

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
- 3. Future Tourism based development.** Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland Nova Scotia that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. The proposed wind turbine projects could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind turbines in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 Nova Scotia taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing Nova Scotia taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. In rural areas this is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These industrial wind turbine projects will have an impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for wind turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind turbine projects from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts include; stress,

anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed industrial wind turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of each proposal of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater-like area so close to population density? Industrial wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current three industrial wind turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3-years and despite being non-conforming to municipal bylaws the tear down or decommission has yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW industrial wind turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other industrial wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the wind turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want industrial wind turbines without proper testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognized area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) is a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and is a recognized high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop industrial wind turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in Nova Scotia?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Is the cumulative impact of these elements being considered in the proposed industrial wind turbine project sites?

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland.
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- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Cc: MacPhail, Helen
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 10, 2022 6:02 PM
To: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth Valley

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I support Protect Wentworth Valley and the 3 asks of the NS Government. I have signed the Protect Wentworth Valley petition.

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The Nova Scotia Government must protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland as identified in the NS Mainland Moose Recovery Plan and also meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

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From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @hotmail.com>
Sent: March 11, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth Valley

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From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Opposition
Attachments: Letter of Concern - Higgins Mountain Wind Project.pdf

From: @bauschhealth.com>
Sent: March 8, 2022 11:23 PM
To: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Opposition

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My best regards,

https://www.protectwentworthvalley.com/_files/ugd/b61814_1ec9c579db0d403da3a3758a265c9380.

Dear all,

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects:

1. **Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.
2. **Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of

natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. **Future Tourism based development.** Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.
4. **Local Content and Economic Benefit.** The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian-based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.
5. **Property values.** Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.
6. **Telecommunications services.** To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.
7. **Health & Mental Health Effects.** The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months

for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance?

Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. **End Of Use.** Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current 3 turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3 years and despite being non-conforming to municipal by-laws the tear down or decommission is yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?
9. **Size and Scale of the project.** The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?
10. **Visual Resources.** Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value

tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS?

11. **Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley.** This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?
12. **Higgins Mountain Windmill Project.** Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley

From: @ca.gt.com>
Sent: March 5, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth Valley

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Dear Ministers Halman and Rushton

I am writing you as a member of the Protect Wentworth Valley committee . I wanted to express my appreciation for your time , consideration and comments in our meeting on February 17th. In follow up to that meeting I did want to personally provide the following comments:

Are Wind Turbines the appropriate response to Climate Crisis in Nova Scotia?

We came together as a Protect Wentworth Valley Committee in response to concerns we had related to the Proposed Higgins Mountain Wind Turbine Proposal and a collective desire to get a better understanding of the project. We like most started off with the assumption that Wind Energy was a required response to the climate change crisis that we know is real

However, through our research, discussions and facts made available to us I have come to question that basis assumption and whether Wind Turbines are the right response to Nova Scotia's commitments to reduce Green House Gas Emissions.

Massive Industrial Wind turbines come at a huge cost, in dollars, and more importantly in risk to environment, economic development, quality of life, biodiversity and endangered species habitat. In return for these cost they provide a limited contribution to our energy requirements, that is unreliable, intermittent and requires back up for when off line for a very short life span(20 to 25 years)

By my estimate the result of the RFP that your government is responsible for will be app 65 to 80 of these massive concrete structures which require huge amounts of concrete, blasting, road building and widening resulting in devastation to some of the most beautiful parts of our province, to our environment and to many wildlife habitat. There appears to be very little green about these projects.

I question if this government wants its lasting legacy to be the huge footprint of these massive structures on the landscape across this beautiful province for future generations.

Responsibility for the Protection and Security of Nova Scotian's

Your government is responsible for the issuance of this RFP and the awarding and approval of contracts to successful proponents . However your government has not considered or assumed any responsibility related to the specifications and related requirements to ensure these massive structures are constructed, managed and maintained based on best practices and standards(i.e. setbacks, sound, decommissioning etc.) that provide safety, security and protection to all Nova Scotians on a consistent basis across the province .

I understand that land use bylaws are a municipal responsibility . We are very fortunate in Colchester and Cumberland that our Councils have taken this responsibility very seriously and are currently reviewing their bylaws that govern the construction ,use and decommissioning of these projects . However I do question how our government could proceed with the issuance of an RFP that is going to result in so much change and devastation to our provincial landscape without first ensuring that the standards and requirements that are required to provide safety and security to residents across the province are in place .

In a number of the proposed projects in our province one of the most significant benefactor of the wind turbine projects financially will be the municipalities who are responsible for developing and enforcing the required specification governing these projects (the bylaws) . I feel it is irresponsible for the provincial government to put municipalities in this conflict , especially considering the size and potential negative impacts and to not take responsibility for the risk to Nova Scotian's across this province if these bylaws are not sufficient or appropriate to provide the protection to communities . I do not understand how there could be bylaws in another county of this Province that could provide more stringent safeguards to a community for projects of similar size and magnitude . The playing field should be level and all proponents bidding on this project should be adhering to the same rules and safeguards across the province . Your government needs to take responsibility to ensure that all Nova Scotian's are not negatively impacted by these projects that you have asked for and mandated.

Follow the Science

I appreciated Minister's Halman's commitment to following the findings and advice of scientific experts and evidence in the decision making process related to approval of industrial wind turbine proposal's . Our committee is also committed to ensuring that our opinion's and positions are based on the best science available . We have spent significant time and energy researching, talking to experts and educating ourselves to ensure that we have the understanding and knowledge required to understand the impact of industrial wind turbines on our community . Our presentation on February 17 to you was based on the research including scientific that we have completed to date.

We hope that you both appreciate that our presentation and fears for our community have been developed after findings of harmful impact and bad science related to Industrial Wind Turbine projects . We are making every effort to follow the science.

Respectfully Submitted

Protect Wentworth Valley Committee Member

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Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:03 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley

-----Original Message-----

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: February 28, 2022 8:02 PM
Subject: Fwd: Protect Wentworth Valley

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Dear all,

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible. We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects:

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thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

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9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?

12. Higgins Mountain Windmill Project. Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

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- Prohibit industrial wind turbines in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/ Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.
- Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- Designate the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:07 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @eastlink.ca>
Sent: March 10, 2022 6:59 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth Valley

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester/Cumberland as per the attached letter. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines. We **urgently** need to retain our forest and protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland before it is too late.

I support Protect Wentworth Valley and the 3 asks of the NS Government. I have signed the Protect Wentworth Valley petition.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

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- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and

Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

The Nova Scotia Government must protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland as identified in the NS Mainland Moose Recovery Plan and also meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Best Regards,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
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5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. In rural areas this is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These industrial wind turbine projects will have an impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for wind turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind turbine projects from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts include; stress,

anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed industrial wind turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of each proposal of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater-like area so close to population density? Industrial wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current three industrial wind turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3-years and despite being non-conforming to municipal bylaws the tear down or decommission has yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW industrial wind turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other industrial wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the wind turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want industrial wind turbines without proper testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognized area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) is a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and is a recognized high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop industrial wind turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in Nova Scotia?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Is the cumulative impact of these elements being considered in the proposed industrial wind turbine project sites?

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland.
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, as **wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:07 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wentworth Protection

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 10, 2022 10:00 PM
To: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wentworth Protection

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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To whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.

2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area

as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. Future Tourism based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland Nova Scotia that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. The proposed wind turbine projects could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind turbines in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 Nova Scotiataxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing Nova Scotia taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. In rural areas this is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These industrial wind turbine projects will have an impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services

for wind turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

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The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind turbine projects from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed industrial wind turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of each proposal of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater-like area so close to population density? Industrial wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

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9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW industrial wind turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other industrial wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the wind turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs

for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want industrial wind turbines without proper testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

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11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Is the cumulative impact of these elements being considered in the proposed industrial wind turbine project sites?

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Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Sent from my iPhone

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wentworth Valley

-----Original Message-----

From: <mailto:@eastlink.ca>
Sent: March 1, 2022 9:31 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wentworth Valley

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Dear all,

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects:

1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.

2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique

Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of

natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

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4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian- based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

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The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance?

Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

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9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value

tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?

12. Higgins Mountain Windmill Project. Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- Prohibit industrial wind turbines in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.
- Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.

- Designate the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:04 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wentworth Windmill Project

-----Original Message-----

From: @ns.sympatico.ca>
Sent: February 28, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Planning@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca; Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wentworth Windmill Project

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As tax paying property owners from Hart Lake, please accept this communication for consideration when making critical decisions on future of our property, the Wentworth valley and surrounding area. This slice of the province is unique: the rugged beauty and wild spaces have attracted outdoor enthusiasts for many years. Those working and living in the area have a strong attachment to, and love for the land. We have seen exponential growth in residential development and visitors coming to the area to enjoy the beauty and wild spaces.

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration in making this important decision on behalf of all Nova Scotians.

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wind development

-----Original Message-----

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 11, 2022 8:14 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wind development

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Dear all,

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One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

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Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of

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6. Telecommunications services. To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months

for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance?

Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current 3 turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3 years and despite being non-conforming to municipal by-laws the tear down or decommission is yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value

tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?

12. Higgins Mountain Windmill Project. Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- Prohibit industrial wind turbines in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.
- Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.

- Designate the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:05 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wind

-----Original Message-----

From: @bellaliant.net>
Sent: February 21, 2022 2:28 PM
To: planning@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca
Subject: Wind

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ** Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Dear Mayor Scott and Council,

We are reaching out to you today related to our concerns for the proposed wind turbines in the Higgins Mountain area (that borders both Colchester and Cumberland County). We do not believe that this is the right place for an industrial wind turbine development. There are implications with these massive turbines from wildlife degradation, endangered species (including the mainland moose), interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, economic development, tourism and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land.

We have concerns about the Wind Turbine Development By-laws currently in place in Cumberland County. I understand that the proposal for Higgins Mountain is 18 turbines, 190 m tall to the tip of the blade, namely 623 feet (twice as tall as Fenwick Tower which is Halifax's tallest building). With these giant turbines and the proposed numbers being installed, we have many concerns including that setback distances need to be increased and the absence of a decommissioning bond needs to be remedied.

We are against the proposed plan, and feel that there are much better sites in Nova Scotia that would have minimal to no impact to wildlife, endangered specifics, citizens and visitors.

We appreciate your consideration,

Best Regards,

Folly Lake

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: wind project in Wentworth Valley and area

From: @dal.ca>
Sent: February 27, 2022 8:37 PM
To: Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: wind project in Wentworth Valley and area

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hello,

I would like to add my voice urging further consultation and assessment of the wind project. I am 100% in favour of wind power but I think we have to be careful where we build the infrastructure. We have owned a property in Wentworth for decades and will retire there. There has been steady growth in the population and the creation of year round outdoor activity. It is a perfect spot to actually designate it as an outdoor area for Nova Scotians and increasingly a tourism destination.

I am not confident that enough study has taken place to determine how this project affects the future outdoor enjoyment of the area and what the negative environmental impacts, such as habitat loss, effects on human health, and degradation of the natural landscape and watersheds. Hiking and mountain biking, skiing and snow shoeing are popular activities in the proposed area. There are also a variety of wildlife in the proposed turbine site - bears, fish, white weasels, owls, bats, and eagles. I am told there is evidence of moose in the winter months which the province has committed to help raise numbers in Nova Scotia. These species will have their habitat fractured. I am concerned about the impacted of noise, reflections, and shadows for the residence and the outdoor enthusiasts who drive hours to come to the valley. The clear cutting in the area has already taken a chunk out of the wild hill scapes and I fear this development would just further degrade the natural landscape and its captivating views.

My hope for Wentworth Valley is that it become a mountain town of Nova Scotia and that we look carefully at any project that can negatively affect its natural beauty and the enjoyment of the area.

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:03 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wind Projects-Wentworth Area

-----Original Message-----

From: @ns.sympatico.ca>
Sent: March 1, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wind Projects-Wentworth Area

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ** Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Greetings!

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects:

1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.

2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. Future Tourism based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian- based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months

for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance?

Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current 3 turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3 years and despite being non-conforming to municipal by-laws the tear down or decommission is yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with “not in my backyard arguments”. Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value

tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?

12. Higgins Mountain Windmill Project. Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies

for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- * Prohibit industrial wind turbines in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.
- * Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- * Designate the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Wentworth

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Natural Forces Industrial Wind Turbine Proposal - opposition
Attachments: Natural Forces EA - Response Letter.docx

From: @bauschhealth.com>
Sent: March 9, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Natural Forces Industrial Wind Turbine Proposal - opposition

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter stating why I am opposed to industrial wind turbine projects in the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area for the mainland moose as identified in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan. I believe it is critical that the Nova Scotia government retain the forest and biodiversity.

My best regards,

Opposition to Natural Resources EA

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the EA filed by Natural Forces for the Westchester Wind Farm. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on Cumberland/Colchester Moose Recovery and Habitat corridor would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined below many of the concerns in regards to the EA currently filed by Natural Forces-

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
- 3. Bylaw Moratorium-** Currently in Cumberland County there is a Moratorium on Development of any Wind Turbine projects as bylaws are being reviewed. We do not understand how an EA could pass any sort of approval when the bylaws regarding setback, noise, flicker, decommissioning, and many other EA studies required cannot be set to a standard until this work is complete.
- 4. Property values.** Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.
- 5. Telecommunications services.** To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. We are aware of at least two telecommunications companies that have not had direct contact from the proponent.

6. 7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. This land corridor has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of this land corridor and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland.
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Protect Wentworth Valley

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 15, 2022 9:41 AM
To: MacPhail, Helen; Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wind Turbines
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @hotmail.com>
Sent: March 12, 2022 11:14 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wind Turbines

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester/Cumberland as per the attached letter. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines. We **urgently** need to retain our forest and protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland before it is too late.

I support Protect Wentworth Valley and the 3 asks of the NS Government. I have signed the Protect Wentworth Valley petition.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland.
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

The Nova Scotia Government must protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland as identified in the NS Mainland Moose Recovery Plan and also meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Best Regards,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
- 3. Future Tourism based development.** Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland Nova Scotia that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. The proposed wind turbine projects could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind turbines in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 Nova Scotia taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing Nova Scotia taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. In rural areas this is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These industrial wind turbine projects will have an impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for wind turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind turbine projects from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts include; stress,

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8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current three industrial wind turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3-years and despite being non-conforming to municipal bylaws the tear down or decommission has yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW industrial wind turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other industrial wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the wind turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want industrial wind turbines without proper testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognized area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) is a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and is a recognized high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop industrial wind turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in Nova Scotia?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Is the cumulative impact of these elements being considered in the proposed industrial wind turbine project sites?

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- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
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Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 15, 2022 9:40 AM
To: MacPhail, Helen; Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wind Turbines in Cumberland and Colchester County
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @ca.gt.com>
Sent: March 12, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wind Turbines in Cumberland and Colchester County

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Please accept my letter expressing concerns and opposition related to wind turbine projects as currently proposed by the Windy Ridge Group and Higgins Mountain Partnership Group . Your attention consideration to these concerns are appreciated.

Disclaimer: This email is intended solely for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged information. Any review, dissemination, copying, printing or other use of this email by persons or entities other than the addressee is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete the material from any computer.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
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Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: WIND turbines in Wentworth Valley

From: @hotmail.com>
Sent: February 25, 2022 11:20 AM
To:

Cc: Protect Wentworth Valley <info@protectwentworthvalley.com>; Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>
Subject: WIND turbines in Wentworth Valley

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Good morning

I am writing today to ensure my concerns with the proposed wind turbine farm in the Wentworth Valley are heard, considered and acted upon by the Municipalities of Colchester and Cumberland and the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia.

My name is _____ and I live with my family on Folly lake in Colchester county. We are an active part of the community and enjoy all the Valley has to offer, including the peace and tranquility of our chosen lifestyle in rural NS. I have had the privilege of enjoying this area of the Province my whole life as our property has been in my family since the early 1900s. There is nothing better than the feeling of peace and contentment one gets from observing nature, including the magnificent sunsets, quietness, seeing natures creatures thrive and knowing your neighbours share in the same - all which contribute to mental wellbeing and happiness.

As I learn more about the industrial sized wind turbine proposal for Higgins Mountain West of HWY 4, and more recently the one for Stevens Mountain East of HWY 4 and north of Debert, I am more convinced than ever they will do irreparable harm to things that are very important to the residents and users of the Valley - both current and future generations. This has compelled me to educate Myself on the project, impacts, benefits, others' experiences with Turbines, experts' opinions, connect with my community, voluntarily sit on the Higgins Community Liaison Committee and connect with Government and the elected representatives when I have something to bring forward.

My concerns are similar to those raised and shared by many individuals, the PROTECT WENTWORTH VALLEY volunteer organization representing residents and users, and others who have experienced installed turbines and their effects.

These concerns include, but not limited to:

1. resident/user lifestyle change
 - a. visuals
 - b. health concerns
 - c. noise (effects of spinning blades and site work/maintenance-ex. blasting)
 - d. shadow flicker
 - e. internet/telecommunication disruptions
 - f. increased traffic, construction
 - g. property values
2. Climate and ecological
 - a. damage to the Mainland Moose habitat and the possible loss of the species
 - b. Water contamination (lakes, streams/pond, wells)
 - c. damage inflicted through site preparation (de-forestation)
 - d. impact to migration/travel patterns of all wildlife
 - e. While not in Municipalities direct control, it is interesting to note the NSPI request for Proposal is based on a point system up to 100, and Climate/Environmental is only given a 5pt weighted rating and cost is given 40. it is therefore very important other groups such as the residents, Municipalities and Province take the climate/environmental impacts very seriously.
 - f. there are Wilderness areas on both sides of the proposed site, and it seems logical this corridor and the creatures that use it would benefit from a similar designation
3. Financial
 - a. concern with the single landowner lease agreement (Northern Pulp) receiving substantial revenue that will go out of the province/out of Canada
 - i. Northern Pulp is currently in creditor protection and I believe the lands are leased from the NS government, and ownership/stewardship may change at any time. This did occur with the Bowater lands in 2015 when the Brooklyn NS mill went out of business and the NS government purchased back the lands
 - b. Proponents of the project are not local, and all but one is from out of province. the main financial partner is from BC. Once again, revenue would flow out of the local economy.
 - c. Municipality short term revenue gain will be eroded by slowed growth in the area
 - i. fewer people moving to/experiencing the Valley's important and unique Lifestyle
 - ii. tourism impact
 - d. Cleanup/decommissioning costs
 - i. unfortunately, we are already experiencing this situation with the 3 in operable turbines on Higgins Mountain, that have no plan to remove after many years. These are owned by one of the partners in the current Higgins Mtn proposal

There are many other concerns shared by the residents, and once installed, there will be no turning back. This is why the Municipality and Provincial levels of government must listen to the residents' concerns, take the necessary time to amend by laws and regulations to protect what is unique, special and sought after by so

many others. We are at a crossroads, and decisions made will have lasting impacts, that each of us will need to take responsibility and accountability for, for the rest of our lives knowing it will affect so many.

what I am asking:

1. listen to the residents' concerns
2. introduce and extend a moratorium on wind turbines in the Valley
3. amend the Municipality By Laws to prevent Wind Turbines installation in the Valley
4. work to designate this area as a protected Wilderness area for all future generations to enjoy
5. Province to consider purchasing the lands
6. protect the creatures such as the moose so they can re-establish, be protected and thrive
7. deny the exploitation of our province by non-local companies
8. be proud to say in the future you were part of the decision makers that stood up for Nova Scotians including those in the Wentworth Valley

If you have any questions, or would like more details, please feel free to contact me.

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:14 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wind Turbines

From: @live.com>
Sent: February 28, 2022 6:16 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wind Turbines

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Hello, We are writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines. One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities. Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development. The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible. We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects: 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete

foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness. 2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose. 3. Future Tourism based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized. 4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesianbased owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore. 5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down. 6. Telecommunications services. To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties. 7. Health & Mental Health Effects.The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under

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9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to

develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS? 11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting? 12. Higgins Mountain Windmill Project. Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley. There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent. Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- Prohibit industrial wind turbines in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/ Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.
- Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- Designate the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Wentworth, Nova Scotia

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:04 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: wind turbines

-----Original Message-----

From: @NovaTrucks.ca>
Sent: February 28, 2022 10:34 AM
To: Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Cc: @NovaTrucks.ca>
Subject: wind turbines

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ** Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Dear all,

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines. One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities. Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development. The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects: 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness. 2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of

North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. Future Tourism based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian[1]based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health. The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness.

The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life.

The current 3 turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3 years and despite being non-conforming to municipal by[1]laws the tear down or decommission is yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed? 9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.? 10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with “not in my backyard arguments”. Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS? 11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting? 12. Higgins Mountain Windmill Project. Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners.

Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley. There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent. Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

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Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully yours.

Property owner hart lake

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:14 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Wind Turbines

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: February 28, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Wind Turbines

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Dear Nova Scotia Environment Assessment Office,

I understand that the Municipality of Cumberland is conducting a review of its municipal regulations controlling small and large wind turbines. I applaud that review, and respectfully suggest that the Province of Nova Scotia conduct a similar review.

The current proposal for eighteen massive industrial wind turbines on Higgins Mountain needs to be carefully studied and assessed. Along with many others, I believe that such a largescale project installing turbines 190 m tall (or 623 ft) in the areas the proponents have in mind, will have definite harmful economic, environmental, and health effects on the people who live and work close enough to be adversely affected.

You have undoubtedly heard from many who fear they will be negatively affected by this development if it goes ahead as currently proposed. In particular, the people involved in the Protect Wentworth Valley community group should be carefully listened to. They have done a vast amount of in-depth research on all aspects of wind turbines and their effects. Their opposition to the giant turbines is based on science and reflects community sentiments. Without exaggeration, the Protect Wentworth Valley group speaks for hundreds of concerned citizens of Cumberland and Colchester Counties.

A different proposal—for smaller turbines strategically placed in locations that will not harm the local residents, the environment or local economy—is what is called for. The Higgins Mountain project fails on far too many aspects.

The Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now and for future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue. If the Province can take the time to consider the heartfelt and science-based concerns of the citizens who will be affected by the massive turbines, and work with them going forward, I am confident that a different wind turbine proposal will have community support.

Sincerely,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Cc: MacPhail, Helen
Subject: FW: Industrial Wind turbines/Wentworth valley and surrounding areas

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 10, 2022 5:56 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Industrial Wind turbines/Wentworth valley and surrounding areas

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it may concern,

As a long time member of the Wentworth Valley, my family having resided in the area for over 70 years, I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties.

This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment.

However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.

2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines.

Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose.

Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose **habitat**.

Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. Future Tourism based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland Nova Scotia that offers what the Wentworth Valley does.

The proposed wind turbine projects could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing.

We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind turbines in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 Nova Scotia tax-payer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing Nova Scotia taxpayers.

The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry.

Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services.

These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities.

These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land.

Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. In rural areas this is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These industrial wind turbine projects will have an impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for wind turbines.

There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues.

Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise.

Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance?

Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind turbine projects from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness.

The proposed industrial wind turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of each proposal of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater-like area so close to population density?

Industrial wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life.

The current three industrial windturbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3-years and despite being non-conforming to municipal bylaws the tear down or decommission has yet to happen.

Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW industrial wind turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics.

How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other industrial wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the wind turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker.

We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed,

live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues.

Why would Nova Scotians want industrial wind turbines without proper testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognized area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this.

This should not be confused with “not in my backyard arguments”. Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) is a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and is a recognized high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike.

These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop industrial wind turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in Nova Scotia?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Is the cumulative impact of these elements being considered in the proposed industrial wind turbine project sites?

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland.
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:04 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Natural Forces Developments

-----Original Message-----

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: February 26, 2022 9:48 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Natural Forces Developments

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ** Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

To whom it concerns,

I understand the Environmental Assessment Branch is receiving public input on the possibility of a wind power development in Cumberland County approximately 17 km southeast of Oxford. (Westchester mountain.) With this email, I am registering my strong support for the proposal.

We need to make bold moves - and fast, in order to have a hope of minimizing future climate related calamity. Reading the registration information it is clear that due consideration has been taken for the effects on surrounding environment with a remediation plan in place for eventual closure.

The generation of green collar jobs that such a project promotes is exactly the direction any forward-thinking constituency should be leaning into without hesitation.

The minds of our species have miraculously solved the puzzle of how to use the awesome power of the sun and the wind - these ever present, life-giving gifts, as opposed to stripping the earth of limited supplies of resources held there. We need to embrace this project and all the good that it stands for, for the sake of, even the possibility of, a cleaner future for this province.

Thank you

Fort Lawrence

Quinn, Candace M

From: Tutty, Bridget R
Sent: March 1, 2022 1:10 PM
To: Bowen, Lynn A; Fairclough, Andrea C; Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Natural Forces EA Registration in Cumberland County

FYI

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 1, 2022 1:09 PM
To: @ncsnetwork.net>
Subject: RE: Natural Forces EA Registration in Cumberland County

Good Afternoon

Thank you for your email. As you know the project is currently under environmental assessment review. I encourage you to provide project comments through this email address by March 25, 2022. After the Minister of Environment and Climate Change has made a decision on the project, all submissions received will be posted on the department's website for public viewing. Personal information will be removed prior to posting and all comments are considered in the review process.

Thank you for your interest in this project.

Environmental Assessment Branch

From: @ncsnetwork.net>
Sent: February 28, 2022 12:05 PM
To: MacDonald, Elizabeth A <Elizabeth.MacDonald@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Tory Rushton <toryrushtonmla@bellaliант.com>; Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; mscott@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca
Cc: @protectwentworthvalley.com
Subject: Natural Forces EA Registration in Cumberland County
Importance: High

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Good Morning,

I am writing in concern for the Environmental Assessment as noted filed on Feb 23rd. I am wondering how such an EA can be filed when there is a current moratorium on Windmill Development in Cumberland County until they review their Turbine Bylaws. How possibly can an EA plan be done when the Municipal leveled bylaw citing standards are not even known currently? I am very concerned about the accuracy and timing of this given the current moratoriums in both Colchester and Cumberland County. This concern is both on a personal and a professional level.

On a professional level, I am a telecommunications provider in the Colchester and Cumberland corridor and I have not heard from this developer in regards to proposed EMI studies to confirm my telecommunications tower will not be directly impacted by this development- correct me if I am wrong but does this not fall under a proper EA study as well?

I am hoping there is a prompt reply to my email so that we can swiftly respond to the EA in the manner required!

Good morning,

This is to advise that on February 23, 2022, Natural Forces Developments Limited Partnership registered the *Westchester Wind Project* for Environmental Assessment, in accordance with Part IV of the *Environment Act*. Public comments must be provided by **March 25, 2022**, to be considered in this Environmental Assessment.

On February 23, 2022, all project information including the Environmental Assessment Registration Document will be available on Nova Scotia Environment website at <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/>.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Elizabeth MacDonald

Director of Communications

(902) 717 0580

elizabeth.macdonald@novascotia.ca

NCS Managed Services Inc.

@ncsnetwork.net

Phone or Text Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM

PLEASE NOTE IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ISSUES WITH YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION **CALL 1-877-473-3660 OPTION 103**

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:04 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Proposed Project Comments

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: February 26, 2022 12:04 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ** Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: westchester-wind-project Comments: I am seeing probable Lnuk smoke Signal Mounds at in block 25091414 highest elevation. Also lots of burial mounds and circle hearth scars in whole area. There is no Appendix N document for me to review. Please post complete Archaeological assessment for Public Review before any approvals issued. sincerely

P.Eng. Environmental Engineer Archaeologist Name: Email:
Address: Municipality:

Tatamagouche email_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 59 y: 21

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:17 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Proposed Project Comments

From: @eastlink.ca>
Sent: February 23, 2022 8:01 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

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Project: westchester-wind-project Comments: We are blessed to have a vacation property on Westchester Mountain. We are against this project 100, the unsightly wind mills will ruin a pristine part of our Province and as Nova Scotians we will not gain anything. Sacrificing this area for a few jobs is ludicrous!! Name: Email: @eastlink.ca
Address: Municipality: Belmont email_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 75 y: 22

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 23, 2022 9:08 AM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Proposed Project Comments

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 21, 2022 3:34 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE **

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Project: westchester-wind-project Comments: EA Response There are many, many reasons why I believe that this EA should not be approved, here are just 7 of our top reasons- 1. First and foremost- there is currently a moratorium on Windmill Development in Cumberland Council as the council reviews the bylaws associated with wind turbines. I do not believe an accurate EA can be accepted when many aspects of the EA are directly associate with the bylaws- noise, flicker, decommissioning etc. 2. The area of which the turbines are proposed is part of a core habitat for the Mainland Moose as identified in both the EA and the Recovery plan of the mainland moose. It is not right to destroy or alter this habitat as we try to recover this population. 3. The proponent has not identified all telecommunications towers that could be impacted by the wind turbine project. They are not using a boots on the ground approach and are relying on old outdated data â?~searchedâ?T on the internet. 4. The proposed area for these turbines is in an area that is medium risk for uranium and there are several waterways and marsh areas identified without a master plan how to protect both surface and ground water should uranium or another dangerous mineral is exposed upon construction. 5. The proponent has held only one community open house that I am aware of, that was poorly organized and attended. Citizens want green energy but not at the price of their serene rural settings. 6. A socio-economic study needs to be held in detail to show the impact on property prices, residential development and recreational activity interruption in relation to the development of this project. 7. The EA study is very incomplete- in stating they will consult and talk with groups and such they are not clearly stating a plan for any outcome they are speaking about in the EA study. All parts of the EA should have an identified outcome and a resulting plan of action should the identified outcome not become achievable. Please do not consider approval for this EA study by Natural Forces. Please also look at previous EA studies they have submitted and similar conclusions you founded for those and the same outlying issues with this EA proposal.

Thank you for your consideration

Name:

Email:

[@gmail.com](#) Address:

Municipality:

Westchester email_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 73 y: 29

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:05 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Proposed Project Comments

-----Original Message-----

From: @hotmail.com>
Sent: February 25, 2022 1:54 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Proposed Project Comments

** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ** Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

Project: westchester-wind-project Comments: We oppose this windmill project on Westchester Mtn. This will play a significant decline in the Moose population and wildlife that currently resides in this area. It also takes away the outdoor recreation. This area that is used by sometimes over 500 -1000 people on the weekend. With the sound coming from the 104 highway that runs through Westchester near Isaac lake that is a cottage area, installing windmill turbines takes away that much more relaxing from this restful area. The illness from the sounds of windmills will be hard on the local people who live here and have cottages here with already pre existing health conditions. What is the remediation when the guesstimate life span of these windmills is over? We already have landfill leftovers from the existing windmills on Westchester Mountain that have not been working for over 5 years. We don't want more garbage in our forested area. Name: Email: @hotmail.com Address:
Municipality: Issac Lake email_message: Privacy-Statement: agree x: 49 y: 14

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 28, 2022 8:43 AM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Natural Forces Westchester Wind EA public comments
Attachments: Natural Forces EA comments March 25.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 25, 2022 10:41 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Natural Forces Westchester Wind EA public comments

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hello,

Please find attached my EA comments for Natural Forces Westchester Wind EA.

Thank you,

March 25, 2022

Hello

As a business owner and long-time resident of the area, I am writing to share my questions and comments related to the Natural Forces EA for their proposed Westchester Wind Farm.

The best way to address the climate crisis is to protect our forests, wetlands and other large carbon sinks. It is illogical to reduce our old forests to put up industrial wind turbines with their associated roads and infrastructure.

Permanently protecting forests and allowing them to grow in landscapes free from direct human manipulation is one of the most effective and cost-efficient methods available to address the climate crisis.

Old forests have exceptional carbon storage capacity and equally important benefits for safeguarding biodiversity and SAR.

How has Natural Forces calculated the negative climate change attributes of cutting down forests for their wind energy? While a number of the turbines appear to be in previously cleared land several do not seem to be. How many acres of non-cleared land will need to be cleared for this project including roads and tower sites?

What effect would a Naturals Forces project have on forest degradation, fragmentation and loss of habitat?

What effect will the Natural Forces project have on biodiversity?

How much essential and core mainland moose habitat exists within the Natural Forces project area? If significant core and essential moose habitat is in the area will it be avoided?

Is the Natural Forces project area in a wilderness and old forest connectivity area?

In context of the wind RFP and the soon to follow RFP's, how will this EA consider cumulative effects of other potential wind projects that are planned for the Central Cobequids region? That is SWEB Blueberry Acres, Higgins Mountain Wind and RES Canada's Windy Ridge?

Has Natural Forces done visual and acoustic impact analysis for the Fountain Lake and other nearby communities?

An EA should not be considered while a municipal wind moratorium is in effect. Cumberland County needs time to do complete a fulsome wind by-law review before any Cumberland County based wind EA is considered.

Sincere thanks,

Folly Lake, NS