

Connecticut Siting Council Public Hearing, February 24, 2011

RE: PETITION NO.980

Opening Statement of Town of Bethany First Selectman Derrylyn Gorski:

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SITING COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Council. Good afternoon. My name is Derrylyn Gorski and I am the First Selectman of the Town of Bethany and I am here on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission of Bethany. Bethany is a neighboring town and several Bethany residents are within the visibility and arguably the noise zone of the Prospect project. As I inquired about this project I was surprised at the height of the turbines. The recent upgrade of the transmission lines went through Bethany and the tallest of those structures is 120 feet. These proposed wind turbines are 494 feet-over 4 times as tall. To give some perspective-the TV Tower in Hamden that you can see looking south on Route 69 is just over 600 feet tall, imagine that white with propellers!

The Town of Bethany is a Connecticut Clean Energy Community and we have earned 16 kW of free solar panels for our municipal buildings. We support clean energy. However, we firmly believe that industrial wind turbines should not be sited adjacent to residences.

The Public Service Commission in Wisconsin, a state with almost 20 MW of wind power, will be increasing setbacks from 1000 ft to 1250 ft effective in March and Wisconsin's Gov. Walker is proposing an increase to 1800 ft.

Canada has over 1800 MW of wind power. In a case currently before the Ontario Superior Court a resident contends that when Canada's Ministry of Environment established setbacks of 550 meters (1800 feet) between 40-storey industrial wind turbines and nearby homes, the setback distance was arbitrary—that it was established without a scientific or medical foundation.

Oregon has about 1200 wind turbines. In October, 2010, the Oregon Division of Public Health embarked on a public health assessment of wind farms and is expected to issue a report on wind health in March. I have read that Denmark now only allows new wind turbine installations in the ocean.

The fact that jurisdictions that have years of experience with wind turbines are re-examining their regulations strongly indicates the need for regulations in Connecticut. Lacking regulations, I trust that the Council will carefully review the experience of other states and countries.

Thank you,

