain Wind. They hear the
15 turbines and are bothered by the shadow flicker.
16 They stated while hunting on the Johnson's land
17 nearby they heard what sound like a hundred dryers.
18 They requested that instead of pitting neighbor
19 against neighbor take the time to visit and live in
20 the shoes of the families, but that's not the message
21 that REV keeps putting out. And I was at the Lowell
22 noise hearing and heard more misrepresentation or
23 confirmations. Mr. Robert Alanzo (phonetic) stated
24 the turbines didn't bother him at all. Well guess
25 what? He's two miles away. Albert and Sarah Tatro

1 praised the turbines. After the Lowell vote it was
2 discovered they were being paid by GMP to work.
3 After the vote they stayed on the payroll and managed
4 the towers and they live three miles away. Pam
5 Tatro, their daughter-in-law who spoke in favor,
6 lives one mile away or 1.9 miles away. Ted Fletcher
7 was already talked about. Hilary was already talked
8 being 2 miles and 4.4 miles away. Someone spoke
9 admitted they hear the turbines, but it helps the
10 economy. But that's what happens. They come in
11 these small rural communities that don't have a
12 strong political voice to stand up to the community,
13 but knowing the truth empowers you and gives you that
14 voice and vote after vote has proven that, and at the
15 Morrisville Public Service Board hearing in 2014
16 residents testified the noise didn't bother them.
17 Again some were located 1.27 miles to 3 miles away.
18 Steve Mason again said he was three-quarters of a
19 mile. He's 2.4 miles.

20 Georgia Mountain turbine neighbors said
21 they weren't bothered over one to two miles away.
22 These are important details that we need to learn
23 from where do these people live. What is the terrain
24 like? How are they positioned in the prevailing
25 winds? These are examples. You know I think these

1 examples showed the wind industry proving our cause
2 -- our case actually. Industrial wind needs to be at
3 least one mile away from homes or further. We need
4 the protective dBA levels of 35 Lmax outside and 30
5 Lmax inside.

6 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Sorry. I've given you
7 the full three minutes and we want to hear from other
8 people. Robbin Clark.

9 MS. CLARK: Robbin Clark R-O-B-I-N
10 C-L-A-R-K. I just have a couple quick -- actually I
11 have a question for the Board. I would like to know
12 who chose Lowell for the Lowell meeting?

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I'm not sure what you're
14 talking about.

15 MS. CLARK: The hearing on Tuesday who
16 chose that location?

17 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I don't know offhand.
18 We had to work with -- our clerk works with the local
19 community to find a location that will work for us.

20 MS. CLARK: Well I have to say it felt
21 to me as an opponent to the project that we needed a
22 neutral place. There were a lot of people that
23 wouldn't come to the meeting because they felt
24 intimidated by townspeople and I just think that --

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Well we usually try to

1 have them near the place where the project is going
2 to go.

3 MS. CLARK: Well it could have gone to
4 the Albany side of the mountain or some place that
5 was a little bit more neutral.

6 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Okay.

7 MS. CLARK: 15 of the neighbors that
8 spoke in favor of the project they all live way
9 beyond one mile as we have heard previous. So that
10 goes to support the one mile setback and I think
11 that's a great idea -- a great standard. A lot of
12 people don't come forward because they are
13 intimidated. They don't complain because there's no
14 enforcement. There's no follow through. There's no
15 enforcement. Who do they complain to? A lot of
16 people may not hear it because of the topography. I
17 live 1.62 miles from the project. I hear it rarely,
18 but I've been at the Nelson farm. I've been on
19 horseback over on Eaton Road and the noise has been
20 horrible. So topography and location has a lot to do
21 with it, and we have to remember that industrial size
22 projects have industrial size negative impacts. We
23 all can do something to support our own energy use on
24 a smaller scale. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Giselle

1 Chevallay.

2 MS. CHEVALLAY: My name is Giselle
3 Chevalley. G-I-S-E-L-L-E C-H-E-V-A-L-L-A-Y. Just a
4 few things real quick that I wanted to add that I
5 heard reference to earlier. One of the comments that
6 -- more than one comment actually made me think that
7 it needs to be pointed out that the wind towers make
8 noise around the clock. A lot of people make
9 reference to loud trucks or certain other types of
10 noises that we hear or some of us might hear and a
11 lot of those things don't go around the clock. So
12 that is one point that needs to be made. And then as
13 far as the jobs that they create a lot of the people
14 that worked on a lot of the wind projects, including
15 Lowell and Sheffield, were not local workers. A lot
16 of the jobs were brought in -- people were brought in
17 from other areas.

18 And then also another comment that I
19 don't think was made that should be made some of the
20 projects are underperforming, especially Sheffield
21 and maybe Lowell some of the time. In any case I do
22 agree with Robin that another location would have
23 been nice other than Lowell. I know other people who
24 might have gone too, but I guess they feel that
25 there's an intimidation factor going on, but that's

1 all I have for now.

2 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. According to
3 my records we have heard from everybody who signed
4 up. So I want to thank everybody who signed up.

5 MR. WHITAKER: Very briefly the
6 Department is supposed to represent the public
7 meaning the human public. I would ask you to
8 consider joining the Agency of Natural Resources to
9 represent the wildlife if we're going to fully study
10 --

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: We can't control -- you
12 have to talk to ANR about who they represent. I
13 would like to hear from the woman --

14 MR. WHITAKER: But if you deal with the
15 A-weighted standard -- I won't claim to recommend
16 whether it's 30, 35, 40, but if you deal with
17 unweighted, you will have real data to understand
18 what decible level.

19 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I'm happy to hear from
20 you.

21 BOARD MEMBER HOFMANN: Are you Rebecca?
22 We are letting people who spoke in Lowell to speak
23 briefly.

24 MS. BOULANGER: Rebecca
25 B-O-U-L-A-N-G-E-R from Enosburg and I just want to

1 say a couple of observations. I want to talk about
2 decible levels and everything, but we -- I think as
3 Christine pointed out one thing that's important is
4 that it's not just about the audible sound. People
5 do have different experiences with sound and all
6 those things and they are kind of unexplainable.
7 Some people can get car sick in ten miles and other
8 people never get car sick. So it's very hard to
9 understand and put that all together, but I think
10 that as private citizens and as neighbors we have to
11 be considerate of everybody, and as public officials
12 I think that it's an obligation to -- in moving
13 forward to do your best to protect safety and well
14 being of all Vermonters. I mean if someone gets, for
15 example, car sickness or motion sickness, get out of
16 the car, you know, stay off the road, but what if
17 this happens in your own home, what if you're sick
18 all the time and it's in your own home. I mean that
19 is an incredibly sad thing, and people say well what
20 if you love your home for whatever reason and so I
21 think we have to be very sensitive to that.

22 I would also like to comment I know it
23 was mentioned in Lowell and this whole issue of how
24 this is tearing our state apart. I mean it's the
25 saddest thing in the world to know people in our town

1 and other towns and they feel such anger at each
2 other about these issues. I mean it's just
3 incredibly sad thing.

4 Finally, Vermonters are known for common
5 sense. So I think some of the things that were said
6 about compromise are a good thing, and one of the
7 common sense things I would like to throw in perhaps,
8 I don't think they are very brilliant, but just the
9 idea of a setback rule is something that we can see
10 all of the sound monitoring people talking about
11 variables of sound and measuring sound. It's all
12 very difficult and setbacks are something that people
13 can see. There's something that you can tell it's
14 either right or wrong as the project's going up.
15 It's not something that you have to deal with after
16 the projects up. So I think a setback rule is a real
17 common sense type of thing to do.

18 Finally, another common sense issue --
19 this is my last comment -- and that is when we all
20 know how technology changes and how fast things
21 change and I think people remember those old TV --
22 the great big gigantic TV things they had and ten
23 years later everybody is changing to the little guys.
24 The problem with wind turbines is that once they are
25 there they are there, and we don't hear all these

1 people complaining with health issues when it comes
2 to solar panels or with hydro. How many complaints
3 do you get from people about that? I haven't heard
4 any. I have to admit I don't read the papers
5 everyday, but you don't have all kinds of complaints
6 about Vermonters about solar panels and hydro.

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: We have people who come
8 out in opposition to solar projects.

9 MS. BOULANGER: What I'm saying at least
10 those types of things can be changed. Wind turbines
11 once they are up are hard to change. So thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. I think we
13 ever heard from everyone.

14 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
15 adjourned at 9:45 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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4
5 I, JoAnn Q. Carson, do hereby certify that
6 I recorded by stenographic means the public hearing re:
7 Rule 5.700 at the Montpelier High School, 5 High School
8 Drive Street, Montpelier, Vermont, on May 4, 2017,
9 beginning at 7 p.m.

10 I further certify that the foregoing
11 testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter
12 reduced to typewriting, and the foregoing 104 pages are a
13 transcript of the stenograph notes taken by me of the
14 evidence and the proceedings, to the best of my ability.

15 I further certify that I am not related to
16 any of the parties thereto or their Counsel, and I am in
17 no way interested in the outcome of said cause.

18 Dated at Burlington, Vermont, this 8th day
19 of May, 2017.
20
21

22
23 JoAnn Q. Carson

24 Registered Merit Reporter

25 Certified Real Time Reporter