

BARON WINDS LLC PROJECT

Compiled Testimony

Public Hearing held by:  
Steuben County Industrial Development Agency  
on  
June 19, 2019  
Fremont Town Hall  
8217 Cream Hill Road  
Arkport, New York 14807



II. Transcript of Public Hearing held at 6:00 pm

1 PROCEEDINGS HELD AT FREMONT TOWN HALL, 8217 CREAM HILL  
2 ROAD, ARKPORT, NEW YORK 14807 ON JUNE 19, 2019 AT 6  
3 P.M.

4 Fremont Town Hall  
5 8217 Cream Hill Road  
6 Arkport, New York 14807  
7 June 19, 2019

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the proceedings commenced at  
6:00 p.m.)

MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, everybody.  
We're going to go ahead and get started promptly at  
6:00. I want to thank all of you for coming out  
tonight. My name is Jamie Johnson. I'm the Executive  
Director of Steuben County Industrial Development  
Agency, and we look forward to getting started and  
hearing your comments on this. Russ Gaenzle is our  
legal council from Harris Beach. He's actually going  
to be running the public hearing, but I did want to  
open up with just a few remarks and explain a little  
bit about the project and what we're here for today  
and to go over some just basic house rules.

First off, we are here because the Baron  
Wind project filed application with the Industrial  
Development Agency in April to seek assistance for  
their project that they are proposing in the towns of  
Cohocton, Fremont, Dansville and Wayland. It is a  
\$304 million project that they are seeking property  
tax assistance, sales tax exemption and mortgage tax  
exemption on to move this forward. Total benefits to  
the project are estimated to be in the neighborhood of  
\$11 million, and the pilot assistance or the pilot

1 payments that would be coming back in or would be  
2 generating is just over \$30 million.

3 We have done the calculations on the wind  
4 pilot totals. The application, the schedule for the  
5 pilot payments and all approvals that the IDA has made  
6 to this point are online on our website which is at  
7 SteubenCountyIDA.com. If you go to the agency  
8 information page and you click down to public  
9 documents, you'll be able to find all of this  
10 information there.

11 At this point, the IDA has only accepted the  
12 application and is -- has authorized a public hearing  
13 which this is the second public hearing that we have  
14 had today on this project. So we do ask that if you  
15 spoke earlier today that you reserve your comments.  
16 You've already been on the record and it will allow  
17 others to make comments. So if you already spoke, we  
18 ask that you do not speak again because it's already  
19 in the record.

20 As far as the pilot calculations, just to  
21 give you a little bit more detail, I went over this at  
22 the end of the hearing last time and I figured I'd go  
23 over it at the beginning of the hearing today. The  
24 IDA has a policy that was established through research  
25 that was done two years ago looking at wind pilots

1 across the state, throughout the northeast and across  
2 the nation. It was determined that our pilot  
3 structure of \$5,300 per megawatt was right in about  
4 the middle of the pack as far as pilots go, but we  
5 decided -- the board decided at that point in time to  
6 stay at that rate to allow for negotiations of host  
7 community agreement some in the project so the  
8 municipalities that were being impacted could also  
9 reap some additional benefit from those host community  
10 agreements.

11 The current policy of the board is that  
12 there has to be support by the local municipality  
13 through a host community agreement before we will  
14 actually take formal action on it. As far as the  
15 timing of this goes, we are at the very early stages  
16 of our review. As I said, this is the public hearing  
17 requirement that we will be seeking public comments.  
18 It is not a question and answer period. These are  
19 opportunities for the public to provide us input as  
20 far as their concerns or support of the project.

21 The next step is the board will be presented  
22 with a cost benefit analysis which is being worked on  
23 as we speak. And then the attorneys and whatever  
24 other professional services that we need will be  
25 reviewing the Article 10 findings. We will not be

1 making a final decision before the Article 10 board  
2 actually gives their findings and issues their final  
3 approvals.

4 With that, I'm going to turn it over to  
5 Russ, and he can go over the rest of the house rules  
6 as far as the public hearing and start the process of  
7 receiving public input.

8 MR. GAENZLE: Yeah. So what I'll do is I've  
9 got -- if you would like to speak, we have a form we'd  
10 like you to fill out so I can read your name, and I  
11 apologize in advance if I butcher your name which I  
12 did many times earlier today. We did have a  
13 two-minute time limit earlier which we varied from and  
14 that was put in place essentially to allow people  
15 ample time to address the project. So to the extent  
16 you spoke earlier, as Jamie mentioned, we'd like to  
17 open it up to potential new participants.

18 So I'll read the notice of the hearing and  
19 then I'll start calling people up, and when you come  
20 up I would ask that you spell your last name. We do  
21 have a stenographer here which will be keeping a  
22 record of the proceedings.

23 All right. So I'll read the notice. Notice  
24 is hereby given that a public hearing pursuant to  
25 Article 18-A of the New York General Admissible Law

1 will be held by the Steuben County Industrial  
2 Development Agency on Wednesday, June 19th at Fremont  
3 Town Hall at 2 p.m. earlier today and 6 p.m. tonight  
4 local time in connection with the following matter.  
5 Baron Winds LLC for itself or on behalf of an entity  
6 to be formed has submitted an application. A copy of  
7 which is on file with the agency requesting the  
8 agency's assistance with respect to a certain project  
9 as follows. The acquisition by the agency of a lease  
10 held easement or other interest in multiples parcels  
11 or portions thereof of land located in Cohocton,  
12 Dansville, Fremont, Avoca and Wayland, Steuben County,  
13 New York. The construction, installation and  
14 operation on the land of between 63 to 67 wind  
15 turbines with a generating capacity of 219 megawatts  
16 and 235 megawatts together with associated collection  
17 lines below grade and over head, access roads, towers  
18 substations and operation and maintenance buildings.  
19 The accusation and installation by the company in and  
20 on around the improvement to certain items of  
21 equipment and other tangible personal property in  
22 order to under take the project. The agency will  
23 acquire a leasehold or other interest in the facility  
24 and lease the facility back to the company. The  
25 company will operate the facility during the term of

1 the lease. At the end of the lease term, the lease  
2 held interest will be terminated. The agency  
3 contemplates that it will provide financial assistance  
4 to the company in the form of a sales and use tax  
5 exemption for purchases and rentals related to the  
6 facility. A partial property tax abatement structured  
7 within the payment of the tax agreement and a mortgage  
8 recording tax exemption for financing or refinancing  
9 related to the project. A representative of the  
10 agency will be at the above stated time and place to  
11 present a copy of the company's application and to  
12 hear and accept written and oral comments from all  
13 persons with views in favor of, opposed to or  
14 otherwise relevant to the proposed financial  
15 assistance dated June 8, 2019, Steuben County  
16 Industrial Development Agency.

17 So I have the sign up sheet for people that  
18 would like to speak. There are no specific order, and  
19 again, I apologize in advance if I get your name wrong  
20 and please spell your last name when you come up. So  
21 first is Giny Fullam and next is Jerry Bush.

22 MS. FULLAM: Hi. Giny Fullam, F-U-L-L-A-M.  
23 First, I'd like to echo. I was here at the first  
24 meeting, and I just want to echo that I agree with all  
25 of the comments that were made and the issues and



1 concerns that were brought up at the first meeting  
2 regarding the fact that the company should be paying  
3 full property taxes. And this is short. Probably not  
4 two minutes.

5 MR. GAENZLE: Take your time.

6 MS. FULLAM: My husband and I have lived in  
7 several different states, and we chose this area to  
8 build our retirement home. My daughter and future  
9 son-in-law also moved here a couple years ago from  
10 Connecticut and Philly respectively. The quiet serene  
11 beauty of the area was what captivated us. We sunk  
12 all of our money into building our home, obtained good  
13 jobs and we feel pretty settled in right now. We  
14 enjoy the beautiful countryside, the eagles and hawks  
15 that often fly over our houses. Looking out at the  
16 night sky with the clusters of stars is amazing. We  
17 didn't have that in a lot of the places we lived  
18 because of all of the lights, and also hearing all of  
19 the wild animals out in the woods. That's something  
20 else we have learned to really enjoy. And I  
21 personally love the bats. So yeah, that's my  
22 favorite. And we gladly pay our property taxes to  
23 live in this amazing environment.

24 If Baron Winds, and I'm looking right at  
25 you, wants to come build their turbines here, they too

1 should be paying their full share of property taxes.  
2 And I personally feel that they should also compensate  
3 those of us like myself and my family who are going to  
4 be surrounded by these things. They should also  
5 compensate us somehow for the fact that we're going to  
6 lose our view shed and also all of the health issues  
7 that I read about that are related to the turbines  
8 themselves. So I -- so please, and I look at you  
9 guys, deny them any tax break and no pilot. Thank you  
10 very much.

11 [APPLAUSE]

12 MR. GAENZLE: Next is Jerry Bush followed by  
13 Bruce. There's no last name.

14 MR. FRY: Bruce Fry, F-R-Y.

15 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you.

16 MR. BUSH: The point that I want to make  
17 doesn't have a lot to do with the wind. You all know  
18 the facts of wind and how bad it is. The point I want  
19 to make is all of the meetings that are public  
20 meetings are at 2 p.m. or they're at 6 p.m., and I  
21 would probably bet that 90% of the people in this room  
22 are fully employed and they're working at 2 p.m. So  
23 when does the IDA want to have a meeting? 2 p.m.

24 I came this evening driving up the road  
25 chomping on a McChicken because I eat between 5 and 6

1 o'clock, and I don't want to attend meetings at 6:00.  
2 But the IDA does. You know? They're paid. They're  
3 on the payroll. I'm here because of what I believe  
4 and how bad wind is. I've never been able to get an  
5 answer why we're meeting at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 MR. GAENZLE: Next was Bruce Fry and  
8 followed by W. Bud Phelps.

9 MR. FRY: That was Fry, F-R-Y, and I live in  
10 Steuben County and I'm against tax breaks. Big wind  
11 is already subsidized and why should the general  
12 public, the taxpayer, pay for the infrastructure that  
13 they're going to tear up when they're coming in here  
14 with their heavy equipment and stuff, the roads, the  
15 bridges, the culverts, the wear and tear. Only a few  
16 people, the chosen few are going to benefit from this.  
17 The employment that it's going to offer over a long  
18 period of time won't be that many maybe during a  
19 construction period. And again, I want to mention the  
20 health effects, the noise, the shadow flicker, EMFs,  
21 also the values on our houses we're going to lose  
22 during that, but our taxes aren't going to go down.  
23 It's just common sense to the normal person why you  
24 wouldn't want the tax breaks to go to the big wind.  
25 Thank you.

1 [APPLAUSE]

2 MR. GAENZLE: W. Bud Phelps followed by  
3 Stuart Perks.

4 Q. I'm W. Bud Phelps, P-H-E-L-P-S. I've lived in  
5 the town here for almost all of my 85 years. I've  
6 raised eight kids here, educated them, clothed them  
7 all that in my years here. I built this building. I  
8 built the other town building over there. I built a  
9 hell of a lot of buildings around this area. I've  
10 been very successful at it, and I've been proud of it.  
11 I've been for this wind project. I look at it as I  
12 agreed to an oath of office when I got into office and  
13 that said I would be do my best for the Town of  
14 Fremont. And by golly, that's what I'm going to do.  
15 And I'm totally in favor of this here. I don't see  
16 how we could ever turn it down. We'll never get  
17 another opportunity to have money come to us like this  
18 money is coming here. I mean, this is about as nice a  
19 thing as it ever will happen in this town. You can  
20 disagree with me if you want to, but I've been  
21 successful in a business. I pay a lot of taxes, and  
22 by golly, I look for it to go through. Thank you.

23 [APPLAUSE]

24 MR. GAENZLE: Stuart Perks followed by  
25 Thomas Flansbury.

1           MR. PERKS: My name is Stuart Perks. First  
2 of all, I tell everybody that I used to have a job on  
3 Cohocton campsite. It was a nice job I was doing and  
4 I ended up every night getting so sick from the wind  
5 turbines there, and I found out three family members  
6 got the same, I mean doubled up in pain. I had to  
7 decide if these turbines are going to come in, I have  
8 to think about my health and my wife's health. So I  
9 put my house up for sale. It sat there now for  
10 18 months. I've lost \$30,000 on it and I still can't  
11 sell it. So we should not be giving tax breaks to  
12 billion dollar companies that can stand alone. They  
13 shouldn't be getting it, simple, and they're not even  
14 a U.S. company. I believe they're a German company.  
15 So why are we giving millions to these companies? I  
16 say no tax breaks. Simple. Thank you.

17           [APPLAUSE]

18           MR. FLANSBURG: F-L-A-N-S-B-U-R-G. I've got  
19 a few concerns with the pilot. Mr. Johnson gave a  
20 presentation here at the town hall I think it was in  
21 November, and one of the issues I have with that, and  
22 you can correct me if I'm wrong, one of the issues was  
23 that a lot of people think that when these windmills  
24 come in that the taxes are going to go down, but  
25 according to you at that meeting that changed the

1 formula which means the town gets less money. So I  
2 don't know why the IDA would think that this is a good  
3 pilot. If the board lowers the taxes they get less  
4 money. That doesn't even make sense to me. I believe  
5 you quoted Cohocton lost over \$100,000 because of  
6 that. So that's one big issue.

7 Another issue I have is what seems to be a  
8 growing trend are these mechanic lanes. A lot of  
9 people don't know about it. I believe in Howard they  
10 had them. They're happening around the country, and  
11 obviously, when the contractor puts a lien on the wind  
12 company, they pay the bill, that goes away, but I'm  
13 concerned about what happens if this company files  
14 bankruptcy. Bankruptcy courts are a whole different  
15 ball game. I haven't been able to find anybody that's  
16 going to answer that, what happens to these properties  
17 that they have liens put on them. It seems like  
18 there's a pretty good chance they will have liens put  
19 on them.

20 So I don't think they should be getting tax  
21 breaks. I just wish that the whole IDA board would  
22 have had some kind of a public hearing where the whole  
23 IDA board was there to hear everybody's concerns  
24 because there are so many concerns with these turbines  
25 whether it's health issues, I mean, this financial

1 thing. Yeah, the town is getting money, but again, if  
2 you can't lower the taxes and you're going to get  
3 penalized, then what's the sense of them even coming  
4 and it doesn't even make sense to me. So I did make a  
5 couple of copies here. I don't know if you guys have  
6 seen it before. They are just updated ones on these  
7 mechanic lanes. Just something to review.

8 MR. GAENZLE: We'll put it in the record.  
9 That's fine.

10 MR. FLANSBURG: Yeah, okay. Thank you.  
11 That's all I have.

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 MR. GAENZLE: Next is Heidi Bennett followed  
14 by Ginger Schroeder.

15 MS. BENNETT: I actually live where they're  
16 going to do the Baron Wind project, and I approve of  
17 it. I don't see where 63 turbines are going to cloud  
18 anybody's views or cause a lot of issues. I have been  
19 up against the wind turbines when they've been  
20 running. I don't hear jet engines like people say. I  
21 didn't get sick. So I don't know. I'm just all for  
22 it, and that's about all I can say.

23 [APPLAUSE]

24 MR. GAENZLE: Ginger Schroeder followed by  
25 Sharon Brewer.

1 MS. SCHROEDER: Good evening, everyone. My  
2 name is Ginger Schroeder. I'm an attorney from  
3 Cattaraugus County. I was asked to come down here  
4 this evening because as counsel with Cattaraugus  
5 County, I worked with the county attorney and the  
6 county legislature to pass a resolution directing our  
7 Industrial Development Agency not to grant pilots to  
8 large scale wind companies. We joined a growing  
9 number of counties who have looked at the actual  
10 economics of these projects and not just the pilot  
11 moneys that are coming in, but the actual what I call  
12 a net economic loss. So in Cattaraugus County when we  
13 actually did the math, we gave our developer credit  
14 for every dollar coming in, we looked at all of the  
15 negatives, and on a yearly basis, the project was  
16 going to cost our county \$4 million. This is after  
17 the money came in, and why is this? Well, it's the  
18 loss of property value. It's the loss of jobs  
19 relating to tourism. We have a heavy tourism  
20 situation in Cattaraugus County. Agricultural losses.  
21 How many thousands of acres has this project done?  
22 Does anyone know? Nobody knows, not even a developer  
23 knows? How many thousands of acres?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Too many.

25 (Inaudible)



1 MS. SCHROEDER: 10,000? 5,000? Okay.  
2 Well, for every acre your bat loss is \$63 worth of  
3 agricultural loss because they are natural pest  
4 depressants. So in our case, that was like negative  
5 million dollars a year just in the loss of bats.

6 There's also miscellaneous losses such as  
7 increased health cost to residents. Whether real or  
8 imagined, people go see the doctor because they have  
9 migraines and other things that come from these large  
10 scale wind turbines. Crop yield losses, micro  
11 climates that are created, loss of employment,  
12 equipment used, hydro geological complications, also  
13 communication systems, EMS systems, 911, television,  
14 cellular service. All of those things will have  
15 infrastructure cost that will be greatly impacted by a  
16 wind project, and nobody is thinking about that when  
17 they are just thinking about the dollars that are  
18 being waved in front of them, which by the way are  
19 your own tax dollars so you're being assaulted with  
20 your own tax dollars, and the only people that are  
21 really profiting is like the gentleman who was  
22 speaking here before, and I don't know if you have the  
23 same problem in Cat County. Lots of people sat on our  
24 town boards with actual conflicts of interest which  
25 were their family members getting extreme numbers of

1 turbines. So in my case in our county, we have people  
2 getting between 11 and 15 turbines, and yet they sat  
3 on the board that was deciding whether or not the wind  
4 project was coming. So you have to always understand  
5 people's motivations, and when it's financial you  
6 really have to look hard at the real numbers. So I  
7 can leave this for you gentlemen.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

9 [APPLAUSE]

10 MR. GAENZLE: All right. Next is Sharon  
11 Brewer followed by Nadine Layfield, I believe.

12 MR. KOEGEL: Speaking for Sharon Brewer.  
13 I'm her husband. In fairness, I did make a statement  
14 this afternoon. I do have a separate statement to  
15 make and I'll go at the end and let these folks have  
16 their turn, but you can put me at the end of the pile.

17 MR. GAENZLE: If it's different from what  
18 was said earlier, then that's fine, but it's going to  
19 be limited to three minutes. So we'll put you at the  
20 end.

21 MR. KOEGEL: Okay. Thank you.

22 MR. GAENZLE: So Nadine Layfield.

23 MS. LAYFIELD: Okay. The wind project, I'm  
24 not against it, but the thing that I have noticed is  
25 that the people that have the land with the windmills

1 on them, they are -- they make the money. But the  
2 people that are surrounded within a certain number of  
3 feet have some of the same impacts, you know, the  
4 flickering and the noise and the things. And so I  
5 think that the money should be spread out so the  
6 people -- I don't think they would mind the impact as  
7 badly if they received some compensation for it. And  
8 I say that partly because I have rented some places  
9 and I have noticed that if there's odors and different  
10 things happen or leaks in pipes that the tenants are  
11 very forgiving, if that's the right word, if they  
12 get -- if you cut the rent for a while until the  
13 problem is solved, and I think the people -- getting a  
14 tax break isn't as noticeable because usually the  
15 taxes go up after a while anyway, but if you are  
16 getting a check periodically, then you don't notice  
17 the pain as much. Somebody is thinking about you, and  
18 it makes a big difference.

19 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you.

20 [APPLAUSE]

21 MR. GAENZLE: Next is Elaine Brown followed  
22 by Tim Brown.

23 MS. BROWN: Well, I appreciate the  
24 opportunity to talk. I've been studying windmills for  
25 a long time and gone to different meetings in

1 different places at schools and such and at our town  
2 meetings and talked to people who have had the  
3 windmills on their property and/or near their  
4 properties, and some people it seemed to bother and  
5 some people it doesn't. I guess it's about like  
6 anything. My understanding from some is its like some  
7 people said well, I don't mind the noise. Well, if  
8 you have ever been next to your refrigerator for a  
9 really long time and your refrigerator has a little  
10 humming sound, it doesn't seem to bother you, but  
11 sometimes they go on for a while and then they go off  
12 and they go on, but when you are by it it doesn't seem  
13 to bother but then when it goes off for a little while  
14 it's sort of like (sigh), and it's a lot like the  
15 white noise that you might have in some factories.  
16 They'll have a white noise going on so that you can  
17 have a meeting and you can hear even though the  
18 factory is running in the background, and it doesn't  
19 seem to be any kind of a problem but then after the  
20 meeting is over and then they turn the white noise off  
21 (sigh). You feel better.

22           And I've talked to people who have had  
23 windmills down in the Jasper area, and some people  
24 have had equilibrium problems. I had a very good  
25 friend who was my age who since now passed away that

1 swore that the reason she got sick and she left her  
2 property in the Howard area was because of the  
3 windmills. There's been a lot of talk. I've  
4 researched online articles and articles and articles  
5 of a lot of illnesses not just here but over in Great  
6 Britain. They've had a lot of these. The first time  
7 I saw these was in Scotland back in the mid 80s I saw  
8 them and I thought oh my gosh. I thought they looked  
9 hideous. But now they've been finding over there in  
10 Great Britain too that they're not what they're  
11 cracked up to be. They're not green. They're not  
12 really green. So my opinion is it's a sad state of  
13 affairs. Originally, it was because they were  
14 supposedly green, but if you look at all of the  
15 factors and study them, they're not green. So thank  
16 you.

17 [APPLAUSE]

18 MR. GAENZLE: Next is Tim Brown followed by  
19 Don Lewis.

20 MR. BROWN: My point is fairly simple and  
21 it's this. If this was a real business that makes  
22 real money, why do we have to constantly subsidize it?  
23 The federal government gives wind turbine companies  
24 tens of billions of dollars. New York State gives it  
25 hundreds of millions of dollars, and now we the local

1 people have to subsidize their existence. I don't get  
2 subsidized for my tax property. I get taxed 100%. If  
3 this is real, tax them 100%.

4 [APPLAUSE]

5 MR. GAENZLE: Don Lewis followed by Denise  
6 Willard.

7 MR. LEWIS: Lewis is L-E-W-I-S. I'm not  
8 from Fremont, but one of the ladies spoke up and said,  
9 you know, the people that didn't sign with this should  
10 be benefited from that. Well, I'm in the Eight Point  
11 Wind, and we've been through all of this so far and  
12 these guys are so dishonest. I have a windmill that  
13 sits probably 1,200 feet from my property line, and  
14 they've done the shadow on this windmill 400 feet  
15 further away and give me this -- and I went to the  
16 Eight Wind people about this and asked them if they  
17 were going to redo the shadow flicker testing and they  
18 said no. It's close enough within 400 feet. But the  
19 400 feet would have made it closer to my son's  
20 property where he lives. And also, I was one of the  
21 first persons they come to because of my elevation of  
22 my farm, and because I truly believe this, they put  
23 eight of these windmills surrounding my property. And  
24 as far as the lady speaking about paying somebody off  
25 because they're going to get the flicker or something,

1 I really disagree with that. I could have had two or  
2 three of them things on my property, and I just don't  
3 agree with this stuff, this wind mill company. Thank  
4 you.

5 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 MR. GAENZLE: Denise Willard and then Jim  
8 Cobalt.

9 MS. WILLARD: Hi, I'm Denise Willard,  
10 W-I-L-L-A-R-D, and I am from Cat County. We are going  
11 through this right now where they're proposing 117  
12 600-foot turbines in five towns in our area. The  
13 constant change of the different locations of turbines  
14 because as they say the poor farmer, well, our poor  
15 farmer in our area is getting 11 turbines and  
16 \$6.6 million. The people across the road from me were  
17 supposed to get two. At least that's what Invenergy  
18 told them but they never put it on paper. The  
19 gentleman that lives across the road was supposed to  
20 get one. Invenergy made him all of these promises but  
21 never put it on paper. It was just lies. So finally,  
22 the farmers that we get our hay from told them -- and  
23 they are the real freedom poor farmers. They don't  
24 have cell phones. They don't have a computer. They  
25 make sure they have enough money to plant their crops.

1 They charge us \$2 a bail for hay for our horses.  
2 These are my neighbors. Those are the good neighbors,  
3 not the guy that's going to put a 600-foot turbine  
4 next to your property line.

5 And I want to remind the Steuben County IDA  
6 that you gave a tax break to Howard Wind LLC in the  
7 amount of \$478,000. Two jobs. They brought you two  
8 jobs. They promised five but brought you two. So I  
9 just wanted to remind you of that because all of the  
10 wind companies make lots and lots of promises but they  
11 never come through.

12 [APPLAUSE]

13 MR. GAENZLE: James?

14 MR. KOEGEL: The thing I'd like to add  
15 briefly to what Ms. Schroeder mentioned as far as  
16 other topics that remain unaddressed and probably not  
17 even noticed, implications, what about medivac  
18 service? You're going to be hard-pressed to find a  
19 medivac helicopter that will land anywhere in the  
20 vicinity of a 600-foot turbine. Also emergency  
21 response issues. I've not heard a word about that.  
22 At the beginning of this project in Canisteo a year  
23 ago, I tried to contact Tim Marshall. I've not yet  
24 gotten the courtesy of a response to my concerns from  
25 him. That to me, the silence that I hear is deafening



1 when I ask a direct question.

2 I'll make this as short and sweet as I can.  
3 I have a cover letter here and some copies of which  
4 will go to the IDA board members. I'm going to read  
5 part of that and I'm also going to forward some other  
6 information to them. We appear before you today to  
7 voice our grave concerns about the development of wind  
8 energy in our county. The negatives associated with  
9 the development of wind farms are numerous and far  
10 outweigh the benefits. Briefly stated, they include  
11 but are not limited to visual impacts and noise,  
12 numerous health concerns, impacts on environment  
13 including birds, wildlife and plant life, reliability  
14 issues engineering soundness and economic impacts.

15 As your role in this process is primarily an  
16 economic one, I will address this area specifically.  
17 It's common knowledge that without government  
18 subsidies in support wind energy would not exist. It  
19 has been well established that as a stand alone  
20 entity, wind will never be profitable nor would it  
21 exist -- I'm sorry -- and as such it must be  
22 permanently dependent on subsidies including  
23 production tax credit, (inaudible) payments and of  
24 course pilot payments. (Inaudible) has in the past  
25 made some highly successful investments in local

1 enterprises such as Corning Inc and Alstom, businesses  
2 which have returned to their communities countless  
3 times over the agency's original investment. Wind  
4 energy and its developers do not and will not ever  
5 meet these criteria as a wise investment of taxpayer  
6 provided moneys and will never generate a return  
7 commensurate with their public investment. And  
8 hearing the developers cries of job creation you must  
9 consider that the much touted construction jobs will  
10 be temporary, and then by organized labors own  
11 admission only a small number of these positions will  
12 be held by local residents. As to permanent  
13 positions, they will be minimal. In the case of  
14 Invenergy's Canisteo project, the developer states  
15 "between five to seven full-time equivalent  
16 positions." That's equivalent. That to me implies  
17 part-time jobs, not necessarily high paid, no  
18 benefits, et cetera, et cetera. I can get that at  
19 McDonalds. In fact, I can get better at McDonalds.

20 When considering the payment's promise to  
21 local municipalities and school districts considered,  
22 what is the source of these funds? Again,  
23 substantially from the taxpayers funneled through the  
24 developer's pockets minus their profit. As a  
25 reliable, affordable source of green energy, it

1 doesn't take an engineering degree to see that it is  
2 not reliable, it is not green and it is in fact more  
3 expensive to produce than other forms of power. A  
4 major question only marginally addressed by developers  
5 arises regarding the hidden cost of a wind  
6 installation both during development operation and  
7 dismantling. The dismantling is one I've heard very,  
8 very little about, but it's a biggie for down the  
9 road.

10           Are there really adequate funds to cover  
11 damage done during construction, restoration of the  
12 infrastructure and environment. In the case of the  
13 Canisteo project including funds promised by the  
14 developer for dismantling, it is estimated that an  
15 additional several million dollars will be needed for  
16 just the dismantling process supplied by whom. Who  
17 then will cover any unforeseen cost? Again,  
18 ultimately the taxpayers. There's one individual in  
19 Canisteo who has done a very thorough analysis of  
20 this, and he opened eyes at a recent board meeting.

21           MR. GAENZLE: Jim, that's five minutes plus  
22 already in addition to the earlier comments. So if  
23 you can wrap it up, that would be great.

24           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let him finish,  
25 please.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who else have you got  
2 to see?

3 MR. GAENZLE: Anyone else wants to sign up,  
4 this is the last sign up that we have.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If he's last, let him  
6 speak.

7 MR. KOEGEL: Well, complying with the  
8 three-minutes. I mean, if the gentleman gives me the  
9 time, I'll take it. If he says shut up, I'll take it.

10 Far more importantly, consider the economic  
11 impacts of wind development on the county. The  
12 negatives noted above all lead to one end that  
13 declined the quality of life in our county. Contrary  
14 to developer's arguments, it's well established that  
15 nearby wind turbines ultimately force the decline in  
16 property values and hence the local tax base as has  
17 been said.

18 Think about this. I would challenge each  
19 and every one of the board members who is going to  
20 research this project with this question. Would you  
21 ever want to live in close proximity to a 600-foot  
22 tall rotating piece of machinery for the rest of your  
23 life? Even more so, speaking of the quality of life  
24 here in the county, would you as an outsider consider  
25 moving here for a challenging position say at Corning

1 Inc or as a retiree in search of pristine beauty and  
2 consider a property offered to you if surrounded by  
3 120 or more towers as proposed in the Canisteco  
4 project.

5 This underscores a more ominous concern to  
6 me. My wife and I are among several county residents  
7 I am familiar with approaching our retirement years  
8 having worked hard to create a comfortable retirement  
9 nest we can remain in forever. Thanks to these  
10 projects, we will be trapped. Spending our remaining  
11 years enduring the misery wind farms as neighbors and  
12 have a great difficulty selling our property at  
13 anything near fair market value when the time  
14 inevitably comes. Because of such considerations, you  
15 must remember, again addressing the board members, the  
16 negative effects of wind development will not just be  
17 immediate but will create a downward spiral for years  
18 to come. I'll cut it there. We've prepared some  
19 other materials. The bottom line is, summarized, we  
20 strongly discourage the IDA's financial support of  
21 these developments, not just the Baron project but the  
22 others proposed for Steuben County, and implore you to  
23 seek other means of investment in the future of our  
24 county. Thank you.

25 [APPLAUSE]

1 MR. JOHNSON: Is there anyone else that  
2 chooses to sign up to speak?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a question.  
4 Have you addressed how much money the IDA is actually  
5 getting from this project? Like how much money the  
6 IDA gets from this?

7 MR. JOHNSON: The IDA does charge an  
8 administrative fee. That fee as per our standard fee  
9 policy is 1% of the total construction value. That  
10 revenue is used to support 100% of our operations and  
11 also goes back into reinvestment into the community.  
12 So we get no public tax dollars to support the IDA's  
13 operations.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're a not for  
15 profit?

16 MR. JOHNSON: So that is per our fee policy.  
17 We'll be around for questions afterwards, so I want to  
18 respect everybody's time.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you say the  
20 amount? I didn't hear it.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was it \$304,000? Is  
22 that correct? It's 1%, you said, of the total?

23 MR. JOHNSON: 1% of the total project value.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Construction value?

25 MR. GAENZLE: You've all had an opportunity

1 to speak. We've had written submissions that will be  
2 made part of the record that will be presented to the  
3 board, and unless somebody who hasn't spoken wants to  
4 fill out a form, I think we've heard the comments and  
5 we'll get them back to the board before certainly any  
6 final consideration.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When are you voting  
8 on this and is the public allowed to attend that vote?

9 MR. GAENZLE: Well, we won't know until the  
10 Article 10 process is done. Legally, this can't even  
11 be considered by the board until that is done which  
12 they anticipate to be September time frame. So we  
13 don't know yet. We will publish a notice to the  
14 hearing and the public is welcome to attend the  
15 meeting. It's not a public hearing. I'll tell you  
16 that in advance, but you're certainly welcome to  
17 attend the meeting. We just don't know yet when it's  
18 going to be presented, but that will be published.

19 MR. JOHNSON: And those dates are on our  
20 website as are all of the agendas for all of the  
21 meetings. So you can just go to our website and go to  
22 the agency information, the public document section  
23 and all of that is there.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know you're not  
25 answering questions but I'd like to pose a question,

1 and I'm sitting next to a guy that knows the Fremont  
2 windmills. I know something about the ones in  
3 Cohocton, and the ones in Cohocton are not by  
4 anybody's house. They're out in the wilderness. I  
5 know where they are and he knows where they are, and  
6 they're not by people's houses. And as demonstrated  
7 by the fact that there's no one here that's anywhere  
8 in the vicinity of those windmills complaining.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?

10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, everybody. We'll  
11 be here to engage and answer questions after the  
12 hearing. So thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at  
14 6:41 p.m.)

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Reporter Certification.

I, Brandi A. Wilkins, do hereby certify that I reported in stenotype machine shorthand, Case Catalyst software the proceedings held in the above entitled matter;

On June 19, 2019, I reported in machine shorthand the proceeding had in the Fremont Town Hall;

Further, that the foregoing transcript numbered 1 through 32 is a true and accurate transcription of my said stenographic notes taken at the time and place hereinbefore set forth.

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Brandi A. Wilkins  
Court Reporter  
Forbes Court Reporting Service, Inc.  
Dated at: Batavia, New York  
This 4th Day of July, 2019