

Mt. Harris Wind, LLC

A Maine Company

To: Residents of Dixmont

October 29, 2009

We would like to build a wind power project in your town. The Dixmont Planning Board released a draft Wind Energy Facility Ordinance on Wednesday October 7th that would prohibit this project. In fact, it would prohibit wind power from ever coming to Dixmont by placing unreasonable and unachievable restrictions on development. The proposed Ordinance is nothing short of a ban on wind power development. We do not believe that a ban on all wind power activity is desired by the majority of residents. Before it can be implemented, the Planning Board's ordinance must be approved by voters; we therefore ask you to oppose the Ordinance proposed by the Planning Board.

Does Dixmont Want the Most Restrictive Ordinance in Maine?

If the Planning Board Ordinance is passed, Dixmont will have the most restrictive ordinance in all of Maine if not all of New England. The Ordinance requires more than 3 square miles of land – over 2,000 acres – for a single wind turbine. While towns in Massachusetts and Rhode Island are teaching the next generation about renewable energy projects by building wind turbines next to schools, this Ordinance will tell the world that Dixmont is closed to renewable energy investment.

The Proposed Ordinance is a Substantial Taking of Landowner Rights.

The proposed Ordinance gives veto authority to any person who has a “structure” located within the 2,000 acres surrounding a wind turbine. Unless the owner of every structure within a 1 mile radius gives approval, you will not be allowed to locate a wind turbine on your property. Even something as controversial as Maine Yankee nuclear plant was within ½ mile of its closest residents.

The proposed Ordinance also prohibits a property owner from having a structure within 1,500 feet of their own wind turbine. Mainers know that they must protect the private property rights of their neighbors in order to protect their own private property rights. The proposed Ordinance would cause serious harm to the landowners along the ridge who would be prevented from participating in our wind project. What could the Planning Board seek to ban next?

Wind Turbines Are Safe.

These restrictions do not make sense given the remarkable safety record of wind power. Despite having over 150,000 operating wind turbines around the world, the oldest in use for 30 years, not a single member of the public has ever been killed by a wind turbine. Wind

turbine facilities are not commonly gated because there is no need – they are not dangerous to people passing by.

Dr Dora Mills, director of the Maine Center for Disease Control has endorsed the need for wind power to improve the health of Mainers:

“I do not believe there is any reason for a moratorium on wind turbines in Maine in fact I think its just the opposite. We need to go full fledged and build more wind turbines because of the fact that they impact our health in a very positive way. They make us less dependent on foreign oil and coal and we know that our high dependency on foreign oil and coal right now leads to people in Maine dying prematurely of asthma and heart disease and other ill affects.” www.WCSH6.com on 5/14/09

We all use electricity and know that the current methods of electricity production are harmful to our health and the environment. Each kilowatt-hour of electricity produced by a wind turbine in Maine directly improves air quality in the region by reducing levels of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, sulfur dioxides, mercury and particulate matter. A wind power project brings no toxic or hazardous materials into the community unlike many industries. A vote for this Ordinance is a vote to continue living with the consequences of mercury poisoning, global warming, acid rain and low level ozone associated with the everyday use of electricity.

Our Wind Power Project Would Lower Taxes, Create Jobs and Reduce Electricity Costs

Our project would be a \$40 million to \$70 million investment in Dixmont and would reduce local taxes. As you may know, we developed a wind power project nearby in Freedom. The mill rate in Freedom this year was 15.5 and each bill sent by the town included the following note: “Without the windmills the mill rate would have been 19.80.” Our Freedom wind power project therefore saved every resident 4.3 mills this year or \$430 for someone with \$100,000 in taxable property. Don’t be mislead by false claims from the anti-wind group on taxes.

Our project would also create jobs and improve the overall Maine economy. In Freedom we used 16 Maine companies during construction and continue to use 5 companies for ongoing maintenance and operation. The Natural Resources Council of Maine estimated in September that almost 300 Maine businesses have performed \$50 million worth of work to construct the few wind farms that currently exist in Maine. Individuals can now train at Northern Maine Community College for jobs maintaining and operating wind turbines. You have heard about the “green economy” – Dixmont is in a position to help bring Maine out of the current recession as a leader in the clean renewable energy sector.

New wind power generation that does not require significant new transmission investment, like our proposed project, would lower electricity prices for all Mainers. Our project would connect to an existing Central Maine Power transmission line that runs through Dixmont right by our project. We would pay 100% of connection costs and so our project would not add 1 cent to any Mainers’ electric bills. In fact our project would help lower electricity costs in Maine. In response to the claim that new wind power development does not help Mainers, the Maine Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) stated:

“The wind farm opponents are incorrect. Despite the fact that Maine has excess generation and is currently a net exporter of electricity, the development of new diverse generating facilities (i.e. facilities that are not fired by natural gas) in Maine and throughout New England is crucial to the economic needs of Maine. As explained in detail in the MPUC review comments in both the Kibby and Stetson [wind] projects, Maine and New England are over-reliant on natural gas generation. This over reliance on natural gas has resulted in large increases in electricity prices, substantial price volatility, and a less reliable system. For the reason specified below, the addition of new diverse (non-gas) generating resources spread throughout Maine and New England will have a moderating effect on electricity prices and price volatility, and result in a more secure system.” MPUC presentation to the Land Use Regulatory Commission August 1, 2007.

Wind Power is Efficient & Improves National Security.

Wind turbines are among the most efficient of all power generation technologies. Because they require no fuel input, they are in fact 100% efficient. It takes only a few months for a wind turbine to recover all of the energy involved in its manufacture, construction and ongoing operation.

Wind power improves our national security by reducing our dependence of fossil fuels and foreign sources of energy. The alternative to projects like the one we would build in Dixmont is to continue sending money out of Maine and overseas to buy fossil fuels. According to a recent report by Environment Maine: “between 2010 and 2030, Maine will spend 5.8 times the total 2007 earnings of all Maine workers on oil, coal and natural gas. By 2030, we will have spent as much as \$159.7 billion on oil alone.” A wind power project would continue a long standing tradition in Dixmont and similar Maine communities of self reliance. Isn't it time we started producing more of our energy locally and in a more sustainable fashion?

How You Can Support Wind Power.

If you would like to see a clean renewable energy project in Dixmont, we urge you to reject the ordinance proposed by the Planning Board. If you support landowner rights, we urge you to reject the ordinance proposed by the Planning Board. If you support energy independence, job creation, lower taxes or less air and water pollution, we urge you to take the following steps:

- 1. Reject the Ordinance proposed by the Planning Board.** A date has not been set to vote on the Planning Board Ordinance yet. We will notify you once a vote has been scheduled. You can also contact your town office for information.
- 2. Consider the Maine Model Wind Ordinance.** The State of Maine Planning office released a model wind ordinance on August 27, 2009. The intent of the State's model ordinance is to provide expert guidance to towns like Dixmont. The Maine Model Wind Ordinance protects close neighbors while still

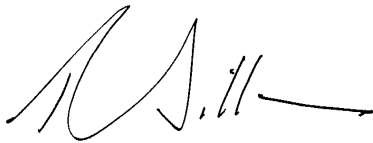
allowing wind power development to occur. The Maine Model Wind Ordinance could be adopted by Dixmont as an alternative to the overly restrictive ordinance proposed by the Planning Board. It is available online at: www.maine.gov/spo/landuse/docs/ModelWindEnergyFacilityOrdinance.doc

3. **Rely on the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Site Location of Development Permit.** Our project will require an extensive permit application, review and ongoing compliance with the DEP Site Location Act. This includes detailed studies of sound, flicker, bird migration, stormwater runoff, wetlands, sensitive flora and fauna, and decommissioning. Our proposed wind project will be subject to full DEP review with or without a Dixmont wind ordinance. Extensive Site Location Act applications for other proposed wind farms in Maine can be viewed on the State DEP website at the following link:
www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstand/sitelaw/Selected%20developments/index.htm


We encourage you to find out as much as you can about wind turbines and their compatibility with local communities. We have put information related to our project on our web site at www.competitive-energy.com/mt.harris including an extensive FAQ document that answers many of the most common misconceptions about wind power.

We remain very excited about building a wind project in Dixmont and the substantial benefits that wind power will bring to town residents as well as the State of Maine and our country. Dixmont is poised to be a proud leader; demonstrating to other small communities that renewable energy projects can greatly reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and slow the enormous transfer of money out of the U.S. to the oil rich countries of the world. We hope that you will reject the Ordinance proposed by the Planning Board and allow us to invest in your Town.

Sincerely,



Richard Silkman



Mark Isaacson



Andrew Price