
S T E U B E N C O U N T Y
I N D U S T R I A L D E V E L O P M E N T A G E N C Y
P U B L I C H E A R I N G

February 26th, 2020

Troupsburg Fire Hall

893 State Route 36

Troupsburg, New York 14885

PRESENT:

Steuben County Industrial Development Agency

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1 MR. JOHNSON: I appreciate everybody coming.
2 For those of you who don't know me, I'm Jamie Johnson. I'm
3 the executive director of the Steuben County Industrial
4 Development Agency and I appreciate everyone coming
5 tonight. If you haven't signed in, please do so at the
6 table. And for those of you who would like to speak, there
7 is a form that we are asking you to fill out before you get
8 up and make your remarks.

9 We will call this meeting to order at -- or this
10 Public Meeting to order at 6:00, February 26th. Right on
11 the dot. I'm going to read through a brief summary of the
12 project. And then the rules just, you know, housekeeping
13 things before we go ahead and get started.

14 So we're here tonight to take public comment on
15 Canisteo Wind Energy's proposed investment of 328 million
16 dollars in Steuben County. This project, which is known as
17 the Canisteo Wind Farm, will operate in the six towns
18 within Steuben County including Cameron, Canisteo,
19 Greenwood, Jasper, Troupsburg and West Union, and produce
20 renewable energy for the New York State electric markets.

21 As part of this project, the company has
22 requested economic incentives from the Steuben County
23 Industrial Development Agency including property tax
24 abatement, sales tax exemptions, and mortgage tax
25 abatement. And as a result, we've been going through our

1 due diligence including and engaging the Center for
2 Governmental Resources to assess the economic impact and
3 cost benefit analysis of this project in our community.

4 Some of the key findings of that work included
5 the fact that Canisteo Wind Farm will provide work for
6 approximately 500 construction workers during the
7 construction phase. Spending by those firms and their
8 employees will result in an estimated 200 additional jobs
9 in the region. Generating a payroll of over 110 million
10 during the construction phase.

11 In addition, Canisteo Wind has agreed to employ
12 11 full-time individuals once operational with a direct
13 payroll of 14.3 million over the benefit period, which is
14 20 years, with up to 12 additional jobs resulting from that
15 spend, generating a payroll of 12.5 million over a 20-year
16 period.

17 In addition, the incoming sales tax generated
18 over the life of the project will be approximately 2.1
19 million dollars in total. When we assess the incentive
20 package versus the total benefits of the project, the
21 estimated incentives are 13 million dollars over that
22 20-year period. The benefits over the life of the project
23 are estimated at 175 million dollars in present value
24 terms. So when you look at the benefit cost ratio for the
25 Canisteo Wind Farm is 13.1 million over the -- or 13 to 1

1 over the life of the project. Sorry.

2 Before we get started, I want to go through just
3 a few housekeeping rules for the Public Hearing. We know
4 that this is an emotional project for some of you. We do
5 ask that you limit your comments to five minutes and that
6 you please be respectful of others who are speaking, you
7 know, during that time period.

8 In addition, this is not a question and answer
9 forum. There are representatives from the project here.
10 They are in the back of the room. But this is not going to
11 be any question and answer form. It is simply for us to
12 take public comments and comments from the public. So
13 those comments can be directed back to The Board. And we
14 are videotaping it, which will be posted on our website.
15 As well as -- we have a court reporter here who will be
16 making an official record that will be presented to The
17 Board.

18 With that, I am going to turn the meetings over
19 to the IDA attorney, Russ Gaenzle, from Harris Beach who
20 will run the Public Hearing.

21 MR. GAENZLE: Good evening everybody. Thank
22 you. And just as a reminder, these are -- if you want to
23 speak, there's a specific form that you can fill out with
24 Jill over here. We're not going in any particular order.
25 So we just ask that you limit your comments to five

1 minutes. And if I get your name wrong, I apologize in
2 advance.

3 So first up is Ian Williams.

4 IAN WILLIAMS: Stand in front of the camera?

5 MR. GAENZLE: Yeah, if you don't mind. That's
6 perfect right there. That's fine.

7 IAN WILLIAMS: Right here's good?

8 MR. GAENZLE: Yeah.

9 IAN WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is Ian
10 Williams. I am a counsel representative for Carpenters
11 Local 277 -- Carpenters Union. I'm probably going to
12 repeat a lot of things that the other trades said earlier,
13 but would just like to speak heavily in favor of the
14 project as far as, you know, the amount of jobs that it's
15 going to create. I'd also like to make everybody aware
16 that I have quite a bit of membership behind me. Local
17 people who live in the area and in the county that would be
18 able to work on that project. Many of those people
19 actually travel quite a ways away from home to work on a
20 regular basis as, you know, there's not a lot in the area
21 where they can go and seek employment.

22 So I'm also the apprenticeship coordinator for
23 our local, so I handle the apprenticeship program. It's a
24 registered program with the state. So I have a lot of
25 good, young individuals coming up through the trades that

1 are training that live in this area as well who don't
2 necessarily make as much money as the journeyman trades
3 people, so it would be really nice to have them, you know,
4 have the availability to work close to home part of the
5 time as well.

6 I would just like to stress, you know, to really
7 put the incentive to utilize local union labor on the
8 project. I think you'll find that, not just us, but the
9 other local trades, the electricians, sheet metal workers,
10 pipe fitters, they all -- we all have a fair share of
11 membership that live in the local areas. If there's going
12 to be tax incentives given to do the project, we would like
13 to have local people do the work so that they can get paid.
14 And in turn, contribute money back into the local economy,
15 so that would help the -- keep the economy turning out
16 here. Thank you.

17 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you. Next is James Koegel.

18 JAMES KOEGEL: Once again, I thank everybody for
19 the opportunity to speak. The -- which town it benefits
20 attributed to wind energy, I believe, are far outweighed by
21 the short comings. As one small part of a diversified
22 power system, it might be acceptable, but not as the single
23 salvation that it's advertised as. The salvation based
24 mainly on unformed, unsubstantiated, and politically
25 motivated agenda that's forced upon us from on high. Why

1 then has wind energy gained such seeming support of the
2 face of so many well-documented short comings? The earnest
3 and enthusiastic developers and representatives really
4 don't give a damn about clean energy. They don't give a
5 damn about CO2 emissions or clean air. And they don't give
6 a damn about you -- us -- our health, our community, or the
7 long-term economic or social impacts on it. Their one sole
8 motivation is m-o-n-e-y.

9 The wind project is built and survives almost
10 solely through subsidies. Another name for which is our
11 tax dollars. These subsidies flow in from numerous sources
12 at the federal, state, county, and municipal levels. Too
13 many different forms to note here. Most important is that
14 the subsidies are given on a potential output capacity.
15 Once built, the turbines do not even have to be running.
16 It's only the potential output that's considered. Hence
17 the greater the possible generating capacity, the greater
18 the subsidies with little other incentive.

19 What happens to the power after it's generated?
20 It's been established that recently approved nearby
21 projects will already be limited in their output they feed
22 into the grid, which is already nearing its peak capacity.
23 Why then would you build additional wind so-called farms
24 with more excess capacity? Well, you already know the
25 answer. Money and subsidies. These new installations must

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1 already reduce their output and times of peak load, such as
2 summer, exactly when the power is needed most. And it
3 doesn't stop there.

4 The recent audit discovered that the Niagara
5 Falls Hydroelectric Power facility -- the most renewable
6 and cleanest energy source of them all -- has been ordered
7 to intentionally reduce its output so the grid may
8 accommodate more than generated power. In doing so,
9 trading power costing four cents per kilowatt hour, for
10 power costing 13 and a half cents per kilowatt hour. If
11 allowed, this one single source of hydroelectric power
12 alone could generate an additional one and a half
13 terawatts -- that's terawatts of electricity, enough to
14 power an additional 150,000 homes. Then why do we need
15 more wind?

16 Why not build a whole new transmission system?
17 Well, there was a recent proposal to do just that, across
18 the length of the southern tier to New York City, the
19 ultimate destination of all upstate wind power. In a legal
20 challenge, the system was soundly defeated by a coalition
21 of southern tiered townships, for which the line would
22 pass, without providing any benefit to them whatsoever.
23 I've heard no interest by the developers in expanding or
24 upgrading the system -- the grid system. This is the
25 responsibility of the utilities. I can only assume this

1 stems from lack of tax incentives offered by the wind
2 developers for doing so. It's the job creation because
3 with the windmills themselves, this employment bonanza will
4 be short-lived. It will benefit mostly out-of-area
5 workers. If energy admits in the Canisteo project -- when
6 spanning five townships away -- only five to seven
7 employees will be needed on a permanent basis.

8 In the year 2018, a tax concession was granted
9 of 726 thousand dollars to the Marsh Hill Energy, LLC of
10 Chicago in return for a PILOT payment of 85 thousand
11 dollars for the promise of four employees. And remember,
12 those tax breaks must be made up by someone. Ask yourself
13 who when you receive your next top property tax increase as
14 we just did in the township of Canisteo. Did we really
15 receive a decent return on our investment? I say not.

16 Why then should the IDA or any upstate agency
17 give away our money to benefit an out-of-state for-profit
18 developer so they may jeopardize our health, undermine our
19 property values, defile our upstate countryside to generate
20 unnecessary power that will not benefit us? No. Only New
21 York City.

22 Two years of studying this issue, I've learned
23 that trying to extract honest, accurate, complete, and
24 consistent information from developers is almost
25 impossible. They will avoid direct questions. Instead

1 give irrelevant, vague, noncommittal answers, contradict
2 themselves or outright lie if it suits their cause. And
3 I'll give one example. A promise was made in writing to
4 the town of Canisteo to provide a letter of credit
5 guaranteeing \$10,000 for the decommissioning of each
6 turbine before a permit for construction would be issued.
7 This -- although, their own study gets a minimum
8 dismantling cost of 179 thousand per tower itself --
9 arguably conservative. In a subsequent hearing under oath,
10 a company official stated he saw no reason to post that
11 guarantee until the project is in full operation.

12 Now I ask: What happens if the developer
13 defaults during construction? Or a crane falls and kills
14 someone? Or a partially built windmill topples? All of
15 which have happened. Who will be held liable? And why the
16 inexplicable change in promises?

17 MR. GAENZLE: Jim, we're at six minutes.

18 JAMES KOEGEL: Okay.

19 MR. GAENZLE: So we have a lot of other people
20 that want to speak. So...

21 JAMES KOEGEL: All right. I have two paragraphs
22 left.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'll donate my time.

24 MR. GAENZLE: It doesn't work that way. If
25 you'd like to speak, you could speak. But you have a

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1 couple more minutes. But then in fairness to everybody
2 else, we're all bound by the same rule.

3 JAMES KOEGEL: Okay. Two minutes will do it.

4 These tactics appear to be standard operating
5 practices in the history. It also leads me to conclude
6 that in all my years of dealing with people, organizations,
7 corporations, enterprises of any kind, that as a group,
8 wind developers are among the most arrogant, deceitful, the
9 most hypocritical, and the most ruthless group of
10 pathological individuals that I've ever encountered. They
11 are bent on achieving their own goals regardless of
12 circumstances. I believe them to have little or no
13 integrity or trustworthiness. And under no circumstances
14 do I believe that they or their product they offer would be
15 of benefit to the environment, to my community, or to the
16 personal health and well-being of anyone affected. As with
17 other concerns, I have expressed to DPS, to the IDA, to
18 county legislatures, and through editorials.

19 I therefore believe that the consideration for
20 this PILOT payment and subsidy to support this project
21 should be summarily denied. I thank you.

22 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you. Next is Mona Meagher.

23 MONA MEAGHER: Hi. I'm Mona Meagher. I'm a
24 board member of CMORE Citizens for Maintaining Our Rural
25 Environment. I would like to point out -- I think I've

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1 counted that we have about 12 members here tonight. I
2 spoke earlier, but what I'd like to do right now is we had
3 three members that wanted comments read into the record, so
4 I have those emails.

5 This one is from David and Diana Ameille
6 (phonetic) from Canisteo. "I'm happy to respond as a
7 Canisteo landowner who is not in favor of these windmills
8 nor the PILOT. The whole project is funded with
9 subsidies -- taxpayer monies -- from the government who
10 actually think they -- the project creators of the
11 government -- care about the ill effects caused by having
12 them nearby. Or the fact that once they are in place, that
13 the community will have to deal with them and all
14 ramifications, well documents, property depreciation,
15 health risks, for a long time. Placing the windmills in
16 rural communities is easy prey for those supposed greenies.
17 Rural folks enjoy the outdoors, the wildlife, and hunting.
18 Rural communities are also hungry for money, but without
19 realizing the full story and long-term effects, it is very
20 easy to fall prey to what sounds like a good deal
21 initially. Remember the old saying, if it sounds too good
22 to be true, it probably is.

23 Sometimes we cannot see the forest through the
24 trees. We need to look back -- we need to look ahead 20 to
25 30 years when all of these windmills are abandoned, and

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1 ruin the natural, good beauty we have in these hills. Put
2 windmills out in our lakes or seas, we still vote no for
3 the Canisteo Wind Energy PILOT."

4 This next one is from Franklin -- I'm sorry.
5 From Walter Franklin from Greenwood. "We should not be
6 entering into a discussion on whether or not there should
7 be a PILOT aspect to the turbine project. I do not believe
8 there should be payment and new taxes because I don't want
9 to see development in the first place. Why help them
10 legitimize the turbine project? I ask not because I am not
11 progressive, but because I am progressive. And I don't
12 want to see deterioration of our natural environment by
13 greedy, corporate interest. I ask not because I favor
14 cutbacks to administration in Washington, D.C.; I certainly
15 do not. The sooner there's a change in the administration,
16 the better. Mr. Trump favors a shift from wind power for
17 all the wrong reasons. I say, stick these wind projects
18 someplace where it really blows and not here. I, and many
19 others concerned about the natural integrity of our area,
20 do not wish to see them, period."

21 The last one is from Reno and Leslie Cardero
22 (phonetic) who own property in Jasper. "The lifespan of a
23 turbine is 15 to 20 years on the high side. In Europe
24 where they have been in existence for much longer, they say
25 the expectancy is lower. The point I'm attempting to make

1 is if these wind farms want tax breaks, it's for the life
2 of the turbine. If my house is in need of paint, a new
3 roof, a new deck, do my taxes go down? Never. But these
4 wind companies want to accelerate depreciation on the wind
5 facilities after they have reached their estimated
6 lifespan. Nice if you can get it. The cost to tear down a
7 250-to 550-foot turbine is estimated to be 200 thousand
8 dollars for each turbine. Who pays that cost? Some parts
9 of turbines can be recycled and sold, but not the blades.
10 They are composite and not recyclable. Your landfills will
11 be filled with these blades. Who pays for these associated
12 costs? Landowners and counties could be on the hook for
13 tens of millions of dollars if and when officials determine
14 nonfunctioning turbines need to be removed. And if that
15 proves too costly, the turbines will be left scattered,
16 teetering, and fallen over on your landscape.

17 Since the wind companies want -- or expect lower
18 taxes, are they putting the money away for turbine removal?
19 Or are your counties -- us taxpayers -- responsible? What
20 a legacy for future generations. Non-operational turbines
21 scattered throughout their landscape.

22 And those two to six jobs created, do they
23 remain after 15 or 20 years? At the federal level, they
24 are already getting a deduction equal to 30 percent of the
25 facility's installation cost. They need to pay their tax

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1 bills." Thank you.

2 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you. Next is Tim Brown.

3 TIM BROWN: I'll pass and I'll go later. Can I
4 do that?

5 MR. GAENZLE: Sure.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Who's that? What name is
7 that?

8 MR. GAENZLE: He's just taking a pass to go at a
9 later time.

10 So next I have is Jeff Tatusca (phonetic). Did
11 I pronounce that correctly?

12 JEFF TATUSCA: Close enough.

13 MR. GAENZLE: Sorry.

14 JEFF TATUSCA: Jeff Tatusca. I'm here from
15 Centerville, New York. We're fighting the same developer
16 there. The Town of Orangeville, Counsel, is very close to
17 us and we see what they have done to that town. You guys
18 can research yourself. This company is just insidious and
19 deceitful. They pin neighbors against neighbors. They buy
20 out your town boards before anything's done. And it's a
21 home ruled state. I mean, if your town board's already
22 been bought, there's nothing you can do. I mean, in
23 Allegheny County, our IDA has been bought. Invenergy is
24 using the same attorney to buy out the towns that they
25 didn't buy out the county. And it turns out that their

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1 attorneys are also tied in with NYSERDA as well. I mean,
2 it's -- this goes all the way up to the top. I mean, this
3 is just crooked cronyism.

4 I took some of the information that I brought
5 before the Allegheny County and adapted it for you. But
6 the purpose of the IDA is to offer incentives to businesses
7 to create permanent jobs. Invenergy is talking about maybe
8 a handful. These jobs will cost millions of dollars a
9 piece in revenue that could be used to create actual jobs.

10 Let's see here. It's policies like these that
11 have made our taxes high. It's projects like this that
12 raises our utility rates. Tax-paying residents are fleeing
13 New York because of these issues. They are the main
14 problems that have kept the southern tiers trapped in an
15 endless recession. Approving the PILOT to Invenergy is
16 going to deny the county revenue that could be used to
17 actually create jobs. This corporate welfare scam is
18 already almost completely funded by taxpayers and rate
19 payers.

20 The areas of Canisteo impacted by this poorly
21 planned project will become sacrificial dead zones where no
22 future development or improvements will occur. Every
23 hilltop in Steuben will be targeted for more turbines as
24 neighboring counties deny these pilots, realizing that
25 these projects eventually have a net economic loss.

1 Every legitimate Steuben County business owner
2 should be furious to hear that you'll be approving millions
3 of dollars of tax evasion to an out-of-state company that
4 hasn't guaranteed full employment to a single resident.
5 They should be just as angry with the legislature that
6 appointed this IDA with all due respect -- you and I should
7 talk after this.

8 All right. So let's see. The noise, shadow
9 flicker, dissociated problems of this poorly planned
10 project will bring welcoming Invenenergy causes. It's a
11 proven fact that large scale industrial wind generating
12 facilities can cause a detrimental effect to the health,
13 safety, and property values of many residents. It's
14 indisputable.

15 After the project goes online, few are willing
16 to invest in existing residential and recreational
17 properties. New construction, remodeling, and the property
18 improvements will slow. These jobs are typically done by
19 local businessmen that hire local residents that actually
20 pay their taxes. The local supply chains, restaurants, and
21 stores rely on local businesses to support them. They've
22 been struggling to survive hoping that people will move
23 here, raise their families and invest in Steuben County.
24 Recreation and tourism will be negatively affected. Those
25 that visit here for the natural beauty will spend their

1 money elsewhere.

2 That area affected by this project will become
3 dead zones where no further residential, business
4 development, or tourism will occur. You will be ignoring
5 your own strategy by granting Invenergy a PILOT.

6 The purpose of a PILOT is to advance job
7 opportunities, health, general prosperity, and the economic
8 welfare of the people. Invenergy expects to pay a small
9 portion of the taxes that you and I pay in exchange for job
10 creation; how much potential tax revenue will be squandered
11 in the creation of less than a handful of jobs? I'm sure
12 the labor unions are begging for this project, but few of
13 them actually live there. The vast majority of jobs go to
14 out-of-town, out-of-state, and out-of-country labor. That
15 itself is a disservice to the taxpayers, especially those
16 trying to run business here. When out-of-town workers are
17 done, they will not have to live with the problems they
18 created. These problems effect health, general
19 prosperity -- refers to a successful thriving condition.
20 Few residents will profit from this, while many of their
21 neighbors will suffer. Many will lose much in their value
22 of their largest investment in their Steuben County
23 property. Economic welfare refers to how well people are
24 doing. Allowing Invenergy to evade taxes, is not going to
25 help most of us live more comfortably. Alle-Catt is

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1 another taxpayer, and rate payer, welfare scam leeching off
2 poor communities.

3 Granting Invenergy's wishes does not align with
4 the purpose of a PILOT agreement. Many laboring counties
5 have realized that granting pilots to large scale
6 industrial wind developers will create a long-term net
7 economic loss. The problem caused in Arkwright have
8 prompted Chautauqua to deny any future pilots. Cattaraugus
9 will deny Alle-Catt a PILOT -- it's a project we're dealing
10 with. Invenergy is being sued for problems they've caused
11 in their last project in Orangeville.

12 We hope Steuben County IDA has more foresight
13 and less corruption than our town boards do. Ours have and
14 continue to act as agents of the developer.

15 And nonetheless, we demand that you take an
16 unbiased look at our concerns before making a decision. We
17 ask that you deny any PILOT agreements to any large-scaled
18 wind development until these problems are addressed. I
19 would think on your end, you have the ability to demand
20 better setbacks, property value guarantees, things like
21 that, if the PILOT is allowed. Our town board said no. If
22 you do, you will be in support of the corrupt, crony,
23 capitalism that keeps our taxes --

24 MR. GAENZLE: Jeff, it's over six minutes
25 already. So...

1 JEFF TATUSCA: All right.

2 MR. GAENZLE: We're just trying to give everyone
3 ample time.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Let him finish.

5 JEFF TATUSCA: All right. Okay. Last sentence.
6 You are welcoming a virus that will spread and leech off
7 Steuben County like a cancer. You better consider the
8 consequences. Thank you.

9 MR. GAENZLE: Just as a reminder, we're trying
10 to be fair to everybody. We established rules that we
11 think are fair, and we would really ask that you limit the
12 comments to five minutes. Next is Bruce Frye (phonetic).

13 BRUCE FRYE: I agree with everybody that's
14 spoken so far against the PILOT. I'm against the point. I
15 don't believe that they should get any more leniency for
16 taxes. They're already subsidized on the federal and the
17 state level. And why should the taxpayer bear their burden
18 anymore? There are very few jobs that are offered long
19 time. And with all due respect, I don't think that report
20 is 13 to 1 that you stated and it really takes in the
21 health, the well -- the overall economic cost that the
22 other gentleman there I heard referenced. And for the
23 wildlife -- I think I might have said that already.

24 The other gentleman said that the support that
25 was given -- I have this article that was -- the research

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1 article that was written by the Utah State University which
2 shows that wind energy is the most supported by grants and
3 taxes and one of the least as far as productivity in
4 generation. It generates only about five percent of the
5 power and the support that it receives is close to 40
6 percent. Also, I was reading an article today where the
7 power, it fluctuates with the wind. And then it's hard to
8 integrate into the grid causing problems and draining extra
9 resources because of the fluctuation.

10 Again, I really don't believe that everything
11 that the IDA's information that they've gotten is
12 sufficient. That's it.

13 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you. Next I have, Larry
14 Smith.

15 LARRY SMITH: I'm Larry Smith. I live in
16 Knoxville, PA. Me and my wife, we have an organic beef and
17 crop farm. And we support the wind energy.

18 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you. Patrick Smith is next.

19 PATRICK SMITH: I'm a lifelong resident of
20 Steuben County. I spent my childhood in Canisteo and I've
21 been a resident of the township of Troupsburg for the last
22 30 years. And I would like to voice my support for the
23 Inducement Resolution Document Number 46031911b, Canisteo
24 Wind Energy, which has received unanimous support from the
25 officers of the IDA Board on October 24th, 2019. Wherein

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1 the negotiations pertaining to the project agreement, lease
2 agreement, release agreement, tax agreement, and other
3 related documents would amendments immediately upon the final
4 adoption of this resolution.

5 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you. William Anderson.

6 WILLIAM ANDERSON: If I can speak maybe later
7 on --

8 MR. GAENZLE: Sure.

9 WILLIAM ANDERSON: Thank you.

10 MR. GAENZLE: Jessica Lamay (phonetic).

11 JESSICA LAMAY: Hi. Okay. So I'm against the
12 Canisteo Wind Project and the PILOT program. This large
13 company, Invenergy, has projects in the Americas, Europe,
14 and Asia. It is one of the six largest owners of wind
15 generated plants in the United States. They're already
16 getting large subsidies through federal and state
17 government funded by us. And now they're looking to not
18 pay taxes.

19 My husband and I started a small business and we
20 are not asking to not pay our taxes. We are hard workers,
21 and we will continue to be, and also continue to pay taxes.
22 We are not asking for our community to fund us -- support
23 us -- through the payment of their hard-earned money. We
24 work hard and our community members work hard for their
25 income. We will not take that away from them, but this

1 large corporation is looking to do so.

2 I will not live in a home or run a business
3 where staying will cause detriment to my health and the
4 health of my family as well as the loss of enjoyment use of
5 my land. Unfortunately, because of these turbines, I will
6 have a hard time selling my home if I chose to do so. And
7 this has been documented many times through other wind
8 projects that I've seen.

9 I only wish I had the same real estate history
10 as the CEO of Invenergy, Michael Polsky. Last year, he
11 sold his metropolitan tower condo in Chicago for 3.3
12 million dollars and his Miami Beach home for 24 million
13 dollars. What is surprising is that a man with a 2007 net
14 worth of 352 million runs his company off subsidies --
15 remember, that's our money that we're paying to him -- and
16 looking to not pay taxes on this project. The approval of
17 the PILOT program would mean that even more money would be
18 removed from our community and placed in the hands of this
19 large corporation with a millionaire CEO. I would rather
20 keep my home than help pay for his new one.

21 Other counties in New York have seen the same
22 issue with PILOT programs concerning wind turbines, and
23 have denied them. The reason a county usually negotiates
24 these PILOT agreements is because these large companies
25 bring many jobs to the area. But this company will offer

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1 quick construction jobs. If you do the research, and you
2 actually look and see the long-term jobs that they'll give
3 us, it's not many. And that scares me that people think
4 that there's long-term jobs for us and we're giving them
5 our tax money. They don't create a significant number of
6 permanent jobs. And who says that they'll even go to us?
7 Are we willing to lose out in potentially millions for our
8 community because of a couple permanent jobs that may not
9 go to us? Again, none of this has been promised.

10 Saying that this will bring clean energy is an
11 uninformed statement that has been pushed by this company.
12 A thousand percent of its capacity has to be backed up a
13 hundred percent of the time by fossil fuel generation
14 sources, which constantly run in the background to balance
15 the grid and prevent blackouts when power is not available.
16 Ramping back up gas plants and down would mean running them
17 inefficiently and give off much more CO₂, then we could end
18 up increasing our overall emissions further than reducing
19 them. The concrete rebarred turbine material components'
20 emissions of the lining of the raw materials and the
21 transportation of these fabricated materials to the turbine
22 site also causes CO₂ emissions.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Causes what?

24 JESSICA LAMAY: CO₂ emissions.

25 Also, where is this material being mined from --

1 manufactured? Is it all in New York State? Is that where
2 we're putting our money to? No. Once again, our tax money
3 is being used to make others rich, even richer. When all
4 said and done, this project will make the rich richer, and
5 the struggle, struggle. It may also force others to leave
6 the area, quit their jobs, close their business, look for a
7 home somewhere elsewhere where our land and health is
8 protected. Thank you.

9 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you. Next is Elaine Brown.

10 ELAINE BROWN: I've been to these hearings
11 before. And I appreciate -- I can appreciate both sides of
12 the issue. I can appreciate that there are farmers that
13 need money to keep their farms. I can also appreciate that
14 a lot of us have studied a lot and researched by going
15 online, reading articles, books, and I really -- I have
16 concluded that the windmills -- to this type of degree --
17 are a scam. It helps that individuals that have windmills
18 on their properties because they're getting money from
19 that. It helps them in that way. Some of them are then
20 hurt later, and wish they hadn't gotten them and have full
21 confidence that the reason some of their health has gone
22 bad, including a very good friend of mine who is my age,
23 who is no longer here; she had a windmill near her
24 property. And she really believed that the reason she got
25 sick was from the windmills. And she is no longer here.

1 But she is one of many, many, many people that have
2 concluded -- and the windmill wasn't even on her property.
3 She didn't get any personal benefit from it so to speak. I
4 -- it saddens me to see it happening. I saw it in Scotland
5 back in the mid-80s. I went and I saw windmills, and I
6 thought, oh, my goodness. This is really something. And I
7 know some of the people from back there, who now wish they
8 had never gotten them for a lot of various reasons like
9 what some of these other people who have been researching
10 it, and know other people who have had them have already
11 discussed.

12 So when and if they are done in these areas
13 locally, we would hope that they are done at least with far
14 enough setbacks to make them at least less harmful. So
15 thank you.

16 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you. Next I have Tim Brown.

17 TIM BROWN: I came across this interesting
18 article in American Free Press and it's called Green Energy
19 Fails. "With 30,000 wind turbines and 1.7 million solar
20 installations, Germany has been leading the way in
21 so-called green energy. The only problem is regular
22 Germans have seen the price of energy go up significantly.
23 And during the long cold winter, these green energy plants
24 have actually been sucking more electricity for more
25 reliable sources such as nuclear and gas -- natural gas

1 power plants. The Asia Times reported late last month,
2 most of the time, the actual amount of electricity produced
3 is only a fraction of the installed capacity. Worse, on
4 bad days it can fall to nearly zero. In 2016, for example,
5 there were 52 nights with essentially no wind blowing in
6 the country. No sun. No wind. Even taking better days
7 into account, the average electricity output of wind and
8 solar energy installation in Germany amount to only about
9 17 percent of the installed capacity." It's just a
10 boondoggle. Your tax money.

11 MR. GAENZLE: And I called William Anderson
12 earlier. If you'd like to speak now or --

13 WILLIAM ANDERSON: I'm William Anderson from
14 over in Bath. And I'm one of the lucky ones that I can see
15 every single wind farm that there is from the top of my
16 hill. I can see Naples, Howard, Canisteo. I'm going to be
17 able to see all of these here and it's not a pretty sight.
18 You're talking from north to east, at nighttime the lights
19 go on, the lights go off. It's even worse during the
20 nighttime because each farm has its own red light, and
21 every -- and I went into it and I asked why. And every
22 windmill has to have the same light pattern. So they all
23 go on. They will all go off.

24 As far as the ecology goes and everything else,
25 it's literally wrong. And there's a lot of people, like

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1 myself, that we don't get nothing -- no benefit from it at
2 all. You go out to Long Island, and those people there,
3 because their homes are 20 and 30 million dollars, they are
4 putting the windmills 20 miles out in the middle of the
5 ocean. And we are paying for them to be put out there.
6 How do you maintain them? To think you've got all this
7 cable underground that has to go all the way back in. But
8 they don't want them on their shores because they just
9 don't want to look at them.

10 So I could go into taxes. I could go into a few
11 other things. I think everything has pretty much been
12 backed by anything anyone here has said. And I'm against
13 it.

14 MR. GAENZLE: And then again, Rob Lamay
15 (phonetic), if you'd would like to speak, you're the last
16 form.

17 ROB LAMAY: Did you already call me once? I
18 didn't prepare a speech. So I just had a few thoughts.
19 And this is just for the PILOT, we're speaking to you.
20 Just -- I think a lot of people don't understand how the
21 PILOT allocates and works. And maybe they do. Maybe they
22 don't. But I know that -- the payment in lieu of taxes,
23 the payment they made to schools, municipalities, and to
24 the county. And I know, being on the school board for many
25 years, that we would get that check. And it was nice. But

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1 that check is counted as a revenue. And so the state just
2 takes that revenue and just doesn't give it to us anymore.
3 It's a wash. We didn't -- we're not any further ahead. I
4 think a lot of people don't understand that. You think
5 we're getting some money, but you're really not. So our
6 taxes don't go down any at all. We don't benefit from that
7 at all really.

8 So I just wrote down some notes here. A lot of
9 people don't understand that. I'm sure the towns are the
10 same -- same way. Benefits to the taxpayers. I think
11 we're saying there's going to be a couple of jobs that come
12 out of this thing. Not a whole lot. There's really not a
13 whole lot of benefits. I think some people that own
14 properties -- some of the farmers or whoever -- landowners
15 -- that are going to get these on their property are going
16 to maybe make some money off of that. I don't blame them
17 for wanting that. I understand it. I understand that if
18 you're a farmer and it's not the industry that is a great
19 industry anymore. I totally get that. But I don't know if
20 this is the solution for you. And that's not tax money
21 anyways. That's money being paid to you from that -- the
22 cost of the taxpayers and the neighbors. So we're going to
23 be living in an industrial wasteland now. We're going to
24 have hundreds of towers out here that are over 600 feet
25 tall. I don't know if everybody really understands what a

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1 600-foot-tall tower looks like next to your house. If it's
2 miles and miles away, it looks that big on the horizon.
3 But if it's in your neighboring property and it's 600 feet
4 tall; it's intense. The wind, the sound from that, and all
5 of the other bad parts of that.

6 I just wanted to say that we all pay a lot of
7 taxes. We pay school taxes. They're not going to go down.
8 We're not going to benefit from that. We're not going to
9 get anything really from this. We pay a lot of taxes. We
10 pay school tax. We want to have a nice school. We pay
11 taxes to live in a beautiful area. It's pristine. It's
12 one of the reasons we live here. It's gorgeous. The air
13 is fresh. It's quiet. It's beautiful. The rolling hills.
14 I've been all over the place. I've driven to Alaska. I've
15 been all over the country. Every time I come back to my
16 house in the evening when the sun is setting, it's
17 top-notch. It's one of the most beautiful places I've ever
18 been. So I mean that. I get goosebumps. So now, I'm
19 still going to be paying those taxes. My property values
20 are going to go down the butt. I'm going to probably have
21 a house for sale here. I'm probably not going to get
22 anything for it. I have a million dollar view from my
23 house. If you know where I live, it's gorgeous where I
24 live. So now I was thinking I'll have to pay those taxes,
25 and I'm going to have a beautiful view of an industrial

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1 wasteland. We're all going to do that. We're all going to
2 pay that. So that's what we're getting.

3 MR. GAENZLE: Thank you.

4 ROB LAMAY: Thank you.

5 MR. GAENZLE: So that's all the sign-in forms
6 that were presented. So I think -- unless there's somebody
7 else that has a form that they want to submit -- that will
8 conclude the 6:00 hearing. And thank you, again, everyone
9 for coming and thanks to the town to host us.

10 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

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REPORTER CERTIFICATE

I, Alexandra K. Wiater, do hereby certify that I
did report in stenotype machine shorthand the proceedings
held in the above-entitled matter;

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

Dated this 6th day of March, 2020

At Rochester, New York

Alexandra K. Wiater