

Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc.  
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From: Scott Johnson, President

Date: January 30, 2008

Subject: Notes from testimony at Wind Turbine Public Forum, Garrett College,

I am Scott Johnson, my family and I live at the foot of Meadow Mountain on State Park Road in Swanton.

I represent an organization with a membership of 1,400 property owners. Since our membership consists of families and businesses, our total representation is, perhaps 4,000 to 5,000 individuals.

I am President of the Property Owners' Association of Deep Creek Lake, Inc., commonly know as the POA.

The object and purpose of our organization "is to bring together the property owners of the Deep Creek Lake area to promote, preserve and protect the quality of life, environment, recreational opportunities, historic sites and historic areas, in on and around Deep Creek Lake, Garrett County, Maryland."

I am here tonight to express the Board of Director's opinion regarding the leasing of State Forest land for the purpose of the installation of industrial wind turbines.

We are against such use of State Forest Land.

Before I express the reasons why we are against industrialization of State Forest land, I must say what I am not here to discuss:

- the overall merits, or lack there of, of wind turbines,
- our country's need for renewable energy sources,
- our country's need for a realistic long term energy solution, such as nuclear power,
- or any other topic including, non-insurability of residences in costal areas due to alleged global warming and mountain top coal removal, to divert our attention from the issue at hand.

The issue at hand is the leasing of State Forest land for the purpose of installation of industrial wind turbines.

The industrialization of State Forest land is not consistent with the mission of Maryland State Forests, whose goals are:

- Restore, manage, and protect Maryland's trees, forests, and forested ecosystems to sustain our natural resources;
- Connect people with the land.

Once installed, these 400-foot tall industrial wind plants will be there for a long, long time, forever despoiling the natural beauty and forested ecosystem of the mountain ranges. The 400-foot tall industrial plant will radically disconnect the people of Maryland and its many visitors from the very land to which they are coming to be connected with.

I am dismayed at the tactics of the wind power proponents.

- The helicopter tour last fall to look at Gypsy Moth devastation had the ulterior motive of showing wind turbine locations to local officials. Why is it necessary to be deceitful?
- The recent series of full-page "Wind Opponent Myth" ads in the Cumberland Times-News and The Republican are loaded with half-truths and misrepresentations. They are too numerous to mention. Why is it necessary to be untruthful?
- The hiring of not one, but six lobbyists. If wind power is such a good use of public lands, why such a large lobby force?
- The October 1, 2007 letter written by the Chairman of Western Maryland Delegation supporting the proposal and purporting to be the opinion of the entire delegation. Why not the truth? I discovered this morning that the chairman, in January 28, 2008 letter to the governor, retracted the support of the Western Maryland Delegation.
- What else is being done in secret and without stakeholder involvement?

The POA says NO to the proposal to lease State Forest land for the purpose of the installation of industrial wind turbines.