

COMMUNITY IMPACT

1. Preservation of Open-Space

The use of farmland for siting wind turbines is proving to be a valuable addition to farmer revenues in the Midwest. Wind Turbines have a very small ground-level footprint, and therefore have a minimal impact on farming activities. The installation of wind turbines on Ronald Price's farmland will ensure that this land remains open and free of development for at least the next 30 years and possibly forever.

2. Enhanced Property Tax Base

The estimated construction of the proposed turbines is \$10 million. This compares to a total property valuation for the Town of Freedom for 2006 (as reported by the Maine Revenue Service) of \$36.5 million. The \$10 million addition to the tax base represents an increase of about 27%, and assuming the budget for the Town does not change, will result in a 27% reduction in the Town's property tax rate. For a residential homeowner with a house valued by the Town at \$150,000, this reduction represents a savings of around \$700 a year.

3. No Additional Service Demands

Wind turbines carry with them no requirements for additional Town or School District services. Unlike residential development, which often times imposes higher costs on the Town than the property taxes generated from the development, wind turbines impose no additional demands for community services, such as recreation, police, fire protection or other municipal services.

4. State and Federal Objectives of Energy Independence

Wind turbines decrease our dependence on foreign oil and natural gas; in turn they enhance our national and regional security. Both Maine and the Federal Government have highlighted energy independence as the cornerstone of urgently needed changes to our energy policy. Wind power accomplishes this objective and, under certain conditions, can result in lowering the energy cost to all Mainers.

5. Reduce Air Pollution

Wind turbines will not emit any pollutants into Freedom's air or water. In fact, each 1.5-MW wind turbine will displace approximately 2,700 tons of carbon dioxide (leading greenhouse gas), 14 tons of sulfur dioxide (leading component of acid rain), and 9 tons of nitrogen oxides (leading component of smog) every year from the New England air shed [based on the U.S. average utility fuel mix].