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LANCASTER COUNTY
BOARD

Date: 8-3-15

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Dear Lancaster County Board & Planning Commission:

As a Landowner in Lancaster County, I am writing to encourage adoption of reasonable commercial wind energy regulations in Lancaster County. Regulations must prioritize safety, health and welfare of the public and citizens. This priority can be maintained while avoiding extreme noise and setback limits which may prohibit landowners' productive use of their property.

Many people in the agricultural zone make their living off of their land. Nebraska citizens are paying some of the highest property taxes in the nation. In our agricultural zone where wind is plentiful, we can make a significant supplementary income from wind energy generation, provide a boost to a rural economy, and ease the volatility of agriculture-based income. One can see examples of wind energy success in Nebraska counties with operating wind facilities, and statewide in Iowa, where wind power has boosted the economies of many rural communities.

There's an added community bonus: a fuel-free, emissions-free, water-use-free source of power.

We view the proposed regulations (dated July 8, 2015) from Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department and Planning to be excessive, going beyond a zone of reasonableness. They single out wind energy for standards other commercial operations are not held to; and potentially prohibit landowners' productive use of their property.

The alternative regulations proposed by Volkswind have few differences (in respect of reasonable noise and setback limits) from those proposed by Lincoln / Lancaster County Health Department. Volkswind's alternative provides for a strict Board-administered penalty if complaints are proven valid. We urge you to adopt a reasonable set of rules to allow for future potential wind projects in the agricultural zones of Lancaster County.

Sincerely,

Howard Williams

Ellen Williams

Howard & Ellen Williams
3344 East Pershing Road
Lincoln, NE 68502