

February 3, 2011

Energy and Technology Committee
State of Connecticut Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

Re: HR6249

Dear Committee,

I am Victor J. Visockis, Jr. of 73 Grandview Drive, Newington, CT. I am part owner of the family farm at 175/178 New Haven Road, Prospect, CT. which is the site of the two wind generators being proposed by BNE Energy. I wish to express my support for this project.

I am very familiar with the proposed location. Up until the time I left home to enter the US Army I worked with my father operating a dairy farm there. I am proud that this property has been in the family since the 1920's and that 5 generations of our family have lived and work on this land. I have walked the fields and forest of the property herding cows, fixing fences, logging wood and clearing field on an off for most of my life.

When the opportunity arose to turn the dairy farm into a wind farm we were very pleased. We did not want the land turned into a housing development. We wanted as much open space to remain as possible. Some years ago the town of Prospect proposed putting a school on the property: a land use that we also favored. Unfortunately that project was voted down by the town.

The wind farm will preserve a great deal of open space which is becoming a scarce item in Connecticut. The land in question is abutted by water company property on over half its perimeter. The property slopes away from the main road (route 69) and is mostly exposed to the water company water shed property. There are already 2 cell towers and another communication tower on or near the property. The site seems the ideal place for a wind farm.

The alternative use for the land is for housing. A subdivision of 50 or more homes is likely for this property. As a housing development the cost of public services will easily outstrip any tax revenue. The wind farm will generate tax revenue without using public services (schools, roads, fire, police, social service, etc.). And, of course, once the land becomes a housing development, the opportunity for a wind farm will forever be lost.

I have seen the tremendous effort that is required to meet local and state regulations regarding approvals for any kind of land use project. I have been involved with the onerous paperwork, engineering work and bureaucratic procedures required for a cell tower and for a housing development. I am convinced that more regulation is not needed

and that regulation is now at the point of working against the economic and social needs of the citizens of Connecticut.

We need to be less reliant on foreign oil and dirty coal. All decisions involve looking at the alternative. The alternative to wind energy is continued reliance on foreign oil, much of it coming from countries hostile to US interests. Foreign oil reliance inevitably leads to compromising US interests and sometimes war. Another consequence of not moving to clean energy is dirty air coming at us from coal fired electric plants. Wind energy is one way to reduce this dirty air and the environmental destruction that coal involves.

The consequence of over regulation and other forms of bureaucratic obstruction of clean energy generation is increased project costs and, ultimately, lost opportunities. As our state is depleted of open space for clean energy projects, we need to decide what we are FOR and not just what we are against. I am FOR the minimum regulation required. I am FOR preserving open space. I am FOR energy independence and clean air. I am FOR clean energy. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victor J. Visockis, Jr.".

Victor J. Visockis, Jr.