

3/28/13

**Testimony of David P. Corrigan, of Concord Township, Maine**

**Re: LD616—An Act To Amend the Expedited Permitting Area for Wind Energy Development under the Jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.**

**Good afternoon, Senator Cleveland, Representative Hobbins, Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee.**

**My name is David Corrigan. I am a Registered Maine Master Guide, and I live in Concord Township. I have spent over half my life in Concord. When my family moved to the Unorganized Territory, we gave up a lot—I don't have a paved road in front of my house, I don't have street lights on my road, I don't have a local government to complain to over every little inconvenience. That's OK. That's a big part of why I love living where I do, in one of the most beautiful parts of rural Maine.**

**But when I moved to the Unorganized Territory, I never thought I would have my rights taken away from me without notice. I never thought that I would be treated as a second class Citizen by the Maine Legislature. I never thought that I would have my township re-zoned for an industrial development without even being notified. And I certainly never thought that I would be told that my voice didn't matter--that I wasn't as good, or as deserving of a voice in my community's future, as 99% of other Maine Citizens.**

**The Expedited Wind Permitting Law discriminates against me and my neighbors. It gives preferential treatment to one industry, while trampling on the rights of the rest of us. If I want to build a Solar Energy Farm, or a Biomass Plant, or any other large industrial operation on my Concord property, I have to go before the Land Use Planning Commission and request a zoning change. There would be hearings and a chance for public input. There would be a burden of proof on my part to prove that this zoning change was compatible with the uses, values, and environment of Concord Township. It would be a public and transparent process. This is how it should be. This is what Mainers have come to expect. And this is what the majority of Mainers can still expect. Unless they happen to live in an Unorganized Township within the Expedited Wind Permitting Area. If you live in a place like Concord Township, you are told that one industry gets to play by a different set of rules. You are told that if a wind developer wants to put 500 foot tall industrial power plants across your back property line, then no re-zoning is necessary, and you will not have a chance to speak at a public hearing. This is**

**wrong. This is discrimination and cronyism at its worst. The People of Maine deserve better.**

**Those of us with large investments in our rural property made those investments believing that we lived in a State with stable laws and regulations. We invested in our properties confident in the fact that no large industrial development would ever happen in our communities without a public discussion and a chance to be heard. But in 2008, the Maine Legislature sold out the People of our rural communities. The Expedited Wind Permitting act was passed without our knowledge. The map which changed our zoning was drawn up in private, without notification to those who would be affected, and there were no minutes of the meetings released. We were, in effect, cheated out of our rights, and in some cases, out of our life's investments.**

**Mistakes happen. We are here today to ask you to fix a mistake. We are here to ask you to restore our rights. We are here to ask you to recognize that the People of the Unorganized Territories are not second class Citizens. That their rights are not less than those of the rest of the People of Maine. We are not asking you to ban industrial wind development in our communities. We are not asking you to treat anyone unfairly. We are simply asking you to stop playing favorites, and return to us the same rights that every other Citizen of Maine enjoys. The Maine Legislature took away our rights in 2008, and The Maine Legislature, starting with this Committee, are the only ones who can restore our rights today. We are asking you to do the right thing.**

**Thank you.**

**If you have any questions, I would be happy to try to answer them for you.**

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