

TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA

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Office of the Selectmen

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Site Evaluation Committee
Thomas Burack, Commissioner
Dept. of Environmental Services
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

March 27, 2013

Dear Commissioner Burack and Members:

Industrial scale wind farm development in Alexandria is currently an issue of great interest and concern to our citizens. The application for one such installation is expected to reach the state's Site Evaluation Committee in the coming months, and two additional projects are in earlier planning stages. Each of these would site numerous large (app. 450' high) turbines on ridges and heights of land in the town.

The Selectboard supports the development of sustainable energy and, in fact, Alexandria is home to a 15 MW generating facility that burns wood chips provided by local forest harvesters. But tourism based on the scenic appeal of the region is the economic mainstay of our Newfound Lake area. The presence of numerous such towers within easy view of the lake is sure to damage the aesthetic appeal of a region that draws large numbers of seasonal visitors, including many second-home owners. **We believe that the large scale of these wind farms and their siting in environmentally and visually sensitive areas makes them incompatible with both our town's physical environment and our economic base.**

Over the past weeks, Alexandria has been the scene of informational meetings at which questions have been asked and answered, and proponents and opponents have argued their cases. Flyers, mailings, and signs have proliferated. But, last week brought a crystal clear picture of public opinion. The following article from the 2013 Town Warrant passed 273-101:

"To see if the Town will vote to support the following resolution: WHEREAS development of one or more large scale wind farms along the mountain ridge lines visible from Town will negatively impact the Town's rural nature and scenic beauty, now be it RESOLVED that the Town strongly opposes the development of large wind turbines along the mountain ridge lines visible from the Town of Alexandria."

That is 70% of those voting declared their opposition to wind farm development, despite the alleged tax benefit and short-term economic boost. A second article, concerning the need for cash bond to cover the full cost (as determined independently) of eventual facility removal, was passed by an even larger margin.

In summary, and based on both our assessment and the clearly expressed will of the town's voters, we wish to state our opposition to industrial scale wind farm development in the Town of Alexandria.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Hall, Chair


Donald Sharp

Alexandria Board of Selectmen


George Tuthill

cc: Senator Jeanie Forrester
Representative Harold "Skip" Reilly