**Rittershaus, Alexander (HOU)**

**From: Sent:**

**To:**

**Keenan, J**ohn - Rep. (HOU) **Friday, Decembe**r 13, 2013 9:41 AM **Rittershaus, Alexande**r (HOU) FW: Wind turbine WESRA Wind Energy Relief Act Citizens Health Pr**otect Act Seep\_View**\_Up\_Woods.jpg; Seep.jpg; Turbin**es\_Seep.jpg**

**Subject: Attachments:**

(Molly)

**From: Larry Lorusso [ma**ilto:larry**@cytafex.com] Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 12:03 PM To: Keenan, J**ohn - Rep. (HOU); Finegold, Barry (SEN); Cusack, Mark - Rep (HOU); Donoghue, Eileen (SEN); Pac**heco,** Marc R (SEN); Eldridge, James (SEN); Humason, Donald (SEN); Rogers, John - Rep. (HOU); Timilty, Walter - Rep. (HOU); **Benson, Jennifer - R**ep. (HOU); Mahoney, John - Rep (HOU); Hunt, Randy - Rep (HOU); Golden, Thomas - Rep. (HOU); DiNatale, Stephen - Rep. (HOU); Chan, Tackey - Rep (HOU); Mirra, Leonard (HOU); Downing, Benjamin (SEN) **Subject:** Wind turbine WESRA Wind Energ**y Relief Act Citizens Health Protect Act**

Hello,

My name is Larry Lorusso and I'm a resident of Clarksburg and a neighbor of Hoosac Wind. When the project received final approval I was in favor of the project, but that was based on information provided by Iberdrola, the developer. We were told the project would provide power to 22,000 **homes and there was no d**own side and the project would be good for the environment, and for the neighbors. Shortly after approval, the facts started to be revealed. The work commenced on Hoosac Ridge and Crum Hill, with thousands of trees being cut and bull dozed down, with much of the timber of little commercial use. A **fair amount of the wood was ground up and spread aro**und the project. Then the blasting and filling began which resulted in the swamps and wetlands being eliminated on the ridge. Huge amounts of fill were brought in from some other places and while the **mountaintop wasn't removed,** considerable alteration took place. The final permit called for 75 **acres to be permane**ntly altered, but a much larger area has been disrupted. What I called the "Enchanted Forest" has been largely destroyed. I don't think it could have been called a wilderness, **but it was a** large unspoiled area, in a mostly natural state with scenic qualities and was an excellent habitat for wildlife.

I'm very familiar with Hoosac Ridge and we have been going up there for many years, long before **the project and remember how it was. Now the watershed has been altered and what used to be perennial streams, now f**lashes when it rains only to be down to a trickle a few days later. In some **areas where there were swamps, now are pools of tainted water with v**ery high levels of phenols **fr**om the shredded trees that are now decomposing. We have been told these "seeps**" present no** health issues and we could drink from the pools as phenols are natural and organic. While phenols **are i**ndeed organic, they do present health issues. I mention this as there a number of wells in the area that are replenished from the watershed and the "seeps" are draining down **the mountain and what wildlife are lef**t have been getting into the "seeps". I have a standing offer to anyone willing to drink a sample from the seeps, so far no takers, and I do not blame them. Aside from the affects of phenols, the liquid stinks! I've included some pictures that illustrate what I'm talking about when **ref**erring to the "seeps".

Where in the past I u**sed to sleep very soundly, now we are a**t times woken from sleep by noise from the turbines. We slept this Summer mostly with the windows closed for this reason and still were kept up at times. Where I used to look forward to Winter, I'm dreading it**, knowing the storms** will bring noise from the turbines, sometimes for days and nights on end. You don'**t need any studies to understand sleep deprivation** does have health imp**lications. After a few nights in a row** of not sleeping well, getting up not **feeling rested and refreshed does take** a toll. There have been a **number of nights where I've been forced to sleep on the couch to try and get some reprieve from the noise. Some of my** neighbors have it much worse and I feel relatively **fortunate. We look forward** to studying the health implications that indus**trial wind turbines present. I**t's not just the noise, but **occasionally I have waken at night, heart pounding in my chest, body soaked in sweat as if I've just had a nightmare about some** evil trying to get me. Only there is no noise, no bad dream, or threat, and before last December I never had this experience. We were told we shouldn't be hearing any **sound from Hoosac Wind being a mile away, and if anything it w**ould be like the **refrigerator. I** don't get woken by the re**frigerator** and it's just behind the couch. Hoosac Wind makes a most **unnatural** noise, which changes depending of conditions, which can sound like a jet that circles **overhead or sometimes like a dryer with sneakers in it. It's a very annoying asynchronou**s rhythm **reminiscent of a dripping f**aucet that is difficult to **ignore and in a way a sort of torture. For this reason** I call Hoosac Wind "the neighbors from Hell". Also I believe it's the neighbors of potential **projects need to have a say in** siting, as it's they who will bear the brunt living close to industrial wind projects. We ha**d no voice with Hoosac Wind as our town** only an abuts the project. It's the **residents of these rural communities that make these tow**ns what they are, with some family's living **here for generations.**

Last Spring after a number of neighbors complained to Mass DEP about the noise, Iberdrola hired RGS to do the Hoosac Wind Sound Study. It was a farce right from the beginning with various mistakes in the liability release from the developer. The neighbors were reluctant to sign it, and **Iberdrola never did correct the mistakes. We were informed on**ly 5 properties would be tested and **lots of pressure was applied to us to host testing equ**ipment here. I repeatedly said that with so **few** testing sites, it should be the most impacted properties, which we admi**tted was not here. In fact out** of the 6 test sites, 4 were at properties sympathetic to Iberdrola in some way. The equ**ipment was** improperly placed behind trees and in the woods, and the worst properties weren't tested in spite of **complaints by the owners. The test results had numerous inconsistencies a**nd didn't follow MassDEP protocol. Iberdro**la directed ever**y aspect of the testing including being present directing where equipment was placed. RSG's sound study was peer reviewed by experts in the field who found numerous issues with the sound study. The fox is taking care of the chickens and saying nothing is wrong! We need an independent sound test where the developer **has no control over the** study at all.

After almost a year the neighbors of Hoosac Wind are suffering in various ways with no relief in sight. Some have abandoned their homes with no recourse while others try to find a way to escape the suffering, but lac**k the resources t**o do so. Many of us choose to live in this place o**f great natural** beauty with rural qualities. It used to be very quiet here with the few sounds of civilization fleeting. Many nights I would go out and enjoy sounds of Nature and look at the night sky, but now, often I

**retreat ins**ide. I don't enjoy being outside in the yard doing things as I used to. Our peace and quiet **stolen, along with a sens**e of well being and the uncertainties of what the future may bring. I used to hope I could spend whatever time I have left at this place we call Home. As they say, is no place **like Home, but now I'm not so sure as we no long**er feel safe and is difficult pursue **happiness on our property as we once did bef**ore Hoosac Wind moved in.

Sincerely, **Larry Lorusso 600 East Road** Clarksburg MA 01247 **413-664-6466**

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