

From: Patrick Lynch [mailto:patrick.lynch_m@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 11:21 PM
To: CODINGTON COUNTY <Codington.County@sdstate.edu>
Cc: Melissa Lynch <melissamarie1010@yahoo.com>
Subject: Ordinance 5.22 Work Session

To whom it may concern, this letter is in regard to Codington County 5.22 Wind Energy System (WES) Requirements ordinance and the meeting to be held on the topic on February 14th.

My wife and I currently own and live on a small farm in Codington County with our two young children. We purchased the property approximately a year and a half ago. When we were looking for properties to purchase, our search spanned both the Watertown and Brookings surrounding rural areas. Our search for our home was very difficult, but eventually we were lucky enough to purchase our farm only a few miles from where Melissa grew up. Her family homesteaded a farm in Codington County and still resides there today, while I grew up on a small dairy farm in northern Clark County. It is our strong desire to raise our children in the South Dakota countryside in the environment that we experienced as children and think it would only benefit the community to have more families such as ours in the area.

It saddens us to hear of the recent commercial wind turbine interest near our farm, our chosen lifelong home. During our search, we visited a property in Deuel county, near the wind farm there. Due to the noise, flicker, aviation lights, and destruction of the natural beauty of the area that we witnessed during that visit, we quickly chose not to pursue any further interest in that area. We purposely avoided properties that were within eyesight of any commercial wind turbines as we think any other family looking to move into the countryside would. Further, we are sure you would be hard pressed to find anybody that would say living near a wind farm is a more enjoyable experience than before it was in place.

If we want our rural communities to grow and prosper we need to make them a place young families want to live and raise their children. We can encourage moves into the county a few ways. We can improve rural broadband so it is possible to work from home offices. We can support small business startups in the county. We can reduce the minimum required acres necessary for building a home. We can provide families assistance in locating appropriate rural home-site locations.

Wind farms will not attract young families, rather, will have the opposite effect. With an ordinance in place that encourages commercial wind energy systems, the future Codington County countryside will be a large wind farm with nobody willing to live there. The result will be no small schools and no small communities.

My wife and I would like to encourage the Codington County Planning Commission to consider the detrimental impact on the rural communities if wind turbines are allowed in our county. We would propose that Ordinance Chapter 5.22 be drafted to ban Wind Energy Systems where the majority of the energy produced is meant to be used off the turbine site. We would also propose the following updates to the ordinance:

- Limit wind turbine height to a maximum of 75 feet.
- Require a property line setback of 3/4 of a mile for any non-participating property (table 5.22.03.2).

-Require that the noise does not exceed 20DBA at any non-participating property line (clause 12). 20DBA is the equivalent to a quiet country night where the current 50DBA is the equivalent of a dishwasher running next to you, except this dishwasher runs non-stop for 50 years.

-Setback distance from centerline of public roads to be $1.5 * (\text{height of tower} + \text{diameter of blades})$ (table 5.22.03.2). This is a formula published by wind tower manufacturers such as GE for ice throw from their wind turbines. <http://www.cbuilding.org/sites/cbi.drupalconnect.com/files/ger4262.pdf>

We would also encourage the Planning Commission to look at other ordinances in place that may intentionally or unintentionally be depopulating the countryside and harming our small communities. We are sure there is a bright future for Codrington county; it is why we decided to call it home.

Sincerely,

Patrick and Melissa Lynch

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