

William Cundiff

From: Robert Anders [lhanders3@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2010 1:12 PM
To: William Cundiff
Subject: Fwd: Wind Jammers at the White House

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Spalding, P & K" <spalken@comcast.net>
Date: November 11, 2010 11:25:02 AM EST
To: <Fnhaggerty@aol.com>, <maura@condrick.com>
Cc: <aboux@comcast.net>, <andyg123@aol.com>, <hartcool@cape.com>, <Bjdurk@aol.com>, <bcosgrove01@cox.net>, <randers@blueberryhillassociation.com>, <bhunt55718@aol.com>, <btearle@comcast.net>, <cpepin@blueberryhillassociation.com>, <dennyoc@comcast.net>, <aedoyle@prodigy.net>, <etillinghast@greenberkshires.org>, <ebibler@gmail.com>, <eturking@gis.net>, <hdodson@dodsonassociates.com>, <mtnstar@verizon.net>, <jpnesto31@yahoo.com>, <jandprogers@comcast.net>, <article17@verizon.net>, <jbmasseur@gmail.com>, <jsears7@gmail.com>, <jrtrim@bcn.net>, <kelder@whoi.edu>, <kayrturgeon@comcast.net>, <khelat@aol.com>, <ktramp03@yahoo.com>, <ashfielddandy@earthlink.net>, <preservethewellfleetilove@gmail.com>, <lpivacek@comcast.net>, <liz@film-truth.com>, <stmpsprt@crocker.com>, <mag@aquamaureen.com>, <mhickey52@gmail.com>, <neilgood@juno.com>, <pmcclan@earthlink.net>, <pribnick@prgsolutions.com>, <rwendell@ttor.org>, <renecwood@aol.com>, <mt66@att.net>, <roncoler@col-col.com>, <firstlilwanderer@yahoo.com>, <harwichdem@gmail.com>, <gfop@comcast.net>, <trinakbss189@gmail.com>, <wlc33@comcast.net>, <wklug@yahoo.com>, <yaakov.cohn@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Wind Jammers at the White House

Should be sending this along with complaints to anyone who will listen – news (including Fox), federal legislators, etc.

From: Fnhaggerty@aol.com [mailto:Fnhaggerty@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2010 10:27 AM
To: maura@condrick.com; spalken@comcast.net
Cc: aboux@comcast.net; andyg123@aol.com; hartcool@cape.com; Bjdurk@aol.com; bcosgrove01@cox.net; randers@blueberryhillassociation.com; bhunt55718@aol.com; btearle@comcast.net; cpepin@blueberryhillassociation.com; dennyoc@comcast.net; aedoyle@prodigy.net; etillinghast@greenberkshires.org; ebibler@gmail.com; eturking@gis.net; hdodson@dodsonassociates.com; mtnstar@verizon.net; jpnesto31@yahoo.com; jandprogers@comcast.net; article17@verizon.net; jbmasseur@gmail.com; jsears7@gmail.com; jrtrim@bcn.net; kelder@whoi.edu; kayrturgeon@comcast.net; khelat@aol.com; ktramp03@yahoo.com; ashfielddandy@earthlink.net; preservethewellfleetilove@gmail.com; lpivacek@comcast.net; liz@film-truth.com; stmpsprt@crocker.com; mag@aquamaureen.com; mhickey52@gmail.com; neilgood@juno.com; pmcclan@earthlink.net; pribnick@prgsolutions.com; rwendell@ttor.org; renecwood@aol.com; mt66@att.net; roncoler@col-col.com

col.com; firstlilwanderer@yahoo.com; harwichdem@gmail.com; gfop@comcast.net; trinakbss189@gmail.com; wlc33@comcast.net; wklug@yahoo.com; yaakov.cohn@gmail.com

Subject: Wind Jammers at the White House

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704635704575604502103371986.html>

Wind Jammers at the White House A Larry Summers memo exposes the high cost of energy corporate welfare

President Obama continues to advertise the \$814 billion stimulus and its green energy subsidy programs in particular as unqualified successes. But a remarkable memo from Mr. Obama's own advisers tells the real story, neatly illustrating what happens when his anticarbon agenda meets the political allocation of capital.

The eight-page October 25 memorandum to the President was written by soon-to-depart chief economic aide Larry Summers and senior policy aides Carol Browner and Ron Klain, and it's been kicking around Capitol Hill and industry circles for the last week. The trio walks through an interagency dispute about Energy Department subsidies for wind, solar and other forms of "renewable" power, which DOE claimed were being held up by the joint Treasury and White House budget office (OMB) reviews.

Recall that the stimulus transformed the government into the world's largest private equity firm. The many tools now at DOE's disposal include \$6 billion to guarantee loans and another dispensation so that the department can convert an energy investment tax credit equal to 30% of a project's cost into a direct cash grant to green developers.

The Summers memo notes that these two provisions alone reduce "the cost of a new wind farm by about 55% and solar technologies by about half relative to a no-subsidy case." So taxpayers are more than majority partners in these private projects, except they get no upside.

DOE wanted the White House to cut OMB and Treasury out of deal-by-deal approval oversight so it could get the money out the door quicker. The department was coming under political attack "from Hill supporters and stakeholders for slow implementation," according to the memo, and impatient Democrats had already raided the \$6 billion fund to pay for cash for clunkers.

But OMB and Treasury found severe problems with "the economic integrity of government support for renewables." Developers had almost no "skin in the game," meaning that their equity in projects was well below ordinary standards in the private market. They were also "double dipping," obtaining loan guarantees for projects that "would appear likely to move forward without the credit support" in the stimulus because of other subsidy programs. The reason for the roadblock was "an insufficient number of financially and technically viable projects."

Treasury and OMB singled out an 845-megawatt wind farm that the Energy Department had guaranteed in Oregon called Shepherds Flat, a \$1.9 billion installation of 338 General Electric turbines. Combining the stimulus and other federal and state subsidies, the total taxpayer cost is about \$1.2 billion, while sponsors GE and Caithness Energy LLC had invested equity of merely about 11%. The memo also notes the wind farm could sell power at "above-market rates" because of Oregon's renewable portfolio standard mandate, which requires utilities to buy a certain annual amount of wind, solar, etc.

But then GE said it was considering "going to the private market for financing out of frustration with the review process." Anything but that. The memo dryly observes that "the alternative of private financing would not make the project financially non-viable."

Oh, and while Shepherds Flat might result in about 18 million fewer tons of carbon through 2033, "reductions would have to be valued at nearly \$130 per ton CO2 for the climate benefits to equal the subsidies (more than 6 times the primary estimate used by the government in evaluating rules)."

So here we have the government already paying for 65% of a project that doesn't even meet its normal cost-benefit test, and then the White House has to referee when one of the largest corporations in the world (GE) importunes the Administration to move faster by threatening to find a private financial substitute like any other business. Remind us again why taxpayers should pay for this kind of corporate welfare?

The memo's tone suggests that Messrs. Summers and Klain and Ms. Browner are on the side of the adults at Treasury

and the budget office, and they propose several reforms. But they also say that "Failing to make progress on renewables loan guarantees could upset the Hill ([New Mexico] Sen. [Jeff] Bingaman, Speaker Pelosi)" and changes could "signal the failure of a Recovery Act program that has been featured prominently by the Administration."

Well, that answers our question. Meanwhile, the loan guarantee program continues apace.

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 10.0.1153 / Virus Database: 424/3250 - Release Date: 11/11/10

Robert Anders
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"Wind Turbines are not powered by wind.
They are powered by taxes."

<http://www.realwebster.com>

William Cundiff

From: Robert Anders [lhanders3@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2010 1:14 PM
To: William Cundiff
Subject: Fwd: Life Under a Wind Plant / Voices From Vinalhaven
Attachments: Hard Lessons from Fox Islands Wind Project.pdf; ATT00007.htm

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Eric Bibler" <ebibler@gmail.com>
Date: November 14, 2010 11:12:34 AM EST
To: "Eric Bibler" <ebibler@saveourseashore.org>
Subject: FW: Life Under a Wind Plant / Voices From Vinalhaven
Reply-To: <ebibler@gmail.com>

All,

This was the CCC version of the letter – slightly different. I wasn't able to overnight them because of Veteran's Day. They will likely not arrive until after the hearing on Monday.

I tried to expand a bit on the Vinalhaven episode to include aspects that are relevant to what is going on in theCape – especially with the Minimum Performance Standard language which, in the context of things, suggests to me that the CCC would accept an “acoustic study” at face value.

I turned Geof Karlson's favorite argument on its head. GK always dismissed Vinalhaven as “irrelevant because Vinalhaven has three wind turbines and the Wellfleet proposal is only for one.” Vinalhaven has “only” three wind turbines, but the Bourne developer wants SEVEN; and Bourne wants the 500 foot variety, as opposed the Vinalhaven's 400 footers.

Thank-you, Mr. Karlson.

Eric

FOR DISTRIBUTION

Save Our Seashore
Wellfleet, MA

Ms. Ryan Christenberry
Planner – Energy Policy
Cape Cod Commission
3225 Main St.

PO BOX 226
Barnstable, MA 02630-0226

November 11, 2010

Dear Ms. Christenberry,

I am sending to your office, via overnight delivery, 10 copies of a DVD that contains two documentaries about communities located near industrial wind facilities.

The first feature, "Life Under a Wind Plant" is a short documentary film produced by Jon Boone and David Beaudoin about the wind energy facility in Meyersdale, PA and consists of interviews with nearby residents regarding their experiences before, during and after industrial wind turbines were installed in their community. This video can also be accessed on the internet via the following link on Mr. Boone's invaluable website, which he maintains as a public service:

http://www.stopillwind.org/lowerlevel.php?content=Downloads_Video

The second feature is a series of radio interviews conducted with residents of Vinalhaven, Maine regarding their experiences before, during and after industrial wind turbines were installed in their community.

The example of the residents of Vinalhaven, Maine would seem to be particularly relevant to the Cape Cod Commission because for all of the following reasons:

- a) Vinalhaven is an island whose character, topography and ambient sound are similar to the Cape;
- b) the residents there were all enthusiastic supporters of the project prior to its commencement;
- c) the Vinalhaven installation consists of "only" three industrial wind turbines that are a bit less than 400 feet tall;
- d) the developer conducted a standard "acoustic study" and confidently predicted that there would be "no adverse impact" from noise;
- e) just as in the Town of Falmouth, the developer has subsequently declared that the project is "in compliance" with a relatively lax, and wholly inadequate state noise statute;
- f) independent measurements, confirmed by an independent acoustic engineer hired by the State of Maine, have shown that the noise levels of the project in fact exceed the levels that allowed under the extremely permissive Maine noise statutes;
- g) all attempts to "mitigate" the adverse health impacts and the continuous disruption from the wind turbine noise have failed; and
- h) many residents in Vinalhaven continue to suffer from profound disturbance to their lives, including sleep deprivation, headaches, pressure on the ears, anxiety and depression.

We think that the Cape Cod Commission might wish to consider all of these factors. Please also note that virtually all of the residents in Vinalhaven are located at a distance of MORE than 1.5 times tip height.

These interviews can also be accessed on the internet (in three parts) via the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=quSkEbYnygA>

I have also attached a written testimonial from Ms. Sally Wylie, a Vinalhaven resident, that was published in a local newspaper.

As you may (or may not) be aware, we have previously provided all of this material, other than Mr. Boone's documentary, to Mr. Niedzwiecki early this year.

Finally, if you wish to do some further investigation of the "Flicker Effect" – the innocuous term that the wind industry applies to the intense strobe light effect that is produced by industrial wind turbines over a huge expanse -- you might also wish to investigate some of the video clips collected on Wind Watch, which you may access on the internet via that following link:

<http://www.wind-watch.org/videos.php>

I would appreciate it if you would share this correspondence with the other Planners of the CCC, the Planning Board, all Members of the Commission and all of the Assembly Delegates. Additionally, I would respectfully ask that you include this correspondence in the official record of your hearings for the wind turbine project in Bourne, as well as any other current or future wind turbine projects that come before the CCC.

Many thanks.

Eric Bibler
President



Posted: December 8th, 2009 | ENVIRONMENT, INTER-ISLAND NEWS
Online Exclusive

Opinion

Hard lessons from the Fox Islands Wind Project

by Sally Wylie

North Haven and Vinalhaven Schools were let out for the ribbon cutting ceremony on November 17. Students passed out colorful pinwheels and excitement was in the air. Governor John Baldacci joined the crowd. First District Congresswoman Chellie Pingree flew in from Washington, D.C. to join her daughter Hannah Pingree, Speaker of the House, in order to celebrate the completion of the Fox Islands Wind Project. As one speaker said, this was the largest group of North Haven and Vinalhaven residents together, *ever!* The turbines were running, the community had pulled together, and with the support of the Fox Islands Electric Cooperative Inc., the Island Institute, and George Baker, CEO of Fox Islands Wind LLC (FIW), remarkably, the dream of community-based wind power on Vinalhaven was a reality!

Amongst the participants were many of us who are neighbors of the turbines. Although our group overwhelmingly supported the project, we now live with the daily presence of turbine noise, 24/7. As one of the Fox Islands Wind Neighbors (FIWN) recently noted, "We support the windmills, but not the noise." The noise is as constant as the wind, building in intensity according to wind speed and direction. It can be a low rumbling, whooshing, grinding background noise that one can just hear above the sound of the trees or it can build to an in-your-face noise, like jet engines roaring combined with a grinding and pulsating sound that echoes in your head, keeps you awake at night, and beats on your house like a drum.

As neighbors of the wind turbines, we find ourselves in the midst of an unexpected, unwanted life crisis. When GE flipped the switch and the turbines began to turn, island life as we knew it evaporated.

As I watched the first rotation of the giant blades from our deck, my sense of wonder was replaced by disbelief and utter shock as the turbine noise revved up and up, past the sound of our babbling brook, to levels unimagined. It was not supposed to be this way! During informational meetings, on the Fox Islands Wind website, in private conversations, and with personal correspondence, we were all told that ambient noise from the surrounding area would cover the sound of the turbines. This was our expectation. The Fox Islands Wind August 31 cover letter to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) explained, "When the turbines are generating higher sound levels, background noise will be higher as well, masking the sound of the turbines." On the Fox Islands Wind Web site FAQ we read, "The blades passing through the air can make a 'whooshing' sound and mechanical parts or unusual wind currents can produce a steady 'hum' or 'whine.' However, ambient noise is usually louder than any noise produced by wind turbines and modern wind turbines are significantly quieter than older models." Our immediate experience was the reverse.

Since that moment of realization, we have been on a steep learning curve. Our days are filled with e-mail correspondence with neighbors and George Baker, of Fox Islands Wind, research on the noise pollution and health risks associated with turbine noise, research on the impact of low-frequency noise, research on technological solutions, research on the impact of turbine noise on domestic and wild animals, research on state sound regulations,

conversations with the press, neighborhood meetings, meetings with the electric cooperative and FIW, a meeting with the DEP, multiple letters to our State Representative, Hannah Pingree, letters to Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, letters to the Vinalhaven Land Trust board members, e-mails to possible sound consultants, debates with neighbors as to how we will pay for a sound consultant, letters to the DEP where we are beginning to know everyone's name, and the list goes on.

We have been to the town office to copy tax maps and get the addresses of year-round and summer residents who live near the turbines. We have driven all over the island with sound meters, determining that the turbine sound can travel more than a mile in certain areas and noticing whose homes are impacted. We have spoken with people in town to spread the word. We have invited people to our homes to listen for themselves. We have learned and explained under which conditions the turbines are loudest and why. We have developed data sheets so we can keep daily noise observation records. We have worked to find the words and sounds to describe the noise, each perfecting our own imitation, some better than others. We have learned to count windmill rpm and discovered that above 15 rpm the noise is tough to take. We have read lengthy amendments and studied sound protocols. We have learned about state sound regulations and found that the 45 decibel limit that is designated as "quiet" in Maine, is truly a cruel joke. On our quiet cove, we now know that 45 decibels is loud.

We have studied spreadsheets, yearly wind speed records, and have worked to determine how much Fox Islands Wind can slow the turbines down and still cover the cost of the windmills. We are *scrambling*. We do not want to leave the homes we have built with our own hands, the gardens we have planted, the memories that are so much a part us, and the dreams we hold for the future. We are not looking for financial gain. We are desperate to gain back what has been taken from us.

From where we are sitting, it seems that the industry standard for turbine noise in rural areas is absolutely wrong! I cannot speak for all the Fox Islands Wind Neighbors on this, but my husband and I feel that, on a local level, well-meaning individuals made a critical miscalculation. Depending on wind speed, wind direction, etc., we estimate that households within a mile to a mile-and-a-half radius of the turbines are impacted by the sound. This is a very serious issue that affects many homeowners on Vinalhaven and could also, due to diminishing property values, affect the tax base of the town. In an island community, such as Vinalhaven, where people sincerely care about and support one another, we are in the position where economic gain in the form of reduced electrical rates/wind turbine debt could be pitted against community well-being. How willing will the Fox Islands Wind Cooperative and the community be to share the burden of this major miscalculation? Rather than bringing us together, the noise from the turbines has the potential to tear our community apart.

As I type, a computer is whirring away in our basement, sending wind speed data and noise level data to sound technicians in Boston. FIW is taking sound measurements, as required by the DEP, and it is our joint hope that they will be able to make adjustments to windmills in order to reduce the noise. Along with our neighbors, we are recording daily noise observations which sound specialists can use as a means to determine under which conditions the noise is most disturbing. We are eager participants in doing whatever we can to rectify the situation. We feel fortunate that Fox Islands Wind is controlled by the Fox Islands Electric Cooperative and that they are eager to work with us to find an answer.

However, it is very clear to us, that life as we know it on Vinalhaven has changed irrevocably. We understand that our best hope is to come to a reasonable compromise. We are working with FIW to find a balance between the level of noise that is tolerable and the turbine speed necessary to produce electricity. This is a far cry from what we were told and what we expected. One has to wonder if wind turbine technology is truly ready to be implemented in rural areas. Community based wind power is a very good idea, a smart answer to our energy dilemma. The numbers actually work. It is just that our life-for us, and for our neighbors-does not. Ironically, for households within earshot of the turbines, the GE windmills fly in the face of island sustainability. Some islanders who lived close to the turbines were given the choice of either selling their homes or land to FIW at the assessed value or living with the turbine noise. Most chose to sell rather than live with the noise. Others are trying to stay where they are with hopes that GE specialists and FIW sound specialists will find technological solutions. The Island Institute website states, "The Institute's perspective is fundamentally ecological. It understands that all life is intimately linked with its environment; that people are therefore an inextricable part of the ecosystem of the Gulf of Maine, that there is an interdependent web of existence more

evident on islands than in other communities and landscapes." As is, there are some year-round families on Vinalhaven who feel their existence is being marginalized and the noise issue minimized.

Before any other island community takes the step towards wind power, come to Vinalhaven and see for yourselves the consequences of those actions. Come to our meetings. Come stand on our porches, listen to the nonstop roaring, thumping, whooshing, grinding sounds of the turbines, and compare it to the quiet you currently experience. Watch how our community struggles with this issue and see how we resolve it. Look at the compromises we make and decide if those trade-offs are worth it for you and your neighbors. For many islanders, a cohesive, caring community and good quality of life are of critical importance. Don't let the wind blow it away.

Sally Wylie lives on Vinalhaven and in Rockland. She is part of the group Fox Island Wind Neighbors.