

Good afternoon neighbors,

I have been made aware of the Davison Co wind ordinance meeting on March 8. Once again this has snuck up on us, with very little awareness to the public. Unfortunately I will be out of town on business and unable to attend the meeting.

But I do want to show my support, and am very concerned that the proposed ordinance is built on ancient wind energy information and does not take into account the vast amount of information that has been learned about wind energy over the past few years. Nor does it take into account the valuable feedback we have received from informed South Dakota citizens living in close proximity to wind turbine complexes (AKA wind farms).

In an effort to contribute, I have included below, my concerns, some new and some I brought up at our last public meeting;

**Since our last encounter with wind energy in Davison county, we have seen an acute awareness of concerned citizens around the state as they face the same consequences, Walworth county, Lincoln County, Avon region, and closest to home, Letcher township.** All have been concerned about the impact of wind energy, but mostly about the ancient data proposed by the industry, 1.1 x tower height, 1000' setbacks, dBA rating, etc.

I have given serious thought to the issues facing citizens of Davison County, along with fellow South Dakotans, that will certainly impact the welfare of our life style, and our economy. Upon reviewing wind energy rulings, zoning, and policies across the United States, it appears that most follow criteria that was previously set by the wind energy community, not the individuals that are directly impacted by this new energy industry. I am concerned that these rules were formed, and are forming, in an unbalanced and artificially incentivized, one-sided process. With a recently ramped up energy subsidy, this imbalance will continue to bias in a direction that benefits the wind energy entity, not the citizens that are personally impacted.

I feel we are rushing into something that we have not done our due diligence on. This is a new industry with a history in South Dakota that we can learn from past mistakes and develop an informed ordinance based on knowledge and history, not labs, and industry standards.

#### **REQUIRED SETBACK REQUEST.**

**From the recent data that has become available regarding health, property value, quality of life; but most importantly real life South Dakotans that have been impacted, I cannot stress strongly enough the need to implement an adequate set back of a minimum of 1 mile but preferably 2 mile from a residence.**

#### **Some thoughts I have regarding implementing a wind energy policy;**

- A 20 year commitment requires MUCH research and evaluation before committing.
- Wind is not an agricultural commodity. Corn, beans, cows, pigs, chickens, hay, etc. are produced from the earth and are agricultural products.
- Wind, solar, nuclear, ethanol, coal, hydro are all unique energy sectors requiring unique controllers and zoning.
- Regions within the state have unique attributes, population density, airports, flyways, national parks, historic areas and much more, requiring special amendments.

- South Dakotans enjoy a unique lifestyle and quality of life that goes beyond monetary value, this lifestyle should be protected.
- Set back rules, 1.1 times the height of a tower. WHERE DID THIS COME FROM? IT IS EVERYWHERE. BUT WHY? I would not want a wind turbine 1.1 x its height from my property line, let alone my home.
- Don't follow the statuesque; Develop new rules that are planned with feedback from current land owners and residents living within the wind energy impact zone.
- The current set back rules are antiquated and borrowed, not designed and developed with consideration of the real effects. New set back rules need to be developed.
- I would start this developmental process with existing residents living within the wind tower impact area. Surveys of how this affects their quality of life, property values, environment, turbine syndrome, roads, wildlife, disruption of field structure, fences, do they feel justly compensated on or off the tower property, and many more issues. Have any studies been done in relation to health effects from wind turbines?
- County commissioners, land owners and those parties in the impact area should visit regional turbine sites in South Dakota, and neighboring states, and seek feedback on the pros and cons of the existing sites.
- Certainly population density should be a factor, but in light of treating our neighbors as individual human beings; is it any different if we impact one person or 100 persons, we are still impacting a fellow citizen.
- Is there a ruling of setbacks from heritage areas, memorials, historic sites, scenic areas, wineries, unique vistas, national parks, and other industries that may be impacted by a turbine complex?
- Does the county or state offer assistance or consultation to land owners in assuring they get a fair deal in negotiations, legal issues, competitive bids, etc.

**I urge our administrators and law makers to not assume that the statuesque wind energy policies are sufficient.**

I urge South Dakotans to think outside of the box to get a grasp on the far-reaching impact of wind energy, and develop a plan, not based on industry standards, but new standards based on feedback from approximately 10 years of world history and the many complexities (many not anticipated) that arise from turbine impact.

**We have a great resource of information to help build a sound wind ordinance, our SD residents.**

**What do existing SD residents and land owners living in the impact parameter of a turbine site think?**

**If I asked you these questions how would they answer?**

- How has quality of life changed, good and bad since inception?
- At what distance from the tower can you not hear a wind turbine?
- How do you see it affecting your property values?
- How has it effected the environment, wild life and vista?
- What is turbine syndrome like, do you have it?
- What health effects are you experiencing from the wind turbines?
- How are your roads, wildlife, disruption of field structure, fences?
- Do they feel justly compensated, as land owners and adjacent land owners?
- Do they have a thorough agreement with the wind energy company?
- How do the neighbors, who do not get compensation but are impacted, feel?
- Did they get a cut of the incentives? Cut of the power sales? Cut of the profits?

- Ask them how far from a dwelling they would recommend placing a wind turbine? (This is the person that can give you an informed answer, not an engineer that computes the trajectory of a tower collapse, not the wind company that erects or maintains the tower, not the PUC.)
- Did you get competitive bids from other wind energy companies?
- How do payment structures in the surrounding area and states compare to the proposed?
- How are payment structures set up to accommodate 20-40 years of inflation and changing energy markets?
- How are you dealing with changes in ownership of the wind company and how do they affect you?

### **Industry impact**

I see nothing in the proposed ordinance regarding protection of other established industries:

Hunting farms

Wineries

Tourism

Agriculture and its associated industries

Ag aerial applicators.

**An example of impact that a turbine complex has on an ag operation is the loss of available resources, farmers within close proximity to wind generators may lose the option of aerial application, therefore directly affecting the efficiency and timing of their operation.**

**Operators renting the land under the towers also lose this option, impacting their profitability.**

As it stands today, the ordinance passed by the Letcher Township takes into account many of these concerns, evaluates relevant, updated information, and defines reasonable setback guidelines; all of which are extremely vital to making an informed, proactive decision on wind energy.

Sincerely,  
Doug Hansen  
President

HWWS Facebook  
Hansen Wheel & Wagon Shop  
40979 245 Street Letcher, SD 57359  
Ph: 605-996-8754 Fax: 605-996-2686

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Doug Hansen  
President

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