

1 COUNTY OF CHAUTAUQUA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTAL AGENCY

2 PUBLIC HEARING

3 IN RE: CASSADAGA WIND, LLC

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Public Hearing held in the above-captioned matter at the Town of Charlotte Town Hall, 8 Lester Street, Sinclairville, New York 14782, on March 22, 2017, commencing at 1:31 p.m.

Reported by Sonya Hoffman
Court Reporter

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MR. MAZGAJ: Good afternoon. My name is Matthew Mazgaj. I'm at the law firm of Phillips Lytle in Jamestown, and I'm here on behalf of the County of Chautauqua Industrial Developmental Agency, which I'll refer to as the Agency.

I've been directed by the members of the Agency to hold a public hearing. It is March 22, 2017, and the time is now 1:30 p.m. We are at the Town of Charlotte, Town Hall, 8 Lester Street, Sinclairville, New York.

This is a public hearing pursuant to Section 859-a of the New York General Municipal Law as amended. The Agency has received an application for financial assistance in connection with the following matter, that I will describe and refer to as the Project:

Cassadaga Wind, LLC, is a limited liability company existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and operating in the State of New York as a foreign limited liability company. I'll refer to Cassadaga Wind as the Applicant. The Applicant presented an application to the Agency, which application requested that the Agency consider undertaking a project consisting of the following:

A-1, the acquisition of an interest in

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approximately 40,000 acres of land by the Applicant located in the Towns of Charlotte, Cherry Creek, Arkwright and Stockton, the County of Chautauqua, New York; this I'll refer to as the Land.

2, the acquisition and installation thereto and thereon of certain furniture, fixtures, machinery and equipment, including approximately fifty-eight (58) wind turbine generators with a combined maximum capacity of 126 megawatts.

3, the acquisition, construction, installation and equipping on the Land of: (i) an operations and maintenance building, (ii) a system of buried and overhead electrical collection lines, (iii) approximately 5.5 miles of 115 kV transmission line, (iv) meteorological towers and (v) an interconnection substation and collection substation facility on the Land, as well as a system of gravel access roads, parking, landscaping and related improvements to the Land, all of the foregoing for use by the Applicant as a wind-powered electric generating facility, which I'll refer to as the Project Facility.

B, the granting of certain "financial assistance" within the meaning of Section 851(14)

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of the Act, with respect to the foregoing: That financial assistance requests may include potential exceptions or partial exemptions from sales and use taxes, mortgage recording taxes and real property taxes, but the financial assistance will not include special assessments or ad valorem levies.

And C, the lease of the Project facility by the Applicant to the Agency and the sublease of the Project Facility by the Agency to the Applicant.

Specifically to the Applicant's request for real property tax financial assistance, that will include the Applicant's annual payment to the Agency on behalf of the taxing jurisdictions of payments in lieu of taxes, or PILOT payments.

The proposal here is for the Applicant to pay as a PILOT payment \$4,000 per megawatt hour of installed capacity of the Project in year one, and that amount will increase over 20 years based on an annual escalator. The Applicant estimates that it will pay to the Agency \$504,000 in PILOT payments in year one, assuming that the project facility is then at its full operating capacity.

Upon receipt of PILOT payments from the

1 Applicant, the Agency will then proportionally
2 distribute those payments to the taxing
3 jurisdictions based on project location as
4 provided by law. The structure of this payment in
5 lieu of taxes proposal is a deviation from the
6 Agency's Uniform Tax Exemption Policy, which is
7 available on their website, and has not yet been
8 accepted by the Agency and would still need to be
9 approved by the Agency at a later date.

10 Notice of this public hearing was published
11 in the Observer on March 10, 2017 and mailed to
12 the Chief Executive Officer of each affected tax
13 jurisdiction on the same day.

14 The purpose of this hearing is to provide an
15 opportunity for all interested parties to present
16 their views both orally and in writing with
17 respect to the Agency's involvement in the Project
18 and the financial assistance proposed in the
19 Application.

20 I am here on behalf of the Agency and not the
21 Applicant. I cannot address any of the specifics
22 of the project itself; that is the task of the
23 Applicant. During the course of this hearing, the
24 Agency will be unable to respond to comments or
25 questions. We will, however, be transcribing all

1 of the comments made by those interested in the
2 Agency's proposed involvement with the Project and
3 the related financial assistance and provide that
4 transcription to the Agency's Board of Directors.

5 And everyone is going to be able to speak.
6 But, first, when you are making your comment,
7 please identify yourselves and spell your name for
8 the sake of our transcriptionist here.

9 Is there anyone wishing to be heard with
10 respect to the Project? Sir.

11 MR. BRETTL: My name is Fred Bretl, and I've been
12 an Arkwright resident for 30 years, and I would
13 like to address the panel and the members of the
14 public here regarding this project.

15 After doing research and investigation on the
16 industrial wind turbine projects, I have come to
17 the conclusion that they are not economically
18 practical for our County or our State. Funding by
19 the Federal government through the production tax
20 credit labels them subsidized.

21 New York State is paying 11 large wind and
22 solar power projects two times more in subsidies
23 than the projects actually generate in
24 electricity. New York Democratic Governor, Andrew
25 Cuomo announcing over the weekend the \$360,000,000

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spending plan, but didn't reveal the precise amount of funding for each project.

MR. MAZGAJ: Sir, can I interrupt just for a second. You can continue to read as you wish and I have no problem with that. We are going to be providing transcripts of each hearing, so any comments made at the prior hearing will be provided to the Board, but you can continue.

MR. BRETL: Okay. I was going to do it for the benefit of the public who were not at the last meeting.

MR. MAZGAJ: Sure. Please do.

MR. BRETL: So State officials are handing out the equivalent of \$24.24 per megawatt hour over the next 20 years to the 11 projects. Wind turbines can get an additional \$23 per megawatt hour in Federal tax credits. The electric generated by these 11 projects, however, will only sell for an average of \$16.25 per megawatt hour according to the Federal Energy Information Administration.

New York Independent System Operator, NISO, the State's power grid regulator, sharply criticized Cuomo's plan to boost State green energy use saying that it could cause blackouts and would make it hard to insure reliable

1 electricity. Therefore, this equates to the
2 developers selling megawatt hours at a loss; a
3 loss to the taxpayers and a loss to the
4 governments that subsidize them. This is a form
5 of corporate welfare, and those energy developers
6 cannot stand on their own merits. This can pose a
7 risk if monies are not available throughout the
8 project's operation and at the time of
9 decommissioning.

10 Another point is whether this renewable
11 energy is actually green. It is renewable, albeit
12 intermittently reliable, and that this type of
13 wind turbine is operable at 20 to 25 percent
14 capacity due to the current technology, not to
15 mention the inconsistency of the wind.

16 Also, when you consider the mining of rare
17 elements and metals that are needed in the
18 production of the turbines, especially from
19 origins like China where they do not adhere to
20 good ecological practices and which result in
21 large scale pollution of the environment, the
22 industrial production of the turbine components
23 and the transportation and the construction all
24 utilize fossil fuels to get to the operative
25 phase. I hardly believe this is green.

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Our region will be changed with significantly higher -- excuse me. Our region will be charged with significantly higher electricity prices in the near future. The Energy Information Administration data showed the prices are soaring in states generating the most wind power. Although U.S. electricity prices rose less than 3 percent from 2008 to 2013, the 10 states with the highest percentage of wind power generation experienced average electricity price increases of more than 20 percent.

The wind power industry claims switching from conventional power to wind power will save consumers money and spur the economy. However, data from the top 10 wind power states show just the opposite.

According to the American Tradition Institute, there are numerous hidden costs to wind power, including the cost of backup power, the cost of extra transmission and the cost of favorable tax benefits. And the assumption of a 30 year life used in government calculations for wind power, it is optimistic given reports from European countries that have invested early in wind power.

1 The Institute calculates that rate payers are
2 paying an extra \$8 1/2 to \$10 billion a year for
3 wind power compared to natural gas fire
4 generation, and this will only grow as more
5 capacity is added. Add to this the more than \$12
6 billion that the American taxpayer is paying for
7 the one-year extension of the Production Tax
8 Credit, one can see that the wind industry is
9 getting a really good deal at the expense of
10 taxpayers and rate payers.

11 Another point is whether this industrial wind
12 turbine project can meet or be judged to be
13 environmentally compatible as described through
14 the Article 10 process. Is the developer going to
15 mitigate the loss of eagles and other raptors and
16 bats as collateral damage?

17 Adverse health effects to humans caused by
18 low frequency noise and infrasound are concerns of
19 citizens -- of residential citizens living within
20 five miles of the turbines. Will the Department
21 of Health ignore the ever-growing stream of
22 evidence showing adverse health effects to humans?

23 In addition, property values may decrease 20
24 to 40 percent depending on the residential
25 proximity and view scapes. The setbacks that are

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stipulated in local zoning laws are inadequate and the industrial wind turbines do not belong in residential districts.

Does the industrial wind turbine project meet the public need? Again, this is addressed through the Article 10 process. At this time Cassadaga Wind, LLC will sell the electricity to an out-of-state buyer. How does this meet the local public needs, especially when these industrial wind turbine projects consume 40,000 acres of agricultural residential land locally and produce one-fifth energy that the Dunkirk Energy Plant can produce.

What is the project worth to the public? The PILOT program will give money to the local towns, which will be utilized for their general budget and infrastructure, but not for the reduction of the citizens taxes. Additionally, if property values go down, it will be reflected in a reduced tax base, which will in turn hurt the towns. Payments to school districts will not reduce the citizens tax bill and could decrease State aid resulting in the offsetting of the developers payments.

Cassadaga Valley, for example, will receive

1 approximately \$60,000 per year, which equates to
2 the salary of one teacher. Further math shows
3 that it's on two-tenths of 1 percent of the school
4 budget.

5 Leaseholders will gain economically, but at
6 the expense of having the projects on their
7 property with all of their inherent impacts.
8 Leaseholders, again, will gain at the expense of
9 their nonparticipating neighbors, whether they are
10 for or against the project and thereby fracturing
11 the communities. As far as jobs go, there are
12 definitely jobs generated during the planning
13 stages and the construction phases. But once the
14 project is operational, there would only be two or
15 three jobs locally for this project.

16 I'm opposed to this project moving forward
17 because of the reasons I stated. Thank you. I
18 can email this to you, Mr. Mazgaj.

19 MR. MAZGAJ: Perfect. Thank you. Would someone
20 else like to be heard? Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. CARLSTROM: Ann Carlstrom,
22 C-A-R-L-S-T-O-R-O-M. So I have a friend, my
23 friend Brit Johanson, is an environment judge for
24 the Country of Sweden. And last summer she and
25 two other judges spent weeks investigating

1 windmills. They studied windmills versus the more
2 popular South of Sweden windmills versus the
3 businesses of Sweden, windmills versus wildlife,
4 including birds, windmills versus permafrost
5 because Sweden is like Alaska, windmills versus
6 the North Laplanders who farm reindeer, and their
7 conclusion was that Sweden would benefit from
8 windmill programs and should move forward with all
9 possible speed.

10 I'm also friends with Mick from Australia.
11 Not Mick Dundee, but Mick Knolls. He's just a
12 regular guy, but I asked him what was Australia's
13 program toward windmills. Now, Mick says, I'm
14 going to quote, you got to understand this is
15 Australia, we love the bloody things, we have them
16 all around our bloody country, all our ocean
17 shores to catch the ocean winds and we want to cut
18 out foreign oil.

19 So here in the United States, we also need to
20 move forward with windmills just as other
21 countries are doing. Solar panels are good, but
22 right here they only work half the year. Common
23 sense is what we need. And we should also need to
24 remove from our country foreign oil.

25 Now, at the last Town meeting, one person

1 told me after the meeting that this windmill
2 program was just another case where the government
3 was trying to take advantage of farmers. Well, I
4 want you to know that farmers are the ones who own
5 the land, work the land, pay much more of area
6 taxes than other folks, and we have the big
7 picture. We are educated business people, and we
8 know what's best for our businesses and our land.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you, ma'am. Next. Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. RIGGLE: I have read a lot literature about
12 the Warber Foundation from Australia, and they
13 were some of the pioneers in studies on wind farm
14 effects and there's been in Waterloo abandoned
15 homes.

16 Dr. Lorie is a physician in Australia that's
17 done a lot of studies. And because of all the
18 problems they've had with adverse health effects,
19 they recommend a 10-kilometer setback. And they
20 have rolling blackouts in Southern Australia where
21 they're wind dependent. So I'm thinking that
22 maybe this person that was referred to probably
23 doesn't live or communicate with anybody that has
24 actually been impacted by the wind farms and lives
25 in proximity.

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I would like to requote, like I did earlier, the four-way test that the Rotary uses for ethical standards that I believe every town government should apply, every government official should apply. The four way asks: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? And when applied to the industrial wind issue, the answers are a resounding no.

And I was told earlier today at the other meeting that all taxpayers in our community will benefit. Well, I will tell you that I know for a fact our household, and I know there will be others, that will not benefit because we will be surrounded by about seven to eight turbines.

We will -- I've looked at the sound studies, the shadow flicker map, we will be impacted in our yards, in our home with noise, with shadow flicker, possibly vibrations. We did not have any say in this. We do not want this in our home, in our yard.

I have severe vertigo. Some days I can't get out of bed, some days I can't drive because of it. I will not have one window or one view shot that I can look out and not be effected by strobing from

1 these monstrous industrial turbines that don't
2 belong in residential areas.

3 And my son has a seizure disorder. I -- he
4 has almost died at times. He has status
5 epilepticus. And when he gets woken up at night
6 is when he has a seizure. And will I feel safe
7 with him living at home? I can tell you no. It's
8 terrifying to see your son have a two-hour long
9 seizure and have to be rushed to Buffalo. We
10 might not have cell service because it's a common
11 thing that happens once these turbines come up,
12 and we're going to be smack in the middle of the
13 range of the EMF and everything else. So I might
14 not be able to call 911 to get him to Buffalo.

15 But anyways, that's a whole other issue. We
16 have no say in this. There's no transparency. So
17 I don't know how we're going to benefit. Our
18 property taxes will -- will -- it -- I mean, our
19 property value will be impacted. There's only --
20 common sense would dictate if your property is
21 surrounded by these industrial machines, you're
22 not going to get the value of your property. So
23 there's issues there.

24 New York State is the highest electrical --
25 electricity rates in the U.S. and a lot of that is

1 going to go up even more. The rate payers -- the
2 taxpayers' rights will go up because of the
3 subsidies for wind. High electrical cost drive
4 people in businesses out and ultimately will hurt
5 the poor the most. This has happened in Europe,
6 Germany, Spain, the UK, Ontario, Denmark.

7 If you look at the studies, we're a very
8 energy ignorant country; that's why the wind
9 salesmen are here. They've kind of worn their
10 welcome out in Europe. They've wizened up to the
11 scheme here. Why destroy entire towns when a 450
12 megawatt gas-fired combined cycle generating unit
13 located near New York City where the power is
14 needed in New York State operating at only
15 60 percent of capacity would provide more
16 electricity than all of the wind factories in the
17 State combined at a quarter of the capital cost
18 and without all the negative civil, economic,
19 environmental, human health and property value
20 impacts that industrial wind factories will have,
21 nevermind all the transmission lines.

22 And I think it was sited earlier, NISO came
23 out and actually said that they want the State to
24 halt on its 50 percent renewable agenda by 2030,
25 that it's not even realistic. They have asked

1 NYSERDA to call a halt on it because we don't
2 have the transmission lines. We need a 1,000 more
3 miles of transmission lines, which will cost
4 billions of dollars to get the electric to New
5 York City or wherever it needs to go, usually it's
6 New York and Long Island. So they're actually
7 saying let's pause this and rethink this, it's not
8 going to work right now.

9 So -- and we do not have a buyer -- like Fred
10 Bretl said, we don't have a buyer for our energy.
11 It's getting sold out of state so that it doesn't
12 meet the Article 10 public need aspect. And wind
13 has no capacity value or firm capacity, so wind
14 needs the constant shadow capacity of fossil fuel.
15 And it could be almost a one-to-one ratio. NISO
16 said with the integration of more wind, we're
17 going to need more base load generation, which
18 means fossil fuel. So how is this green?

19 In Europe, in Canada, in Germany -- I'm
20 trying to think -- Spain, even in Iowa, that has
21 more wind, they've actually increased their CO2
22 levels, so, again, how is this green? We're
23 fragmenting 120 acres with these projects in New
24 York State and this county, so we're really --
25 it's not green. It's just a highly subsidized

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boondoggle in my mind.

I just looked at the -- I have already gone over the health aspects many, many times. They're undeniable. And you look at these government agencies, they're all part of the agenda. There's a governmental mandate to have these renewable policies implemented, so there's always a bias there. And they're disregarding the health impacts to people and there should be no sacrificial lambs for these projects.

If we're going to find something green, it truly has to be green and meet that criteria. Is it decreasing our fossil fuel use? No. Industrial wind was not -- like my friend here was saying earlier, we are not against green energy, but it has to be truly green. If you could see what they're doing in China. Just look it up and see what they're doing to the City of, I think, it's called Batoj, they are making five miles of toxic lakes of these rare earth minerals that need to be mined to make the magnets and the cells of these wind generators. They're -- it's getting into the Yellow River. It's contaminating whole towns. People are dying there, but you don't hear about it.

1 And just because it's under the green
2 auspice, even though it's not truly green in the
3 strictest sense, it gets the green light to abuse
4 people in their own home and violate them. People
5 are abandoning their homes around the world. In
6 New York State, look at the Hardscrabble lawsuit,
7 the Orangeville lawsuit.

8 And people can say we're being naysayers, no,
9 we've done our homework. And these Town boards
10 should have not been naive and gullable; they
11 should have done their homework. There's plenty
12 of literature out there. Thank you.

13 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you.

14 MS. GREENSTEIN: I would like to respond to a
15 comment that was made about Australia --

16 MR. MAZGAJ: Please do not -- please identify
17 yourself and then make comments to the IDA.

18 MS. GREENSTEIN: My name is Patricia Greenstein.
19 I've lived here for 30 years. There are --
20 speaking of the foreign problems that the foreign
21 countries are further ahead, particularly Europe,
22 with the turbine stuff, I just want to call the
23 attention, once again, to the project in Ireland.

24 We mentioned it at the last meeting that they
25 will be making a judgment in the next week or two

1 on awarding -- what the financial reward is to the
2 families that were affected by a turbine in Clark
3 County, Ireland. The judge -- the company
4 admitted their responsibility and they're own
5 guilt, and the judge decided in favor of the
6 plaintiffs, the residents who lived there.

7 Just a fact about Australia. In 2015, the
8 country of Australia actually appointed their
9 first Wind Commissioner to just -- all he's going
10 to be doing is handling complaints from wind
11 farms. And they've come to recognize in Australia
12 that they didn't do their proper homework to
13 mitigate the problems beforehand, and they
14 realized that they need more oversight to regulate
15 the turbine industries and to get more independent
16 consultants that aren't with government but -- and
17 have their own funding because there's too much
18 bias and there's too much political money backing
19 this.

20 And you get people -- in fact, we've got
21 politicians, our own representatives for Congress,
22 they've got money from the AWEA, the American Wind
23 Energy Association. They've gotten large
24 contributions from -- for their political
25 campaigns to lobby for the wind turbines. And I

1 think that people need to recognize that it's
2 coming to the point that the U.S. is going to have
3 to follow in suit of Australia and appoint a
4 commissioner just to handle all the complaints
5 that are coming in. This is not an isolated
6 situation.

7 And right now we have a point of stopping it
8 before we end up like Cohocton or Hardscrabble or
9 Jericho Rise. Thank you.

10 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Next.

11 MR. ROSPLOCK: My name is Rob Rosplock,
12 R-O-S-P-L-O-C-K-A. I've been here for 18 years.
13 And I don't know if it's -- it may be the lack of
14 the -- maybe the concern of the Town Board or
15 maybe their lack of education and the company here
16 that, you know, with these setbacks, agreeing to
17 such a short setback, I'd just like to know who
18 compensates to maybe the landowner that's not --
19 doesn't have a house right there that falls within
20 the setbacks, how are they compensated for the
21 diminished use of their property?

22 You know, they might have something, you
23 know, maybe down the road they planned on building
24 a home or a cabin or was going to pass it on to
25 their family so that they could use it, but should

1 the wind turbine be put up adjacent to their land,
2 where there might not be a house on it right now,
3 so it falls -- it's okay because there's no
4 setback for it, but, you know, who compensates
5 that family?

6 And as far as the Town, I see nothing -- I
7 mean, I would stand to possibly lose property
8 value. I'd be looking -- my view would be
9 interrupted by seven or eight. My house faces the
10 direction that they want to put seven or eight in.
11 But even at the last Town Board meeting, they even
12 told us that there's no -- there would be no
13 compensation or even the Town taxes would not go
14 down at all.

15 So we pay a premium to live up here. We pay
16 a lot in Town taxes, an awful lot for very little
17 service. But we pay that so we can have the views
18 and the pristine land that we have to hunt, and
19 you can sit out at night and have our families
20 over and have our dogs and just enjoy the
21 countryside. But like I said, I think that's all
22 threatened with this. And I kind of blame the
23 Town and the company. I just don't think there
24 was concern enough for the rest of the citizens.
25 And it might be a possible lack of education on

1 their part that they didn't research this
2 thoroughly enough. Thank you.

3 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Sir.

4 MR GAUS: Robert Gaus, G-A-U-S. The United States
5 of America and Chautauqua County in particular are
6 blessed with a bountiful supply of natural gas and
7 the ability to transport it. We have a power
8 plant in Dunkirk that could readily make use of
9 this proven resource.

10 Where is the rationale for disregarding an
11 obvious source of affordable energy in favor of
12 such an expensive and erratic source as the wind?
13 Wind energy is unsteady. Our grid cannot
14 accommodate disruptive surges without significant
15 expensive modification. This technology is
16 dependent upon taxpayer largess and a
17 quasi-religious unpinning which causes that man
18 can control climate on a worldwide basis. This is
19 the same man that has made such a hash of the last
20 century and whose models are going to accurately
21 predict global climate 10 years hence.

22 Those who feel that they are being virtuous
23 by using wind-turbine-produced power should take
24 into account the significant carbon-based energy
25 involved in their production, transportation and

1 erection and then consider the average 25-year
2 lifespan of these machines. They might also think
3 about the substantial bird and bat mortality and
4 what it might be like to live in the vicinity of
5 one with their noise and strobe effects.

6 But this is the Industrial Development
7 Agency, and it appears that construction workers
8 would certainly benefit from the turbine proposal,
9 as would some landowners through leasing proceeds.
10 Losers would be those living nearby who find their
11 property devalued and their homes no longer
12 comfortable abodes. After losing -- also losing
13 out would be those who come to enjoy the beauty of
14 the county, but find scores of turbines instead.

15 In addition, the short lifespan of wind power
16 developing companies may lead to each taxpayer in
17 this county being stuck dealing with dysfunctional
18 turbines and useless towers as these machines age.
19 Certainly rural areas are now under stress on many
20 fronts, and lack of jobs at the top. These plans
21 to erect the towers willy-nilly in agricultural
22 and residential areas will bring only a few
23 pitiful jobs, most involved in keeping up with
24 turbine maintenance. The turbines will further
25 depopulate the area and impoverish those who are

1 driven out.

2 MR. MAZGAJ: Would you like to submit that. Thank
3 you. Anyone else?

4 MS. RIGGLE: There is one thing I wanted to
5 address. There is --

6 MR. MAZGAJ: Your name.

7 MS. RIGGLE: Joni, sorry. These wind farms will
8 displace our oil need. Oil has nothing to do with
9 electric. Oil is only used for 1 percent electric
10 generation, except I believe in the State of
11 Hawaii, because they're an island, they do import
12 oil for some of their electric generation. So
13 just don't go there with we're going to replace
14 our oil with wind, because oil has nothing to do
15 with electrical generation. It's for heating and
16 transportation.

17 So we need to become energy -- you know, not
18 be energy ignorant. I think that's how this wind
19 industry is kind of praying on we're a naive
20 society as far as the United States is more energy
21 ignorant, I believe. I think we all need to
22 educate ourselves a little more about these
23 issues. I know I didn't know anything. I always
24 bought the line that, oh, wind must be free and
25 green and clean. And I do believe we have to go

1 with conservation, energy efficiency. Spend our
2 time -- instead of the billions and billions and
3 billions of dollars on inefficient wind -- our
4 wind company can't even pick a model yet of
5 turbine because every year they become obsolete.
6 And why not wait until the technology is there?
7 Why infiltrate every green space in this state
8 with obsolete equipment that's just going to be
9 left to rust and fragment all our land and ruin
10 our towns? It's crazy.

11 All that money could be used for research
12 into something that actually works that is
13 green -- that truly is green. Wind will keep us
14 fossil fuel dependent. That's all it's ever done.
15 It will increase our energy cost. It will -- it's
16 a boondoggle. It really is. It's a taxpayer
17 boondoggle. And if people did the research, they
18 would come to that conclusion. The research is
19 there.

20 MS. CARLSTROM: Can I readdress when she was
21 talking about Australia.

22 MR. MAZGAJ: Again, please, all comments to the
23 IDA.

24 MS. CARLSTROM: Ann Carlstrom, again. When she
25 said earlier that probably my friend from

1 Australia didn't live where it was in the south,
2 well, he does. He lives in Victoria, the State of
3 Victoria, right near Melbourne, right near the
4 ocean. And he is a dairy farmer. He uses wind
5 power, and they love it. So she was wrong when
6 she said he probably didn't live there in the
7 southern part of Australia because that's exactly
8 where he does live. And about the --
9 MR. MAZGAJ: All comments to the IDA.
10 MS. CARLSTROM: And about the gas, I agree that we
11 should -- but we can't put in more gas because New
12 York State will not allow us to frack. If you
13 can't frack, you can't put in more gas wells. And
14 that's the problem. So we can't do that --
15 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you.
16 MS. CARLSTROM: -- unless we put in more gas wells
17 and New York State will not let us frack. And so
18 they do fracking in Ohio and they do fracking in
19 Pennsylvania, but they won't let us here in New
20 York. So you guys are going to have to address
21 that with New York State if you want to do that.
22 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Comments.
23 MS. RIGGLE: We do have --
24 MR. MAZGAJ: Let's get everyone first, please.
25 MR. SWANSON: My name is John Swanson,

1 S-W-A-N-S-O-N. And probably everybody here would
2 like solar, and I'll tell you something about
3 solar. I'm one of the farms that had the solar
4 panels put on. I think they put eight of them on
5 the barn. They give you a new hot water tank.
6 And it's been a boondoggle. Now, they got to
7 replace all the panels.

8 And the State has subsidized these. I think
9 this project cost \$25- to \$35,000, and it's just
10 been absolutely a boondoggle. And I would just
11 like to wonder where people think our energy is
12 going to come from because naturally in New State
13 we can't frack. And naturally we don't want coal
14 or -- and I know probably a lot of people love
15 solar, but that is my deal on solar.

16 MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Anyone else want to go
17 for a first time? Would you like another shot?

18 MS. RIGGLE: I was just going to say that's
19 conservation again and we do have other options.
20 We -- they said if we just clean up our
21 transmission lines that we have, we would get like
22 50 percent more energy through. Just simple
23 little things.

24 Why is New York City lighting up every
25 skyscraper all night long? If you've been to New

1 York you look and you're like what a waste,
2 there's so much we could do. There's studies
3 showing the geothermal aspect in New York City
4 from all the heat in the buildings and the
5 pavement could be utilized to heat the City. I
6 mean, there's a lot things that we're wasting so
7 much money on big wind.

8 But I think conservation is the way to go to
9 begin with. Put our money into research, high
10 efficiency. If the government gave every
11 household money to make transitions to insulate
12 our houses, switch out all our lightbulbs, we
13 would more than compensate for what little energy
14 we're going to get from this fickle wind. It's
15 the truth. It's -- and there's other things. And
16 we're not like-- they're not ready to pull the
17 plug on us right now. It's not like we're that
18 desperate for energy.

19 We're -- they're not even buying our energy
20 from this project in New York State. We don't
21 really have that much of a need, it looks like, if
22 they're not even buying it here. But that's how
23 the whole economics of how they make the grid and
24 buy it back way over the market rate. You know,
25 there's just so much -- the wind industry is

1 making out like bandits and we're letting them. I
2 just don't understand it. But it's all this
3 brainwashed -- this green agenda. But I just
4 believe there's other alternatives. And I believe
5 smaller scale, you know, off grid means of, you
6 know, powering your home, there's got to be better
7 solutions. But we can't just grab at straws and
8 say, oh, this is the best we have so let's just
9 throw all our money at it when it's not working.

10 Look at Europe. We've got to learn from what
11 Europe -- they're 20 years ahead in the wind, and
12 they're scrapping a lot of their projects.
13 They're cutting all their subsidies. It's
14 bankrupting them.

15 MR. MAZGAJ: I'll make one comment is that the IDA
16 does have a program for small alternative wind or
17 solar projects that is available through the
18 Agency. Yes, sir.

19 MR. BOCHMANN: Just one comment about the Article
20 10 process that New York State is --
21 (Court reporter interrupts proceedings.)

22 MR. BOCHMANN: Ken Bochmann, Town of Charlotte.
23 The Article 10 process that monitors the
24 application and these wind farms and stuff, the
25 answers for the application are in those binders.

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That's an abridged version of all the information that's been supplied to New York State to the Board for the application. That was a requirement and it's been accepted by the Board and it's detailed. There's a lot of detail on studies on birds and on flicker and sound. And everything is contained in those binders and they're available to the public if anyone wants to come here. I support the wind power project, so.

MR. MAZGAJ: Thank you. Anyone else? Going once, going twice.

On behalf of the Agency I would like to thank the members of the public for attending this public hearing and for their comments with respect to the Project. It is now 2:10 p.m. and I now call this hearing to a close.

1 STATE OF NEW YORK)
2) SUPREME COURT
3 COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

4 I, Sonya A. Hoffman, a Notary Public in and for the
5 State of New York, do hereby certify:

6 That the witness whose testimony appears herein before
7 was, before the commencement of his/her testimony duly sworn
8 to testify the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
9 truth; that the testimony was taken pursuant to notice at
10 the time and place herein set forth; that said testimony was
11 taken down in shorthand by me and after, under my
12 supervision, transcribed into the English language, and I
13 hereby certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true, and
14 correct transcription of the shorthand notes so taken.

15 I further certify that I am neither counsel for, nor
16 related to any parties to said action, nor in any way
17 interested in the outcome thereof.

18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name
19 this 7th day of April, 2017.

20 Sonya A. Hoffman, Court Reporter
21 Notary Public in and for the State of New York

22 My Commission expires: 10/13/2019
23 Registration No. 01HO6331670
24
25

Submitted Written Comments

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Attendance Sheet

Cassadaga Wind, LLC Public Hearing

Town of Charlotte

March 22, 2017



County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency

Public Hearing Attendance Sheet

Project: Cassadaga Wind

Public Hearing Location: Town of Charlotte Town Hall, 8 Lester St., Sinclairville, NY 14782

Public Hearing Date and Time: March 22, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

Full Name (Please Print)	Signature	Affiliation
1. Ann Carlstrom	<i>Ann Carlstrom</i>	resident of town of Charlotte
2. Jon Riggie	<i>Jon Riggie</i>	CCCW
3. Fred Brett	<i>Fred Brett</i>	CCCW
4. BRUCE ROLL	<i>Bruce Roll</i>	MARKWRIGHT
5. Ken Smith	<i>Ken Smith</i>	Town Charlotte Councilman
6. Patricia Greenstein	PATRICIA GREENSTEIN	Town of Charlotte
7. Job Pasolock	<i>Job Pasolock</i>	Town of Charlotte
8. HELEN BOCHMAN	<i>Helen Bochman</i>	TOWN OF CHAR.
9. John C. Sumasoo	<i>John C. Sumasoo</i>	Town of Charlotte
10. Ken Bochman	<i>Ken Boch</i>	Town of ^{SUP} CHARLOTTE
11. Robert Gaus	<i>Robert Gaus</i>	resident - Gerry
12. Matt Margay	<i>Matt Margay</i>	CCIDA
13. _____		

Comments Regarding the Wind Turbine Proposals

March 22, 2017

The United States of America, and Chautauqua County in particular, is blessed with a bountiful supply of natural gas, and the ability to transport it. We have a power plant in Dunkirk that could readily make use of this proven resource.

Where is the rationale for disregarding an obvious source of affordable energy, in favor of such an expensive and erratic source as the wind?

Wind energy is unsteady; our grid cannot accommodate disruptive surges without significant and expensive modification. This technology is dependent upon taxpayer largesse and a quasi-religious underpinning which posits that man can control climate on a worldwide basis. This is the same man who has made such a hash of the last century, and whose models cannot accurately predict global climate ten years hence.

Those who feel they are being virtuous by using wind turbine produced power should take into account the significant (carbon based) energy involved in their production, transportation, and erection and then consider the average 25 year life span of these machines. They might also think about the substantial bird and bat mortality, and what it might be like to live in the vicinity of one, with their noise and strobe effects.

But this is the Industrial Development agency, and it appears that construction workers would certainly benefit from the turbine proposal, as would some landowners through leasing proceeds. Losers would be those living nearby, who find their property devalued, and their homes no longer comfortable abodes. Also losing out would be those who come to enjoy the beauty of the county but find scores of turbines instead. In addition, the short life span of wind power developing companies may lead to each taxpayer in this county being stuck dealing with dysfunctional turbines and useless towers as these machines age.

Certainly rural areas are now under stress on many fronts, and lack of jobs is at the top. These plans to erect the towers willy-nilly in agricultural and residential areas will bring only a pitiful few jobs, most involved in keeping up with turbine maintenance. The turbines will further depopulate the area and impoverish those who are driven out.

Robert Gaus

5170 Damon Hill Rd.

Sinclairville, NY 14782 716 985-5860

