

February 12, 2018

Codington County Zoning Commission
Attn. Luke Muller
1910 W. Kemp Ave.
Watertown, SD 57201

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to share concerns that the citizens of the Town of South Shore, as well as the Town Council of South Shore, have regarding the proposed wind farm development around the Town of South Shore.

As residents of Codington County, you are well aware of the natural beauty that we are blessed to be able to enjoy in the Coteau Hills. South Shore is ideally situated to maximize this natural beauty. Its location in a natural bowl between some of the highest of these hills, on the shores of Punished Woman's Lake, allows us to enjoy some of the most breath-taking scenery in our state. Construction of wind towers will irrevocably destroy this natural beauty. South Shore's location also allows for a quiet enjoyment of nature that will also be impacted by these wind towers. The best assurances we have been able to receive from anyone on the noise these towers generate is that "it will be minimal, and you will get used to it." This is not exactly a strong reassurance for our concerned community members. One potential strategy to mitigate this concern would be to increase the minimum setback requirements from municipalities. For the record, we did express this desire to representatives from Apex Energy. Their response was to strongly suggest we drop this concern because our county commissioners would see us as being obstructionist.

We also have significant concerns over some incorrect information being disseminated in order to generate support for the construction of this wind farm. Landowners are being told that this development will produce a long-term economic boost, through tax revenues generated, for our school district. This is not true. When our state passed the additional half-cent sales tax for teacher salaries, the legislature also passed a series of reforms to other areas of school funding, including the area of "Other Revenues," including tax revenues generated by wind farms. School districts will now receive a full share of the tax revenues of new wind farms for the first five years of the farm. Over the second five years, those revenues are slowly reduced until, finally, in year ten, all of the tax revenues generated by the wind farm will be equalized across all school districts in the state. In addition, such revenues can be deducted from the general state aid districts receive. In short, this means that, by year ten of a new wind farm's existence, the patrons and students of our district receive no net benefit from the wind farm, while they are left with the consequences of their construction.

As a community and town board, we certainly do not want to stand in the way of true economic development that benefits our citizens. However, considering the concerns described above, in addition to the fact that the energy created by these farms will not be available for use in our state, we believe that the detrimental impact of this wind farm far outweighs any potential benefit. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

The Town Board of South Shore