

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 15, 2022 9:39 AM
To: MacPhail, Helen; Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Colchester/Cumberland Industrial wind farm proposals
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @klmdconsulting.com>
Sent: March 14, 2022 1:19 PM
To: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Colchester/Cumberland Industrial wind farm proposals

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester/Cumberland. as per the attached letter. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines. We **urgently** need to retain our forest and protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland before it is too late.

I support Protect Wentworth Valley and the 3 asks of the NS Government. I have signed the Protect Wentworth Valley petition.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland.
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and

Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

The Nova Scotia Government must protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland as identified in the NS Mainland Moose Recovery Plan and also meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Best Regards,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
- 3. Future Tourism based development.** Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland Nova Scotia that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. The proposed wind turbine projects could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind turbines in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 Nova Scotia taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing Nova Scotia taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. In rural areas this is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These industrial wind turbine projects will have an impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for wind turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind turbine projects from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts include; stress,

anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed industrial wind turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of each proposal of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater-like area so close to population density? Industrial wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current three industrial wind turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3-years and despite being non-conforming to municipal bylaws the tear down or decommission has yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW industrial wind turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other industrial wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the wind turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want industrial wind turbines without proper testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognized area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with “not in my backyard arguments”. Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) is a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and is a recognized high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop industrial wind turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in Nova Scotia?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Is the cumulative impact of these elements being considered in the proposed industrial wind turbine project sites?

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/
Cumberland.
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Cc: MacPhail, Helen
Subject: FW: Concerned citizen and wilderness expert

From: @yahoo.ca>
Sent: March 10, 2022 5:47 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Concerned citizen and wilderness expert

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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Hello,

I am one of Nova Scotia's leading trail builders, avid outdoors enthusiast and local guide for friends and family that wish to enjoy the pristine wilderness in the Wentworth Valley.

I have a very invested interest in the wilderness and our environment and wonder if there is an opportunity to have my voice heard?

In Wentworth we feel that provincial governance of wind turbine placement may require closer scrutinization and more input from local residents and experts to help ensure that the turbines are placed appropriately as to not interfere with species at risk and to minimize impact to residents and visitors to the areas effected.

Please let me know if and how I can be of assistance in making better decisions on placement and scope of wind turbine projects so that we reduce our impact while supporting a greener future.

Thanks,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Input into new bylaws for wind farms in Cumberland County

From: @me.com>
Sent: March 1, 2022 1:38 PM
To: Planning@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca
Cc: Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
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Dear Cumberland County Planning Department,

I understand that Cumberland County has placed a moratorium on wind development until its bylaws can better reflect the changing technology affecting current and future wind energy projects. This letter is in response to the Municipality of Cumberland's request for public input.

In drafting changes to the bylaws, I request changes addressing – setback distances, ensuring that funds are available for decommissioning, accountability, regulatory monitoring and a Community Protection Fund.

I would like the setbacks to be at least 5,000 meters to the nearest property line or residence. This distance should help lessen the impact of noise (including infrasound and amplitude modulation), flicker, visual impact, ice throw, and structural failure. These noise concerns from industrial scale turbines have become a concern around the world as wind development has proliferated especially in Europe. Proper setbacks will eliminate the issues many countries are now experiencing from wind turbines. We need to learn from those that have gone before us.

I also request that the issue of decommissioning be addressed by the requirement for a Decommissioning Bond. Currently, there are five wind turbines in Cumberland County which have not been functioning for several years. All proponents should be required to have a bond in place to cover the costs of decommissioning wind turbines. This should not be the responsibility of the tax payer. Nor should the tax payer be required to fund the remediation of any damage done to roads, lands or waterways caused by the construction of the turbines. The Municipality should be the beneficiary in the event that the proponent is unable or unwilling to perform the decommissioning responsibilities.

Another issue is accountability. Currently the option to approve a project lies with the County's Development Officer. In the interest of accountability to the community, there should be a Review Committee comprised of the Development Officer, members of Council, the planning department and the public before granting approval to any wind project.

If approval is given, then as in any development, there should be site inspections done by a qualified surveyor or engineer to ensure that each wind turbine conforms to the approved site plan. These site inspections should be done

throughout the construction process - prior to and after the pouring of concrete as well as the installation of the turbines. Inspection reports should be posted for the public record.

The residents of the Municipality of Cumberland should be protected by a Community Protection Fund established by the proponent. This Fund could be a percentage of the project cost and would be held by the Municipality. The purpose of this Fund would be to adjudicate and pay out claimants who establish that they have suffered damage as a result of the failing to meet the stringent standards that the bylaws put forth regarding setback, flicker, noise etc.

Damages could take the form of negative impacts to health, diminished property values, and environment.

Prohibit two or more Wind Turbine Projects (One proponent with multiple turbines and one construction time frame) in close proximity to 5 or more residences where the residences are within 1 km of each other. This will reduce the negative and cumulative impacts on residents from multiple wind projects in a small area. (noise, flicker, health, environment, peace and enjoyment of the land).

Wind Turbines must have an Ambient Degradation Noise Standard no greater than 25 dB(A) as measured at existing residences. WHO recommends 30dB but for rural settings it is recommended to be 25 dB(A).

Municipality of Cumberland's Policy 4-53 of the Municipal Planning Strategy. Council should consider amending the Wind Turbine Restricted Overlay to add the Wentworth Valley as a tourism area and therefore no wind turbines would be permitted in this very valuable and narrow part of the valley.

There are many issues to be considered in the creation of a county's bylaws to address current and future wind turbine projects. The suggestions above consider the issues which most significantly affect residents within the Municipality of the County of Cumberland.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to be part of the process.

Best regards,

, Folly lake

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Sent: March 11, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Input into new bylaws for wind farms in Cumberland County

From: @me.com>
Sent: March 1, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Planning@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca
Cc: Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
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Cc: Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>
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Subject: FW: Input into new bylaws for wind farms in Cumberland County

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Best regards,

Folly lake

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Stop the wind development in Wentworth/Hart Lake Area

From: @CSC-SCC.GC.CA>
Sent: February 27, 2022 6:21 PM
Subject: Stop the wind development in Wentworth/Hart Lake Area

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Dear all,

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. Wentworth Valley is one of the most beautiful areas in Nova Scotia, it is often referred to as the Valley of Colors, please stop the destruction of our beautiful mountains. This is not the right place for wind turbines. One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development. **The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible.**

We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects:

1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.
2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of

natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. Future Tourism based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to **the Indonesian based owners** of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health. The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. End Of Use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current 3 turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3 years and despite being non-conforming to municipal bylaws the tear down or decommission is yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without

proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. Visual Resources. Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with “not in my backyard arguments”. Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS?

11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?

12. Higgins Mountain Windmill Project. Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley. There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent. Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- Prohibit industrial wind turbines in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/ Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.
- Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- Designate the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, as wilderness area under Nova Scotia’s Wilderness Areas Protection Act, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the **Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration**. I hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 23, 2022 9:08 AM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Natural Forces EA - Response
Attachments: Natural Forces EA Response - March 22 2022.pdf

From:
Sent: March 22, 2022 9:05 AM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Natural Forces EA - Response

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Please accept this feedback regarding the Natural Forces Environmental Assessment.

My best regards,

Natural Resources EA

March 22, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the EA filed by Natural Forces for the Westchester Wind Farm. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on Cumberland/Colchester Moose Recovery and Habitat corridor would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined below many of the concerns in regards to the EA currently filed by Natural Forces-

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
- 3. Bylaw Moratorium-** Currently in Cumberland County there is a Moratorium on Development of any Wind Turbine projects as bylaws are being reviewed. We do not understand how an EA could pass any sort of approval when the bylaws regarding setback, noise, flicker, decommissioning, and many other EA studies required cannot be set to a standard until this work is complete.
- 4. Property values.** Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.
- 5. Telecommunications services.** To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local

businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. We are aware of at least two telecommunications companies that have not had direct contact from the proponent.

6. 7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. This land corridor has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of this land corridor and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland.
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Protect Wentworth Valley

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Opposition to Wentworth Valley Turbines

From: @shaw.ca>
Sent: February 27, 2022 1:21 PM
To:

Cc: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; info@protectwentworthvalley.com
Subject: Opposition to Wentworth Valley Turbines

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Dear Cumberland County Council,

We are writing to express our concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines. The impact on the Wentworth Valley Area would be catastrophic and irreversible. While we are highly supportive of clean energy development in Nova Scotia, we are concerned that the project developers have not adequately engaged stakeholders, nor capable of meeting the minimum standards of environmental protection that are required. We have noted a number of concerns regarding this project that we would like to bring to your attention as you proceed with your decision-making. There are many implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species encroachment, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area who enjoy the peace of the land. I urge you to please consider the following in your review of land use bylaws in Cumberland County and in your approvals for these projects.

1. Size and scale of the projects. One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise

and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs to projects of this scale? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

2. Loss of habitat, fragmentation, and challenges to biodiversity. Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness. Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not clear cut for new roads and turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. The wind project areas provide essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose

3. Future tourism-based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local context and economic benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian- based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Health & mental health effects. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. There has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

6. End of use. Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current 3 turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3 years and despite being non-conforming to municipal bylaws, the tear down or decommission is yet to happen. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

7. Concerns about the developer's competency for the Higgins mountain windmill project. The project leads held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. The development

team's public engagement material was wholly inadequate to assess the project and raises serious concerns about the developer's competency in conducting community meetings and in completing the project in general. Their open house was amateurish and the technical documents were utterly vague. This does not instil confidence in their capacity to deliver a quality project.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

Our family and the members of Protect Wentworth Valley ASK of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/ Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines. ^[1]_{SEP}
- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan. ^[1]_{SEP}
- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Best,

Folly Lake NS

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Opposition to Wind Turbine Development in Wentworth Valley
Attachments: Letter of Concern.pdf

From: @eastlink.ca>
Sent: March 9, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>;

a

Subject: Opposition to Wind Turbine Development in Wentworth Valley

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To All Concerned:

We are residents of Wentworth Valley abutting Cumberland County. We oppose the Industrial Wind Turbine Development in this very special part of NS.

We applaud both Cumberland and Colchester Municipalities decision to put a moratorium on accepting any wind turbine projects until your staff has had the opportunity to research current practices in bylaws and modify them so that we are considered "best in class". We recognize that here are no internationally accepted standards addressing some of the most controversial issues surrounding wind energy (including noise).

We have reviewed copious information on the detrimental effects to Resident's health and property enjoyment and the irrevocable change to the land and animals.

Currently Proponents benefit from weak bylaws. We are witnesses to the wind turbines already existing in Cumberland that have not turned a blade in years and are left standing with no regulation to enforce decommissioning. Residents' health and enjoyment of their property in many parts of our province including Colchester have been severely affected by those Wind Turbines. There are many documented cases around the world that show that residents are severely impacted by massive wind turbine projects. Let's learn from their mistakes and develop a gold standard if wind turbine projects are approved in either county.

The Municipalities of Cumberland and Colchester should consider a special zoning bylaw to protect areas that are important to their residential, tourism, socioeconomic, and wilderness uniqueness. Wentworth Valley is such an area. There is no other like it on Mainland Nova Scotia. It needs to be protected for future generations. It will be destroyed forever because of a turbine development that may last no more than 20 years. Proper By-laws need to be formulated to protect the land and residents in all other areas in the counties where there will possibly be wind development proposals.

Attached in the above letter are the many reasons that there should be no Industrial Wind Turbine Developments in the Wentworth Valley.

Respectively submitted

Dear all,

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects:

1. **Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.
2. **Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of

natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. **Future Tourism based development.** Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.
4. **Local Content and Economic Benefit.** The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian-based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.
5. **Property values.** Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.
6. **Telecommunications services.** To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.
7. **Health & Mental Health Effects.** The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months

for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance?

Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind farms from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts on natural areas include; stress, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater like area so close to population density? Wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

8. **End Of Use.** Presently there is no requirement for decommissioning bonds to ensure the area is returned to its previous state at end of life. The current 3 turbines in this area linked to one of the proponents have not turned a blade in 3 years and despite being non-conforming to municipal by-laws the tear down or decommission is yet to happen. Not a good sign for the future. How will decommissioning at end of life of the equipment be addressed?

9. **Size and Scale of the project.** The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

10. **Visual Resources.** Visual sightlines are a recognised area of concern in an Environmental Assessment for wind projects in Nova Scotia. However, the province does not offer much in the way of regulation and guidance for projects such as this. This should not be confused with "not in my backyard arguments". Visual sightlines are views with historical, scenic, cultural, and economic importance. The Wentworth Valley Scenic Loop as designated by the province (reference the sign at the entrance to Scenic Wentworth Valley) as a place with the oldest ski hill east of Quebec and a recognised high value

tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS?

11. **Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley.** This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?

12. **Higgins Mountain Windmill Project.** Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.

- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:07 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Please Protect Wentworth Valley

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 10, 2022 7:48 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Please Protect Wentworth Valley

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercice caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester/Cumberland as per the attached letter. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines. We **urgently** need to retain our forest and protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland before it is too late.

I support Protect Wentworth Valley and the 3 asks of the NS Government. I have signed the Protect Wentworth Valley petition.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/

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The Nova Scotia Government must protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland as identified in the NS Mainland Moose Recovery Plan and also meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Best Regards,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:11 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth 2
Attachments: Protect Wentworth 2.docx

From: @newcastlehotels.com>
Sent: March 2, 2022 2:15 PM
To: Minister, Env <Minister.Environment@novascotia.ca>
Cc: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Minister, Natural Resources and Renewables <MINNRR@novascotia.ca>; Premier <PREMIER@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth 2

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Minister Halman:

As you are aware, I am one of many concerned citizens who reside, full or part time, in the Wentworth Valley.

Not only am I a seasonal resident of the area, but also am extremely involved in the hospitality industry.

Please see the attached letter expressing concern for the area as it relates to the proposed wind turbine projects. The letter generally mentions multiple concerns, and is very centred toward the mainland moose. Further, my concerns also relate to the potential negative impact that this project will have to the future hospitality industry of the valley, just when Wentworth is expanding to create a four season offering. People want to go to Wentworth for its nature and beauty, not to see or experience Wind Turbines much higher than any building in Atlantic Canada.

The hospitality industry has never needed to be dealt a good hand EVER in the history of Nova Scotia.

Thanks in advance, and I would be happy to discuss at any time!

Regional Director, Sales and Marketing, New Castle Hotels and Resorts

Director Sales and Catering, Westin Nova Scotian

NEW CASTLE HOTELS & RESORTS

1181 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS B3H 2P6
Canada
Newcastlehotels.com

March 1, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a seasonal resident of Cumberland County, and in specific Wentworth Valley.

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined below many of the concerns expressed at the Protect Wentworth Valley Community Meeting held on November 27th and the Higgins Mountain Wind Project Community Meeting held on December 4, 2021 for your review and consideration. In summary, most attending believe sustainable wind projects may be of benefit in some areas of NS, but the Wentworth Valley is not the place for these massive projects:

1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.
2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on

essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. Future Tourism based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesianbased owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. To rural areas is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These projects will have impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and

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9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

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There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

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- Designate the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Mainland Moose and Wentworth Valley
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @hotmail.ca>
Sent: March 11, 2022 3:42 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>
Cc: @hotmail.ca>
Subject: Protect Mainland Moose and Wentworth Valley

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester/Cumberland as per the attached letter. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines. We **urgently** need to retain our forest and protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland before it is too late.

I support Protect Wentworth Valley and the 3 asks of the NS Government. I have signed the Protect Wentworth Valley petition.

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Best Regards,

Sent from my Galaxy

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
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As you are aware, I am one of many concerned citizens who reside, full or part time, in the Wentworth Valley.

Not only am I a seasonal resident of the area, but also am extremely involved in the hospitality industry.

Please see the attached letter expressing concern for the area as it relates to the proposed wind turbine projects. The letter generally mentions multiple concerns, and is very centred toward the mainland moose. Further, my concerns also relate to the potential negative impact that this project will have to the future hospitality industry of the valley, just when Wentworth is expanding to create a four season offering. People want to go to Wentworth for its nature and beauty, not to see or experience Wind Turbines much higher than any building in Atlantic Canada.

The hospitality industry has never needed to be dealt a good hand EVER in the history of Nova Scotia.

Thanks in advance, and I would be happy to discuss at any time!

Regional Director, Sales and Marketing, New Castle Hotels and Resorts

Director Sales and Catering, Westin Nova Scotian

NEW CASTLE HOTELS & RESORTS

1181 Hollis Street
Halifax, NS B3H 2P6
Canada
Newcastlehotels.com

March 1, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a seasonal resident of Cumberland County, and in specific Wentworth Valley.

I am writing to express my concern with respect to the proposed international industrial wind development projects in the Wentworth Valley Area. This is not the right place for wind turbines.

One of the projects is a 100MW site on Higgins Mountain / Stevens Mountain, on the high ridge from the top of Folly Mountain west of Highway 4 down into the Wentworth Valley. This development would consist of 18 industrial wind turbines that are 190 m (623 ft) high to the tip of the blade. They are twice the height of the tallest building in Halifax, Fenwick Tower; giants compared to those currently operating in our province and each is as high as a 57-story building. A second 100MW industrial wind turbine project is being proposed on property approximately 6kms Northwest of Debert including 16 to 20 industrial wind turbines. This project affects property from the Folly /Hart Lake area southeast of Highway 4, bordered by East Folly Mountain and moving back towards Central and East New Annan. These are projects currently proposed and do not reflect future proposals that would further the risk to the environment and quality of life in our communities.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly, Wentworth, Westchester, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive turbines for everything from wildlife degradation, endangered species, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, huge environmental concerns, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Wentworth Valley area would be catastrophic and irreversible.

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1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation. Due to 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, and the new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations, and substations will have a huge impact on all creatures living in that wilderness.
2. Biodiversity. Conservation scientists recognise the wind project area as a critical bio-diversity connectivity area in NS to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area seasonally and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley Wilderness Area and the Portapique Wilderness Area. In late November the NS government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat in NS. However, the wind project areas are on

essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.

3. Future Tourism based development. Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland NS that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. This turbine project could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind farms in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesianbased owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 NS taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing NS taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

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7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and

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9. Size and Scale of the project. The scale of these 100MW turbine projects is the largest that has ever been installed in Nova Scotia and not tested yet in environments such as the Wentworth Valley areas with amphitheatre-like characteristics. How can projects of this magnitude be developed in a small narrow valley like Wentworth without proper testing? The testing does not involve actual industrial wind turbines on our unique terrain. How accurate can these types of tests be? Other wind turbine projects in NS gave assurances to residents that the turbines were properly tested and residents would not hear noise and see flicker. We know this not to be true. Some residents near wind turbine projects in NS have had to move and sell their property at a loss to escape the loud noises and flickering. Others, who have stayed, live with migraines, nausea, and anxiety daily due to no recourse through their county. Set backs for noise and flickering through By-Laws were not appropriate for the size of the turbines to prevent these noise and sight issues. Why would Nova Scotians want to be guinea pigs without testing? Who bears the result if the impacts are severely detrimental to species, health, etc.?

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11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?

12. Higgins Mountain Windmill Project. Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who

would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

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Sent: March 11, 2022 4:14 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth
Attachments: Letter of Concern - Higgins Moutain Wind Project - .pdf

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: February 28, 2022 10:29 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth

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Folly Lake Resident

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Sent: March 11, 2022 4:15 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth
Attachments: Letter of Concern - Higgins Mountain Wind Project - .pdf

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: February 27, 2022 7:56 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>; Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; cblair@colchester.ca; vlomond@colchester.ca; info@protectwentworthvalley.com
Subject: Protect Wentworth

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tourism area for skiers, hikers, bikers, fishers and home owners alike. These concerns have not been taken into consideration by the proponents. There is plenty of land to develop turbine operations ... why would it be developed in a strong residential and recreational mecca in NS?

11. **Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley.** This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Was the cumulative impact of these elements considered in the siting?

12. **Higgins Mountain Windmill Project.** Held a community meeting in Wentworth on Tuesday October 5, 2021, to provide information to and receive information from the people living in the community who would be most affected by this project. For some, it was the first they had heard of such project. For others who work full time, it was not possible to attend. It was very apparent from the meeting that they were not well prepared. There were 3 maps that were presented and all three were different. Questions about the placement, number of turbines, and site lines were not able to be answered by the project partners. Each level of government requires different permitting applications and studies for such projects to proceed. The consortium partners did not seem to understand nor explain the processes except that an Environmental Impact Study was required and is being done. This has caused considerable concern that a project with significant implications for this area is not taking the community concerns seriously. On December 4, 2021 Higgins Mountain Wind Proponent held a second community meeting. It was quite evident from the meeting that there is little community support for the Higgins Mountain project. Their 10-minute allocated question period expanded into 2 hours with multiple concerns on this project. Most in attendance were not in support of this project in the Wentworth Valley.

There has not yet been a community meeting with the other proponent.

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

- **Prohibit industrial wind turbines** in areas of important moose habitat and connectivity in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain. Wentworth Valley is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

- **Enact Protection of the mainland moose core habitat** designated in Colchester/Cumberland, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, in the Nova Scotia Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.

- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, which includes Higgins Mountain and Stevens Mountain, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue. The above implications to the Wentworth Valley need extensive research and consideration. We hope that after considering the impacts to the Valley you will agree that this project should not be in the location proposed. Wentworth Valley is a treasure to be protected now as wilderness by the province of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,

Folly Lake Resident

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Cc: MacPhail, Helen
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley - Letter of Opposition / Petition / Donations
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 10, 2022 5:51 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Fw: Protect Wentworth Valley - Letter of Opposition / Petition / Donations

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

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The Nova Scotia Government must protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland as identified in the NS Mainland Moose Recovery Plan and also meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Best Regards,

Wentworth Station

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Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
- 3. Future Tourism based development.** Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland Nova Scotia that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. The proposed wind turbine projects could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind turbines in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 Nova Scotia taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing Nova Scotia taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. In rural areas this is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These industrial wind turbine projects will have an impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for wind turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

7. Health & Mental Health Effects. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated access to care in an already over taxed and under resourced mental health care system in Nova Scotia. Most will wait many months for care of common mental health issues. Engaging in the natural environment and being in nature has been recognized as being a valid tool to managing stress, anxiety, and maintaining good mental health. During the pandemic, there has been exponential growth in people pursuing the outdoors, particularly natural areas that allow for reflection, meditation and exercise. Wentworth has long been a hotspot in the Maritimes for getting people outside in fresh air for exercise, relaxation and immersion in deep nature. The past two years have reminded everyone how important nature is for good physical and mental health.

The proponents have done little to ensure no ill health effects will be cast on the residents and thousands of visitors of Wentworth and the surrounding communities. Without testing of such large turbines close to residential homes and businesses, how can we be provided with assurance? Studies confirm more research is required into health and mental effects of industrial wind turbine projects from noise, ruined scenic views, and flicker. Light pollution impacts include; stress,

anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and dizziness. The proposed industrial wind turbines have never had their effects tested here. What are the cumulative effects of each proposal of 18+ untested towers in this unique amphitheater-like area so close to population density? Industrial wind turbines in the proposed location have the potential to contribute negatively to mental health and the burden of mental illness in Nova Scotia, issues that already weigh heavily on Nova Scotians, their health care providers and health care system.

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Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley - Letter of Opposition
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx; ATT00001.htm

From: @Dal.Ca>
Sent: March 11, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Sharon Barkhouse <Sharon.Barkhouse@Dal.Ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth Valley - Letter of Opposition

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From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:07 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley - Letter of Opposition / Petition / Donations
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: A @gmail.com>
Sent: March 10, 2022 7:05 PM
To: Wind Information <wind.info@novascotia.ca>; Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Cc:

Subject: Fwd: Protect Wentworth Valley - Letter of Opposition / Petition / Donations

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11. Intensified Industrialization of the narrow valley. This small valley is already subject to a major quarry, primary rail line serving all of Nova Scotia, industrial forestry and now proposals for the largest industrial wind turbine projects in the province. Is the cumulative impact of these elements being considered in the proposed industrial wind turbine project sites?

Protect Wentworth Valley ASKS of the Nova Scotia Government:

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- **Designate** the Colchester/Cumberland core habitat area of the endangered mainland moose, **as wilderness area under Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act**, to connect to the Portapique River and Wentworth Valley Wilderness Areas. This will help the Nova Scotia Government meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 11, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley - Letter of Opposition / Petition / Donations
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 10, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Protect Wentworth Valley - Letter of Opposition / Petition / Donations

**** EXTERNAL EMAIL / COURRIEL EXTERNE ****

Exercice caution when opening attachments or clicking on links / Faites preuve de prudence si vous ouvrez une pièce jointe ou cliquez sur un lien

To whom it may concern,

As a long time member of the Wentworth Valley community - with my family residing in the area for well over 70 years now - I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester/Cumberland as per the attached letter. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines. We **urgently** need to retain our forest and protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland before it is too late.

I support Protect Wentworth Valley and the 3 asks of the NS Government. I have signed the Protect Wentworth Valley petition.

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The Nova Scotia Government must protect the mainland moose core habitat in Colchester/Cumberland as identified in the NS Mainland Moose Recovery Plan and also meet its **mandate to protect at least 20% of the total land and water mass of Nova Scotia** for nature conservation by 2030.

Best Regards,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the industrial wind turbine projects being proposed in Colchester and Cumberland Counties. This is not the right place for industrial wind turbines.

Many residents of Londonderry, Folly Lake, Hart Lake, Wentworth, Westchester, Debert, and surrounding areas from Cumberland and Colchester counties support renewable energy and its importance for the environment. However, there are implications with these massive wind turbines including but not limited to wildlife degradation, endangered species, huge environmental concerns, interference with all aspects of telecommunication services, and general disregard for the citizens and visitors in this area for the peace and enjoyment of the land, and economic development.

The impact on the Colchester/Cumberland mainland moose core habitat and connectivity would be catastrophic and irreversible.

We have outlined many of our concerns below:

- 1. Loss of habitat and fragmentation.** Due to each proposed site having 18+ (623 ft tall) turbines, new power lines, widened roads, new roads, blasting, gravel pits, concrete foundations. All of this infrastructure will have a huge impact on this wilderness area.
- 2. Biodiversity.** Conservation scientists recognize the wind project area as a critical biodiversity connectivity area in Nova Scotia to connect species with the rest of North America. As such the area should be protected and not developed with new roads and clear-cuts for wind turbines. Nova Scotia's endangered mainland moose frequent the area and travel through the project area as they connect between the Wentworth Valley and Portapique Protected Wilderness Areas. In late November, the Nova Scotia government released a long-delayed recovery plan for the mainland moose. Mainland moose are at a critical juncture of species recovery and one of the key challenges in these efforts is lack of natural habitat. There is very little good core moose habitat remaining in Nova Scotia and the proposed wind projects areas are in essential core moose habitat. Projects of this size could be a direct threat to the survival of mainland moose.
- 3. Future Tourism based development.** Wentworth is a rare gem for outdoor mountain recreation and enjoyed by about 100,000 visitors annually from across the Maritimes. Covid-19 pandemic has proven people need to get outdoors for mental and physical health. There is no other recreation area in mainland Nova Scotia that offers what the Wentworth Valley does. The proposed wind turbine projects could seriously impact future nature-based tourism development in an area that is known for its outdoors.... quiet hiking trails, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, kayaking, mountain biking and fishing. We need to preserve the special areas we have and develop wind turbines in remote and less used areas where the human and environmental impacts could be dramatically minimized.

4. Local Content and Economic Benefit. The land lease benefits of both projects go to the Indonesian based owners of Northern Pulp, who inherited a \$75,000,000 Nova Scotia taxpayer loan that purchased the property, and who is now suing Nova Scotia taxpayers. The 3-year construction phase could possibly bring a few local benefits but there would very little long-term economic opportunity to local stakeholders. Tax revenues would be attractive to cash strapped municipalities but there are thousands of hectares in those same municipalities with excellent wind regime that do not threaten the significant local tourism industry. Wentworth area tourism and outdoor recreation has driven a flurry of homes to be built in the area in the past twenty years that brings significant tax revenue to the local governments. This is desirable tax revenue as well to the counties by land users who demand little to no services. These projects could limit future land development for outdoor recreational activities and home development. Wind turbine projects have an end date and wind energy trends appear to be moving offshore.

5. Property values. Proponents acknowledge property values usually drop when new wind projects are built. The last few years have seen increased housing and cottage building in the area due to the outdoor and recreational opportunities. These projects certainly could result in less housing/cottage development due to decreased property values which is one of many reasons that turbine projects are not developed in residential and recreational activity land. Our counties will miss out on the tax revenues of such development. Also, when land values go down, then county property taxes must go down.

6. Telecommunications services. In rural areas this is paramount especially highlighted in our current pandemic. These industrial wind turbine projects will have an impact on the delivery of these services. Landowners and local businesses are not willing to sacrifice these services for wind turbines. There are four telecommunications companies that provide essential services, tax revenue and permanent jobs in the proposed project areas of Colchester, Cumberland, and East Hants counties.

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Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 15, 2022 9:39 AM
To: MacPhail, Helen; Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley - URGENT
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @fultonins.ca>
Sent: March 14, 2022 2:57 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth Valley - URGENT

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Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Quinn, Candace M

From: Environment Assessment Web Account
Sent: March 23, 2022 9:09 AM
To: MacPhail, Helen; Ray, Janice
Subject: FW: Protect Wentworth Valley
Attachments: Letter of Opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines in Colchester and Cumberland 2022.docx

From: @gmail.com>
Sent: March 20, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Environment Assessment Web Account <EA@novascotia.ca>
Subject: Protect Wentworth Valley

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I fully support the **Protect Wentworth Valley** initiative and these 3 asks of the NS Government. I have signed the Protect Wentworth Valley petition.

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Wentworth, NS