

**In The Matter Of:**  
*McLEAN COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS*

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*WIND FARM*  
*January 10, 2018*

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*Area Wide Reporting and Video Conferencing*  
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*Champaign, IL 61820*

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1 McLEAN COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
 2 MEETING  
 3  
 4 Wednesday, January 10, 2018  
 5 6:00 p.m.  
 6 at  
 7 McLean County Government Center  
 8 115 East Washington Street  
 9 Bloomington, Illinois  
 10 Case Number SU-17-11  
 11  
 12 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  
 13 Brian Bangert  
 14 Chris Carlton - 1st Alternate  
 15 Rick Dean  
 16 James Finnigan - Chairman  
 17 Michael Kuritz  
 18 Mary Beth Taylor - 2nd Alternate  
 19 Julia Turner  
 20 Drake Zimmerman  
 21  
 22 ALSO PRESENT:  
 23 Philip Dick, Director of Building and Zoning  
 24 Samantha Walley, Assistant State's Attorney  
 Jerry Stokes, County Engineer  
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1 the audience as well as the applicant. Does anybody  
 2 have any questions? Okay.  
 3 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Phil Dick has the  
 4 order of people, and it's his discretion to call  
 5 them forward, so I'll leave it to him.  
 6 **MR. DICK:** Jim Killian.  
 7 **AUDIENCE VOICE:** He's not here.  
 8 **MR. DICK:** Mike Matejka.  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 10 sworn in?  
 11 **MR. MATEJKA:** Sure.  
 12 (Mr. Michael Matejka was duly sworn.)  
 13 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Will you state your  
 14 name and address and probably spell your last name.  
 15 **MR. MATEJKA:** Michael Matejka,  
 16 M-A-T-E-J-K-A, 800 North School Street in Normal.  
 17 Okay, and first want to begin by just commending the  
 18 zoning board and actually everybody here tonight for  
 19 patience and good listening and good citizenship  
 20 because I think people have all been very forthright  
 21 and listened well with each other and I appreciate  
 22 everybody's efforts here.  
 23 \$300 million, \$300 million investment in  
 24 McLean County is what this wind farm represents, and

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1 I don't -- I think that's a very significant number  
 2 we have to take very seriously and I hope that this  
 3 board will join in supporting this effort for this  
 4 economic investment.  
 5 In the last year, we've seen Portillo's,  
 6 we've seen Rivian, we have seen Grant all come to  
 7 this community and ask for incentives, and in the  
 8 wisdom of local government those incentives were  
 9 given. This Invenergy has not asked for any  
 10 subsidy. They've not asked for any tax rebates.  
 11 They want to spend \$300 million in McLean County.  
 12 That's \$300 million that creates jobs, that's \$300  
 13 million that creates opportunities for people, and  
 14 that's \$300 million that I think can have a lasting  
 15 impact on our community and on our economy.  
 16 Secondly, we're in a time nationally and  
 17 internationally of economic transition, and part of  
 18 that transition we're seeing in the world of retail,  
 19 we're seeing it in the automotive industry and we're  
 20 seeing it throughout not only this country but  
 21 throughout the world, and I think one of those  
 22 transitions is the transition from a carbon-based  
 23 energy system to a renewable energy system. And we  
 24 are in a great position here in McLean County with

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1 all the wind farms that have been constructed, with  
 2 the potential of additional wind energy, with  
 3 potential solar projects and with an electric car  
 4 maker coming to town, and the Town of Normal having  
 5 taken the lead in really developing a green  
 6 sustainable 21st century community. And we cannot  
 7 predict the future, but this kind of economic  
 8 opportunity I think positions McLean County to  
 9 maintain itself as a decent community with decent  
 10 schools and with employment opportunities because we  
 11 are going to then be on the cusp of part of that  
 12 energy and part of that economic transition.  
 13 And so this is a real opportunity to move  
 14 our community forward, to come up to new standards  
 15 and put ourselves in position where our economic  
 16 development I think will continue in this community,  
 17 a community we're all very proud of. I think we're  
 18 very proud of where we stand in the state in terms  
 19 of our economy, but that doesn't happen by accident.  
 20 That happens by leadership and it happens by  
 21 foresight, and so I certainly hope that this board  
 22 and the McLean County board will vote to approve  
 23 this project. Thank you.  
 24 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would the applicant

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1 have questions? Board have questions? Staff some  
 2 questions? Past wind farms, have they been good for  
 3 McLean County?  
 4 **MR. MATEJKA:** There's a number of people  
 5 here tonight who I think will testify from their  
 6 previous experience, and as someone who's a member  
 7 of Laborers Local 362, what a lot of people don't  
 8 realize is construction is a career, but it's not a  
 9 lifetime job in the sense of you don't stay on one  
 10 project your entire life. We're not building  
 11 medieval cathedrals. You don't pass a generation  
 12 building the same building. A construction worker  
 13 moves from job to job. But when a wind farm comes  
 14 to town, oftentimes that means eight, nine,  
 15 sometimes a year or two years of steady employment,  
 16 and that's a great opportunity for someone to earn a  
 17 decent wage, pay a mortgage, buy a truck, and then  
 18 that money returns again to the rest of our economy.  
 19 So the opportunity for construction  
 20 jobs -- and I always like to point out, it's not  
 21 just erecting towers. The wind farm company has to  
 22 widen roads, has to improve the road infrastructure,  
 23 has to improve turning radiuses. That's a long-term  
 24 benefit to our townships. They're getting an

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1 investment in their road system without the local  
 2 town taxpayers having to pay for that. So there's a  
 3 lot of auxiliary economic activity that comes with  
 4 wind farms and all of those require somebody to do  
 5 that work.  
 6 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** There was some  
 7 discussion about bringing labor in from out of --  
 8 out away from Bloomington. Is there enough skilled  
 9 labor here to do what needs to be done?  
 10 **MR. MATEJKA:** I think you'll find the  
 11 majority of the jobs here, you know, will be manned,  
 12 or I should say peopled not manned, by local  
 13 residents. Yes, there are sometimes some specialty  
 14 skills. I think folks like Invenergy can better  
 15 answer in terms of some of the turbine hookup and  
 16 some of the technology, but most of the electrical  
 17 work, the structural work, foundational work, road  
 18 work, we have skilled trained craftspeople in McLean  
 19 County who can do that work.  
 20 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Does applicant have  
 21 questions? Would anyone in the audience have  
 22 questions of this witness? I don't see anybody, so  
 23 I think you're off the hook.  
 24 **MR. MATEJKA:** All right, thank you all

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1 again for your patience.  
 2 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you.  
 3 **MR. DICK:** Ron Morehead.  
 4 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 5 sworn in?  
 6 **MR. MOREHEAD:** Oh, yes.  
 7 (Mr. Ron Morehead was duly sworn.)  
 8 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
 9 name and address and --  
 10 **MR. MOREHEAD:** Ron Morehead.  
 11 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** -- spell your last  
 12 name?  
 13 **MR. MOREHEAD:** Ron Morehead,  
 14 M-O-R-E-H-E-A-D, 401 East Sycamore, Normal,  
 15 Illinois. I'm not quite as eloquent a speaker as  
 16 Michael and I'll talk about some of the same things.  
 17 You see I've got my orange shirt on for 56 years  
 18 now. Been an officer for 52 of those 56 years as  
 19 president of the local. I've worked with some of  
 20 you sitting here and some of you back in the room.  
 21 Let me give you a short background to tell you where  
 22 I think my expertise is and why I'm up here talking  
 23 to you.  
 24 I sat on several boards here in town and I

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1 worked to bring groups here into town. Work got  
 2 real slow years ago and I had been offered a job  
 3 working for the state AFL-CIO. Didn't have to leave  
 4 my work here, but went there. The reason they asked  
 5 me to come there, because I wrote grants, federal  
 6 grants, state grants, had programs going all over  
 7 the state, 14 of them, and still working every day  
 8 as a laborer doing that.  
 9 I can see that most of you weren't around  
 10 in the CETA period. Would sit on their board and I  
 11 worked to do that and I wrote grants and I wrote  
 12 state grants and I sat on state boards, and those  
 13 gave me the ability to see something different  
 14 almost every day of the week. Had a lot of work on  
 15 Saturdays and Sundays and I did a lot of volunteer  
 16 work.  
 17 It got -- administration costs got too  
 18 high when we were doing youth programs, I was on  
 19 that board, and I went back and I said I'll write a  
 20 grant. Put that grant together, submitted it, I  
 21 didn't vote on it because I was on that board, and  
 22 got that grant. I worked Saturdays and evenings and  
 23 Sundays if I wasn't out somewhere else, and hired  
 24 people out of each community, Fulton, Mason, Tazwell

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1 and McLean County. Did that for six years and  
 2 worked with a new administration, paid for  
 3 everything.  
 4 Went from there to doing those kind of  
 5 grants for the state and sat down with one of the  
 6 universities and got a grant that came out of the  
 7 federal government. You had to bid on it every  
 8 year. The first year they gave me one, and if you  
 9 ever -- I'll say this, but if you were a community  
 10 college or a university, you got the grant without  
 11 having to bid. My second year there writing grants  
 12 for them and it turned into the use of training for  
 13 not only youth but adults. They gave me a half  
 14 million dollars and made the community colleges  
 15 start bidding. The reason why. Every one of those  
 16 grants took an individual that didn't have the  
 17 skills to move forward in his or her line of work  
 18 and maintain their job. And in construction, if you  
 19 cannot hire skilled, qualified people, you can't  
 20 compete. Couldn't compete in that market 30 years  
 21 ago or 40 years ago and you sure can't compete  
 22 today. So I did that and I did it 30 some years and  
 23 still maintained what I did here.  
 24 Sat on two or three, four I think state

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1 boards. Sat on the Illinois Council on Vocational  
 2 and Technical Education. Testified by phone because  
 3 I'm not a big flyer. Will get in the car and go  
 4 anywhere, but I don't want to get in airplanes and  
 5 go very far. And so they -- I testified from the  
 6 office in Springfield, people with the Senate, on  
 7 what was needed out there in the community and  
 8 across the state. By that time I was doing speaking  
 9 things at different places, wherever I could drive.  
 10 Probably the biggest, maybe 8,000 people, 10,000  
 11 people, and anywhere from all over the country,  
 12 throughout the country.

13 The State Board of Education went and  
 14 asked me to take a trip for the state with -- there  
 15 was 11 other people on it. They were mostly big  
 16 business stockholders and presidents of  
 17 universities. When I got to there, probably one of  
 18 the most interesting things that I got to see and  
 19 that was they flew us to Germany and then we looked  
 20 at their education system and their apprenticeship  
 21 system.

22 Went to a small room, the room wasn't this  
 23 big, the room beside it was almost this big, and  
 24 then another room. It was one of their high school

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1 classes. Went in there, the first class, and blew  
 2 my mind what they were doing and how they were doing  
 3 it. Went to the second classroom and I spent a  
 4 couple days there talking to both the girls and  
 5 boys, 14 and 15 and 16-year-olds, the equivalent of  
 6 our freshman -- freshmen and sophomores. Can you  
 7 guess what they were doing? They were learning how  
 8 you do wind turbines, how you place them, how you  
 9 test them, how you build them, how you go out and  
 10 inspect them and how you train them. And I thought  
 11 to myself, these are 14 and 15 and 16-year-old kids  
 12 that are learning this, and that is probably the  
 13 reason why Germany is so far advanced in most of the  
 14 technical and manufacturing.

15 I come back and I watched the windmills  
 16 and I watched the different places they went in,  
 17 watched when people argue about why should we have  
 18 this or why should we have that. And then after I  
 19 listened to the gentleman's presentation today and  
 20 seen what I've seen, brought me to the point of  
 21 understanding some things but not understanding why  
 22 we have an education system that we don't really  
 23 give the opportunity to. The only opportunity that  
 24 they get to advance themselves are taxes, and this

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1 program will build taxes for us for a few years.  
 2 Did a lot of stuff in the rural parts of this state  
 3 and in other states where they bring me in to look  
 4 at them. It's -- it's an excellent opportunity for  
 5 the school systems to take a look internally how  
 6 those things work.

7 I worked on a couple, two or three grants  
 8 to train, and we have skilled craftspeople in the  
 9 construction business, especially in the organized  
 10 construction business, wrote grants so that we could  
 11 train the electricians and the others on how to  
 12 repair and how to maintain them, and to me, that's  
 13 one of the caveats I see of this. We've got some  
 14 stuff, but when you embed it in your small towns and  
 15 they get a chance to see it and you provide the  
 16 opportunities for our local high schools, grade  
 17 schools and high schools and community colleges and  
 18 universities to be able to bring that to the  
 19 position where they will learn something, they'll do  
 20 something and they'll keep jobs, and we're  
 21 exceptionally lucky I think to have this  
 22 opportunity. Thank you. I won't take up any more  
 23 of your time.

24 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Questions from the

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1 board? Staff? Any of the applicants have  
 2 questions? Would anyone in the audience have  
 3 questions for this witness? Thanks for coming.

4 **MR. MOREHEAD:** Thank you.

5 **MR. DICK:** Manuel Gonzalez.

6 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 7 sworn in?

8 **MR. GONZALEZ:** Surely.  
 9 (Mr. Manuel Gonzalez was duly sworn.)

10 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
 11 name and address and spell --

12 **MR. GONZALEZ:** My name is Manuel Julio  
 13 Gonzalez, G-O-N-Z-A-L-E-Z. I live at 410 East  
 14 Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

15 Good evening, ladies and gentlemen of this  
 16 board. Once again, I am Manuel Gonzalez. I live in  
 17 Bloomington, Illinois. I'm a proud member of the  
 18 Laborers 362. We have heard a lot of input and  
 19 concerns this week and last week which were all  
 20 good, but I'm here this evening to share with you  
 21 the positives of this opportunity for the wind farm.

22 We all know the benefits of the wind  
 23 turbines and what they provide us. They provide  
 24 less pollution, energy efficiency, climate benefits

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1 and efficient land use, and this is all truly  
 2 awesome, but let's focus on the opportunity how this  
 3 project will create jobs in our community for all  
 4 trades, laborers, operators, oil men, electricians,  
 5 technicians and Teamsters and all other trades as  
 6 well will all play a very important part in this  
 7 from, number one, safety practices, grade checking,  
 8 placing the concrete, finishing the concrete, power  
 9 washing, as well as painting the turbines, prep  
 10 work, hauling the equipment, setting up the  
 11 equipment, digging, ironwork, and the list goes on.  
 12 All trades will be needed, but you know  
 13 what, ladies and gentlemen, at the end of the day,  
 14 the most important thought is my family and the  
 15 other families having the ability to provide income  
 16 for their families. The wind turbine project is a  
 17 very valuable asset to me, to my family, to the  
 18 surrounding communities for our annuities, our  
 19 pensions, our health benefits and our schools.  
 20 And in closing, I encourage both the board  
 21 and the audience this evening to say yes to wind.  
 22 Thank you.  
 23 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Questions from the  
 24 board?

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1 **MS. TURNER:** Have you worked on any other  
 2 wind projects?  
 3 **MR. GONZALEZ:** Yes, I have. Years ago I  
 4 worked at the Carlock project and I had the  
 5 opportunity to be on the power washing team as well  
 6 as other tasks that were assigned to me on a daily  
 7 basis.  
 8 **MS. TURNER:** Thank you.  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** What do you power  
 10 wash?  
 11 **MR. GONZALEZ:** Well, you power wash those  
 12 turbines.  
 13 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** You mean after they're  
 14 up or --  
 15 **MR. GONZALEZ:** Well, they're at a staging  
 16 place, okay, and what you do is you get the truck  
 17 there with that power washer and you wash them off.  
 18 If they're clean, if there's any nicks due to the  
 19 traveling or the movement from a crane, perhaps on  
 20 the hoisting moving, what you do is you go out there  
 21 and you paint it.  
 22 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** So this is before  
 23 they're erected.  
 24 **MR. GONZALEZ:** That is correct, sir.

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1 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay, thank you.  
 2 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** Did you have any  
 3 educational opportunities like Mr. Morehead was  
 4 talking about?  
 5 **MR. GONZALEZ:** Oh, absolutely, I was an  
 6 apprentice through Illinois Joint Apprenticeship,  
 7 which presently right now I've been privileged to be  
 8 an instructor, not on wind turbines but in other  
 9 fields, since July of 2017.  
 10 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** Thank you.  
 11 **MR. GONZALEZ:** So this program that Mr.  
 12 Morehead was speaking about, the apprenticeship, it  
 13 does work for individuals that really want to put  
 14 forth, and we have all types of individuals that  
 15 come through as well as the powerful women of our  
 16 labor hall and throughout this nation.  
 17 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Question from staff?  
 18 **MR. DICK:** No.  
 19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** The applicant have any  
 20 questions?  
 21 **MR. GRIFFIN:** No.  
 22 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Anyone in the audience  
 23 have questions?  
 24 **MR. O'BRIEN:** I do.

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1 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** One more. Come on up.  
 2 You've got to speak into the mike.  
 3 **MR. O'BRIEN:** Okay. I just have one  
 4 question about your --  
 5 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Push that button. We  
 6 have to have your name and address.  
 7 **MR. O'BRIEN:** My name is Tony O'Brien. I  
 8 live at 103 Oak Street in Morton, Illinois. I just  
 9 wanted to have a question about some people aren't  
 10 familiar with the apprenticeships and how they were  
 11 funded. Some people think that they were funded  
 12 through the state or through the counties. Would  
 13 you say that we fund our apprenticeships by  
 14 ourselves with no other income from any other  
 15 source?  
 16 **MR. GONZALEZ:** That is correct to my  
 17 knowledge.  
 18 **MR. O'BRIEN:** That's all I have.  
 19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay.  
 20 **MR. O'BRIEN:** Thank you.  
 21 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any other questions?  
 22 I think we have one coming.  
 23 **MS. EMBERTON:** Hi, my name is Sara  
 24 Emberton, S-A-R-A, E-M-B-E-R-T-O-N, 25218 North 2175

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1 East Road, Lexington, 61753. My question, sir, is  
 2 to you, my husband is a union member also and he's  
 3 actually been working out of state because he  
 4 understands that he has to travel for his work and  
 5 he doesn't want to impact other people and their  
 6 livelihoods and how they have to live their lives.  
 7 So my question to you is are you going to  
 8 live within the footprint or within the shadows of  
 9 one of these wind farms?  
 10 **MR. GONZALEZ:** Right now, presently being  
 11 at 410 East Washington, I'm above them, so to answer  
 12 that, no, I do not live by them. I fish around  
 13 them, I hunt around them, and that's about the best  
 14 I can answer your question.  
 15 **MS. EMBERTON:** Okay, so I just want to  
 16 clarify then, you won't be living day to day  
 17 underneath of a wind farm.  
 18 **MR. GONZALEZ:** No, I won't.  
 19 **MS. EMBERTON:** Thank you.  
 20 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Anyone else have  
 21 questions? I think you can push that button.  
 22 **MR. GONZALEZ:** All right, thank you very  
 23 much. And ending with that, I'll tell you what, if  
 24 there's a house and there's some timber around there

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1 by that turbine, Manny's going to move there. Thank  
 2 you very much.  
 3 **MR. DICK:** Gil Brockway. Eric Penn.  
 4 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 5 sworn in?  
 6 **MR. PENN:** Yes.  
 7 (Mr. Eric Penn was duly sworn.)  
 8 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
 9 name and address and spell your last name?  
 10 **MR. PENN:** Eric Penn, P-E-N-N. I live at  
 11 1016 McGregor Street, Bloomington, Illinois.  
 12 **MR. DICK:** Could you spell your first name  
 13 too?  
 14 **MR. PENN:** Eric, E-R-I-C. I'm a third  
 15 generation laborer, been a proud member of Local 362  
 16 for about 20 some years, and it's been a good trade  
 17 for me and my family, so I look forward to looking  
 18 out for my family, let alone the family that I have  
 19 here as brothers and sisters of the laborers union.  
 20 And I had the opportunity to work on the  
 21 wind farms at Twin Groves Phase I and II, many  
 22 aspects of the trade out there as far as pouring  
 23 concrete and actually climbing the wind turbines and  
 24 cleaning the insides of them.

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1 I'm here to speak of jobs. I mean, we  
 2 need jobs. You know, I was a construction worker.  
 3 As soon as you start the job, you're working your  
 4 way right out of it, so each day that you're on a  
 5 job is a blessing.  
 6 I did jot down some numbers here from the  
 7 other wind farms. There's three of them that we've  
 8 been involved in and members of my local has been  
 9 part of, Phase I, Phase II of the Twin Groves and  
 10 then White Oak farm near Carlock. I've jotted down  
 11 some of the hours. I think we had a total of  
 12 somewhere close to 140,000 man hours and then  
 13 basically the wages of upward of \$4 million. Those  
 14 are wages, gross wages for the members of just the  
 15 laborers union that worked on those projects.  
 16 And the way I understand it is, you know,  
 17 when you make that kind of money, you spend it in  
 18 your communities. You know, each hour that you  
 19 spend basically works to about seven times that as  
 20 you spend it throughout the community, you know, at  
 21 restaurants and then the different things that you  
 22 would spend your money on.  
 23 So basically these jobs are needed for my  
 24 members and their families to pay for their

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1 insurance, their pensions and their other benefits.  
 2 So I really encourage you to vote for this wind farm  
 3 project as I have had the opportunity in the past.  
 4 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Questions from the  
 5 board? 140,000 hours, that's all three phases or --  
 6 **MR. PENN:** Yeah, combined, yes.  
 7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** -- a combination?  
 8 **MR. PENN:** Yes.  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Does staff have  
 10 questions?  
 11 **MR. DICK:** No.  
 12 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Applicant have  
 13 questions?  
 14 **MR. GRIFFIN:** No.  
 15 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Anyone in the audience  
 16 like to question this witness? We've got one.  
 17 **MS. EMBERTON:** I can do this all night  
 18 just like you guys. Sara Emberton, do I need to  
 19 spell it again?  
 20 **MR. DICK:** No.  
 21 **MS. EMBERTON:** Thank you. My question to  
 22 you is the same as before. You guys keep presenting  
 23 yourself as needing jobs and I need to know are you  
 24 going to be forced to live within the confines of a

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1 wind farm?  
 2 **MR. PENN:** I don't think I would be forced  
 3 to live anywhere.  
 4 **MS. EMBERTON:** Okay, let me ask a  
 5 different question though, true. Are you going to  
 6 have to leave your home of 20 years if you are not  
 7 satisfied with the changes that are happening?  
 8 **MR. PENN:** I've moved around quite a bit.  
 9 I can't say I would never live next to one, I don't  
 10 have any issue with living near a wind turbine, but  
 11 I currently live here in Bloomington.  
 12 **MS. EMBERTON:** Have you ever lived under a  
 13 wind turbine before?  
 14 **MR. PENN:** Have not.  
 15 **MS. EMBERTON:** And you do not now?  
 16 **MR. PENN:** I do not.  
 17 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any other questions  
 18 from the audience? I think you're okay. Go ahead  
 19 and push that button there.  
 20 **MR. DICK:** Wes Ward? Andy Byars?  
 21 **MR. BYARS:** Do I have to press something?  
 22 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Yes, on the right.  
 23 Would you like to be sworn in?  
 24 **MR. BYARS:** Yes.

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1 (Mr. Andy Byars was duly sworn.)  
 2 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** State your name and  
 3 address and spell your last name.  
 4 **MR. BYARS:** Andy Byars, B-Y-A-R-S, 708  
 5 Kingsley Street, Normal, 61761. So I think it's  
 6 pretty clear here today and at these past few  
 7 meetings that there's an element organized from  
 8 forces outside of our county organized by a  
 9 carpetbagging wind opponent named Ted Hartke. Did  
 10 you know that Ted Hartke is a disgruntled Invenenergy  
 11 employee, an inciter in fact? He was fired. Did  
 12 you know that he travels around the country? He's  
 13 been in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee,  
 14 Missouri, some of these sites up to 12 hours away  
 15 from his claimed home in Champaign. Where does he  
 16 get the money to do this? And he's clearly  
 17 recruited people here. He sent out a newly-formed  
 18 wind opposition page, and I quote, stop being a  
 19 bunch of wimps and get to work.  
 20 Did you know that he recruited people from  
 21 Livingston County using fear mongering tactics?  
 22 Here's a document from John Slagel in his  
 23 presentation in Livingston County two years ago in  
 24 which he said, and I quote, he, Ted, traveled to

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1 Livingston County to warn us about the potential  
 2 dangers of wind farms. Did you know that Livingston  
 3 County resident John Slagel is pushing out  
 4 misleading content to McLean County residents? He  
 5 created the so-called heat map that was published in  
 6 the local Lexington paper and on the opposition  
 7 website. The woman that we saw taping in the back  
 8 of the room back when we were at the auditorium at  
 9 Heartland is another Livingston County resident  
 10 Rebekah Fehr who was also recruited by Ted Hartke  
 11 two years ago.  
 12 You heard from the Livingston County  
 13 superintendent what happened to his local school  
 14 district with this type of shameless and toxic  
 15 misinformation. You see posts from the so-called  
 16 local page from the Heartland Institute which is an  
 17 arm of the code State Policy Network they use to  
 18 debunk sites like Wind Watch and CPAC who harbor  
 19 content from antiwind groups across the country.  
 20 CPAC shares a PO Box with the Manhattan Institute,  
 21 another code SPN arm. Their federal fund filings  
 22 include funding of millions of dollars from Exxon  
 23 Mobile and Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce.  
 24 They share an office with the Charles Koch Institute

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1 who gained their money from oil. You can see this  
 2 right here in McLean County.  
 3 Nan Swanson, another operator who is in  
 4 contact with Ted Hartke based in Iowa, shared  
 5 content to the Community Page. The content  
 6 publisher from that page showed up in a Politico  
 7 article two years ago, and I quote, Tribune  
 8 Publishing decided not to put it in his newspapers  
 9 on the market in part because of the avowed interest  
 10 of other political buyers, the Koch brothers, now  
 11 owned by Sheldon Adelson, according to federal  
 12 filings, one of the biggest donors of the Koch  
 13 network.  
 14 Now you see him here, although not  
 15 tonight, probably because it's a far drive, an  
 16 outsider strutting around, rapidly writing and  
 17 handing out notes at the meetings, snickering and  
 18 making a joke out of our community and pulling  
 19 people out of the meeting and telling them what to  
 20 say, writing down opposition lists.  
 21 What seems to be a page run by Livingston  
 22 County residents, branded Chenoa and Lexington, has  
 23 said they will be holding meetings run by Ted Hartke  
 24 to teach fear mongering and misleading information

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1 to scare residents who are just looking for honest  
 2 information. These same groups also attack farmers,  
 3 the Farm Bureau and the Corn Growers Association  
 4 trying to push down corn subsidies because they  
 5 don't like that they have to put ethanol in the gas  
 6 they sell. They don't care that Lexington schools  
 7 are underfunded. They don't care that farmers in  
 8 our community would rather see stabilization than  
 9 guaranteed income. They don't care about \$260  
 10 million in funding. Don't be duped by this  
 11 carpetbagger and his schemes looking to instill fear  
 12 in our community.  
 13 As a resident of McLean County, I'm proud  
 14 that we have more wind power than any other county  
 15 in the state. I think it's something we should all  
 16 be proud of. Thank you.  
 17 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any questions from the  
 18 board?  
 19 **MS. TURNER:** Have you had any direct  
 20 contact with Mr. Hartke?  
 21 **MR. BYARS:** No, no direct contact.  
 22 **MS. TURNER:** Have you had any direct  
 23 knowledge or involvement with anybody that you named  
 24 here at all?

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1 **MR. BYARS:** No, this was all done through  
 2 research myself.  
 3 **MS. TURNER:** Thank you.  
 4 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Do you live within the  
 5 footprint of where this wind turbine will be put up?  
 6 **MR. BYARS:** No, I live in Normal.  
 7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay. Any questions  
 8 from the board or I mean from the staff?  
 9 **MR. DICK:** No.  
 10 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any questions from the  
 11 applicant?  
 12 **MR. GRIFFIN:** No thanks.  
 13 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Anyone in the audience  
 14 have questions for this witness?  
 15 **MR. SCHWASS:** Good evening. Glenn  
 16 Schwass, again representing 27709 North 2550 East  
 17 Road, Lexington, Illinois.  
 18 **MS. WALLEY:** Mr. Schwass, can you spell  
 19 your last name please?  
 20 **MR. SCHWASS:** S-C-H-W-A-S-S.  
 21 **MS. WALLEY:** Thank you.  
 22 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 23 **MR. SCHWASS:**  
 24 Q. So I'm sorry, what is your name again?

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1 **A. Andy.**  
 2 Q. Andy. How are you funded or what's your  
 3 interest here?  
 4 **A. I am not paid to be here. I'm not funded**  
 5 **by anyone. I'm actually an ISU student just really**  
 6 **looking to support this project because I think it's**  
 7 **really good for our community.**  
 8 Q. Now, I couldn't quite understand, your  
 9 comments were pretty fast, and I want to take a  
 10 little exception to one of them, but I want to make  
 11 sure I understood the question correctly about Mr.  
 12 Hartke is his name, Ted?  
 13 **A. Yes.**  
 14 Q. Your comment was that he's directing  
 15 people -- I think it was such that he's directing  
 16 and sidelining people how to ask questions or what  
 17 kind of motive or ulterior motive should be taken.  
 18 I wonder if you could elaborate on that question or  
 19 comment?  
 20 **A. Yes. So yesterday at the meeting here he**  
 21 **was passing notes out to people who I then saw come**  
 22 **up and, you know, ask questions and make comments.**  
 23 Q. Okay. Well, again I'm -- nothing was  
 24 asked of me of that, so I guess I'm --

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1 **A. I wasn't directly referring to you. I was**  
 2 **saying I saw him talking to people, handing notes to**  
 3 **people that -- you know, writing questions while**  
 4 **other people were presenting who then came and asked**  
 5 **question.**  
 6 Q. Okay, but you said your research indicated  
 7 that that was being done, and I guess for the record  
 8 I want to say that that is not being done, it wasn't  
 9 being done with the party that I'm representing or  
 10 myself?  
 11 **A. It --**  
 12 Q. So nobody has seen or --  
 13 **A. I saw it yesterday.**  
 14 Q. But nothing with myself or the party that  
 15 I'm representing.  
 16 **A. I did not say, I did not specifically name**  
 17 **you.**  
 18 Q. Okay. For the record, I just want to make  
 19 sure that it's not everybody that this is being done  
 20 with.  
 21 **MR. SCHWASS:** So that was my question.  
 22 Thank you very much.  
 23 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you. Any other  
 24 questions? Come forward. You can use that one.

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1 **MS. COTTER:** My name is Julie Cotter,  
 2 23571 North 2900 East Road, Lexington.  
 3 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 4 **MS. COTTER:**  
 5 Q. I was one of the people that you probably  
 6 saw talking to Mr. Hartke. He did not give me any  
 7 direction on anything to say when I was up here. I  
 8 had that all written before I even spoke with Mr.  
 9 Hartke and we are not --  
 10 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** This is just for  
 11 questions though, ma'am.  
 12 **MS. COTTER:** Okay.  
 13 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** You can give testimony  
 14 later.  
 15 Q. Was I one of the people that you were  
 16 referring to?  
 17 **A. I did not personally see him handing you**  
 18 **notes.**  
 19 Q. And do you personally know that there are  
 20 scare tactics going on in Lexington with farmers and  
 21 other people? Where did you get that information?  
 22 **A. It seems pretty evident from a lot of the**  
 23 **things that I talked about that there's people --**  
 24 **you know, CPAC is one of the things I talked about,**

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1 **that, you know, there's misinformation out there, a**  
 2 **lot of misinformation.**  
 3 Q. I have been very involved in this. I'm  
 4 opposed to it obviously. There has been none of  
 5 those tactics going on that I'm aware of, just for  
 6 the record.  
 7 **A. Is there a question?**  
 8 Q. I guess where did you get your information  
 9 exactly?  
 10 **A. Again, I can hand you any of these things**  
 11 **if you'd like, any of the, you know, articles.**  
 12 Q. Sure.  
 13 **A. Yeah, sure, happy to. Feel free, feel**  
 14 **free to go through any of that if you like.**  
 15 Q. Thank you.  
 16 **A. It's all there. Probably out of order**  
 17 **because I was flipping them around. Yeah, you can**  
 18 **feel free to read those, see if they make a little**  
 19 **more sense.**  
 20 Q. Can I take a few minutes to read them  
 21 rather than right here?  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 Q. I will give them back to you.  
 24 **A. Okay, thank you.**

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1 **MS. COTTER:** Is that okay?  
 2 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** If he gave them to  
 3 you, they're yours.  
 4 **MR. BYARS:** I am not, you know, personally  
 5 attached to those sheets of paper. She may do what  
 6 she wants with them.  
 7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay.  
 8 **MS. COTTER:** Okay, thank you.  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any other -- come  
 10 forward.  
 11 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Amy Winterland, 22825  
 12 North 3075 East Road, Colfax, Illinois.  
 13 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 14 **MS. WINTERLAND:**  
 15 Q. So you were speaking pretty fast too, so I  
 16 missed a little bit of that, but I just want to ask  
 17 a question. Are you inferring that people that have  
 18 an opinion that might be negative about this wind  
 19 farm are being bought by big oil? I was trying to  
 20 make that leap.  
 21 **A. I was saying that I believe that there are**  
 22 **outside forces attempting to influence, you know,**  
 23 **wind turbine projects and specifically this one.**  
 24 Q. So I'm pretty sure that most of the

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1 concerned citizens in this area are not being bought  
 2 off by big oil. I think we're concerned about  
 3 environmental --  
 4 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Ma'am, if you could  
 5 ask questions.  
 6 **MS. WINTERLAND:** That's a question.  
 7 Q. Another question. Did I understand you to  
 8 say that you think that the incentives from the wind  
 9 farms are going to save our local schools?  
 10 **A. Yeah, there's going to be millions of**  
 11 **dollars going to Lexington schools which I think**  
 12 **would be very good for the community.**  
 13 Q. So were you in the meeting yesterday where  
 14 it was made clear that 1 percent of Prairie  
 15 Central's school budget is really going to be this  
 16 wind farm?  
 17 **A. Yeah, I've been at all these meetings like**  
 18 **I believe you have, and, you know, I think that, you**  
 19 **know, for me I'm here because I want schools to stay**  
 20 **open, I want kids to get an education, you know, I**  
 21 **want jobs for our community. You know, we have some**  
 22 **people here who are ready to go to work and I think**  
 23 **we should put them to work.**  
 24 Q. Do you think a 1 percent increase in the

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1 school budget is going to save a rural school?  
 2 **A. I think money going towards schools and**  
 3 **educating students is essential and something that**  
 4 **we should all be supporting.**  
 5 Q. There is no question we all want to  
 6 support our rural schools. My question is do you  
 7 think 1 percent is going to save a rural school?  
 8 **A. I think that millions of dollars going to**  
 9 **local schools will help children get an education.**  
 10 **MS. WINTERLAND:** That's enough.  
 11 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any other questions?  
 12 All right, I think you can push the button and go  
 13 back, let you off the hook.  
 14 **MR. DICK:** Samuel Furrer?  
 15 **AUDIENCE VOICE:** He's not here.  
 16 **MR. DICK:** Daniel Karl or David? Amy  
 17 Winterland?  
 18 **MS. WINTERLAND:** I wasn't planning on  
 19 being up here quite so soon.  
 20 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 21 sworn in?  
 22 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Yes.  
 23 (Ms. Amy Winterland was duly sworn.)  
 24 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay, state your name

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1 and address for the record.  
 2 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Amy Winterland, 22825  
 3 North 3075 East Road, Colfax, Illinois, 61728. And  
 4 I also have handouts for the board. I think there's  
 5 eight. How many do you need, seven or eight?  
 6 Eight, one for the alternate?  
 7 **MR. STOKES:** Yeah.  
 8 **MR. DICK:** We'll call this Objectors  
 9 Exhibit 4.  
 10 **MS. WINTERLAND:** By the way, I usually put  
 11 my name on the neutral list and it wasn't there when  
 12 I signed up, so -- but that's okay. I understand  
 13 that the list that I signed was the objectors list.  
 14 **MR. DICK:** Did you want me to change the  
 15 name of that exhibit to neutral?  
 16 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Yes, I would.  
 17 **MR. DICK:** Okay. That exhibit will be  
 18 called Neutral Exhibit No. 4.  
 19 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Thank you.  
 20 **MR. GRIFFIN:** Do you have more copies?  
 21 **MS. WINTERLAND:** No.  
 22 **MS. TURNER:** We can share.  
 23 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Are you ready? Okay.  
 24 All right, so my name is Amy Winterland. I am an

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1 impacted nonparticipating resident within the  
 2 proposed project. My husband and I are corn and  
 3 soybean farmers. We also raise beef cattle. In  
 4 addition we are beekeepers. We will have ten  
 5 turbines within an approximate one and a quarter  
 6 mile radius of our house. Two turbines will be  
 7 within a half mile of our house. The turbine  
 8 numbers are 90, 91, 54, 76, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98 and  
 9 69. They're located north, south, east and west of  
 10 our home. They're on the first page of that  
 11 handout. The first inner circle is a half mile, the  
 12 outer circle is one mile. I hand drew it, so it  
 13 might not be exactly precise.  
 14 So I have a few concerns, water being one.  
 15 We've talked a lot about the pristine streams.  
 16 We've talked about our aqui -- so it got me thinking  
 17 about our aquifer. Our cattle operation requires  
 18 fresh water on a daily basis from our well. Our  
 19 current well has been sufficient to meet our needs  
 20 for the past 25 years. I know we haven't discussed  
 21 this, but it came to my mind so I'm just wanting to  
 22 make sure that there can be some type of a  
 23 stipulation, or I don't know what the right  
 24 political words are, that Invenergy cannot drill any

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1 kind of commercial wells or utilize the water on the  
 2 aquifer for the farmland leased within the project.  
 3 And if that's like too strict, because I'm only one  
 4 person on here, if it could be like within five  
 5 miles of our occupied residence. I just want --  
 6 again, I'm bringing that up.  
 7 Second question or second issue that I  
 8 had, we talked a lot about noise. One of the  
 9 comments made was we all know what wind turbines  
 10 sound like. That's true, we do know what wind  
 11 turbines sound like, but I personally do not know  
 12 what 47 decibels at 50[sic] hertz sounds like, and  
 13 that's what the maximum decibels for the nighttime  
 14 limit of the Illinois Pollution Control Board is.  
 15 I mentioned earlier that Invenergy is  
 16 planning on constructing 79 500-foot turbines with  
 17 low noise trailing edge blades, nine of the 452-foot  
 18 turbines with low noise trailing edge blades and 29  
 19 of the 500-foot turbines with standard blades.  
 20 Invenergy provided a map of the locations of each of  
 21 these turbines and a table of the highest predicted  
 22 noise levels at nonparticipating residences. My  
 23 home is on that list of the highest predicted noise  
 24 levels. That's the next two pages on your handout.

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1 Of the ten turbines surrounding my home,  
 2 six of those are going to be the 500-foot standard  
 3 blade turbines. Four of them are going to use the  
 4 low noise turbines. After last Thursday's meeting,  
 5 I was asking myself how did Invenergy come up with  
 6 that configuration? And it became obvious to me  
 7 that they modelled it specifically to reduce the  
 8 ten -- from the ten turbines that are standard, four  
 9 of those to be low noise. And in doing so, they  
 10 were able to model my house at 46.5 decibels, which  
 11 is just under the 47 decibel maximum.  
 12 So we also talked on Thursday that the  
 13 model that they are using does not use real data.  
 14 For the 500-foot low noise trailing edge blades, the  
 15 noise emission specifications were not available  
 16 from GE, so they are estimating what that noise  
 17 reduction will really be. So again, the 46.5 that  
 18 my house is being modelled at at the 500 decibel  
 19 rate might not really be reality because it's based  
 20 on an estimate. So I'll just let that sink in a  
 21 little bit. It's 46.5 and the max is 47.  
 22 Personally I believe all the turbines  
 23 should utilize the latest technology available to  
 24 reduce noise emissions regardless of whether the

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1 model shows they are required or not. Therefore, I  
 2 would like to ask the board to put a stipulation in  
 3 the application that requires all the turbines to  
 4 use low noise trailing edge blades, including the 29  
 5 proposed GE 2.5-127 standard blade turbines. And if  
 6 that's too much to ask, if you can't do all, then I  
 7 would specifically like to ask that the turbines  
 8 around my home be reduced, and those six turbines  
 9 surrounding my home are 76, 54, 94, 95, 97 and 98.  
 10 I would like those six turbines to be changed to the  
 11 low noise trailing edge blades, again I've provided  
 12 a map, and again my concern is because the model  
 13 that they are hanging their hat on, if you will,  
 14 might have some flawed estimates in it.  
 15 Okay, I'd also like to call out one other  
 16 IDNR recommendation that we have not discussed at  
 17 all and that is the archeological survey. I will  
 18 just point out that the IDNR did say the project  
 19 area has a high probability of containing  
 20 significant prehistoric or historic archeological  
 21 resources. Accordingly, a phase one archeological  
 22 reconnaissance survey to locate, identify and record  
 23 all archeological resources within the project area  
 24 will be required. In addition to the survey, we

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1 will need clear photographs of all structures in and  
 2 adjacent to the current project area. I just want  
 3 assurance that, in fact, Invenergy will do that  
 4 survey as recommended by the IDNR. That exhibit is  
 5 in your -- already in your database.  
 6 I want to talk a little bit more about the  
 7 eagles. I talked a little bit about that last time.  
 8 I'd like to read one excerpt from the U.S. Fish and  
 9 Wildlife Services Eagle Conservation Plan and  
 10 Guidance from 2013 and it says: To evaluate project  
 11 siting options and help assess potential effects of  
 12 wind energy projects on breeding eagles, we  
 13 recommend determining locations of occupied nests of  
 14 eagles within the project for no less than two  
 15 breeding seasons prior to construction. We suggest  
 16 that project area be defined as the project  
 17 footprint and all area within ten miles.  
 18 I mentioned this yesterday I guess it was  
 19 that it looks like Invenergy did two studies. They  
 20 did a 2016 eagle and raptor study, and in that study  
 21 they in fact did include in their survey ten miles  
 22 beyond for eagles, two miles beyond for raptors.  
 23 And in that study, they found a nest that was  
 24 occupied and active. They even recorded aerial

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1 photographs and included them in the application.  
 2 Then for some reason in 2017 Invenergy  
 3 decided to reduce the scope of their survey to only  
 4 two miles beyond the project footprint. They did  
 5 not go ten miles out for eagles and two miles out  
 6 for other raptors. They only went two miles out.  
 7 And in doing so, they eliminated the bald eagle  
 8 active nesting site from the scope of their survey.  
 9 Now, I was asking myself why would they do  
 10 that when they knew it was there? And the only  
 11 thing I can come up with is that by eliminating the  
 12 nesting pair from their survey, they therefore  
 13 eliminated complications to their survey results and  
 14 potentially from having to avoid areas where eagles  
 15 are active.  
 16 So I agree wholeheartedly that the reason  
 17 these surveys are being done is in an effort to  
 18 avoid mistakes concerning our critical wildlife and  
 19 our ecosystem, and I believe our developers should  
 20 do everything they can prior to building to avoid  
 21 such mistakes. Therefore, I would like to suggest  
 22 the zoning board require Invenergy to restudy the  
 23 bald eagle impact during 2018 using the entire  
 24 footprint plus the ten miles. And in so doing, they

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1 have to look at eagle potential fatalities, et  
2 cetera.  
3 In closing, I'd also like to talk about  
4 the extension. We haven't talked about this either.  
5 Invenegy is wanting a three year extension. I have  
6 not heard any testimony as to why that is necessary  
7 other than we are asking. I think our ordinance  
8 says it should be two years. I believe we should  
9 comply with our ordinance and I ask the zoning board  
10 to stay with our ordinance as it is written. I  
11 guess that's it.  
12 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any questions from the  
13 board?  
14 **MS. TURNER:** You said that you and your  
15 husband are farmers.  
16 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Yes.  
17 **MS. TURNER:** Do you own any of the land  
18 around you? Are you landowners?  
19 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Yes, we are, and we have  
20 land within the footprint, yes.  
21 **MS. TURNER:** Okay. And you opted not to  
22 participate you said.  
23 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Yes.  
24 **MS. TURNER:** Were you asked to

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1 participate?  
2 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Yes.  
3 **MS. TURNER:** Okay. Are you aware of any  
4 eagles in the area? Have you seen any nesting  
5 eagles or --  
6 **MS. WINTERLAND:** I have absolutely seen  
7 eagles. There is one eagle that hangs out in one  
8 particular tree pretty frequently. I am not a  
9 biologist, I don't know if there are nests, okay,  
10 but yes, I have absolutely seen the eagles.  
11 **MS. TURNER:** Right, and thankfully eagles  
12 are coming back and we all get to see them quite  
13 often now, but I just didn't know if you had any  
14 knowledge of actual nests.  
15 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Yes.  
16 **MS. TURNER:** Okay, you don't have any  
17 knowledge of the nests; is that correct?  
18 **MS. WINTERLAND:** I don't even know what a  
19 nest would look like.  
20 **MS. TURNER:** Okay. That's all I have  
21 right now.  
22 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any questions from  
23 staff?  
24 **MR. DICK:** If they had to take another

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1 year to do the study for the eagles and then they  
2 had to do some kind of adjusting or some kind of  
3 mediation or something, they would very easily be  
4 beyond the two years to get started, so their  
5 special use would expire, are you aware of that?  
6 **MS. WINTERLAND:** I really don't know how  
7 the mechanics of all that works and that would not  
8 be my intention of bringing this up. If you think  
9 that it's my intention to delay this so that -- no,  
10 that wasn't -- I don't know how that works. I do  
11 know that there is one caveat in the eagle  
12 conservation program that says if they are  
13 considered a category one site having done all of  
14 this work, we, the U.S. Fish and National Wildlife  
15 -- Fish and Wildlife Service would recommend  
16 relocating the project to another area because a  
17 location at that site would be unlikely to meet the  
18 regulatory requirements for a programmatic take  
19 permit, and that's eagle deaths. So I think it is  
20 pretty key that they document that eagle take would  
21 be limited, and I do not think they have done that.  
22 **MS. TURNER:** What is your concern with the  
23 extension to three years other than it's not -- you  
24 know, that it would be an extension? Do you have

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1 any particular concern with that?  
2 **MS. WINTERLAND:** I would like to see an  
3 explanation as to why an extension is necessary as  
4 opposed to we're just asking. I have not heard any  
5 evidence at all as to why an extension is even  
6 necessary.  
7 **MS. TURNER:** Fair enough. I have the same  
8 questions.  
9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Does the applicant  
10 have questions? You've got to state your name  
11 again.  
12 **MR. GRIFFIN:** My name is Jim Griffin, I'm  
13 with the law firm of Schain Banks, 70 West Madison,  
14 Suite 5300, Chicago, Illinois, 60602.  
15 **MR. DICK:** Could you spell Schain Banks  
16 for --  
17 **MR. GRIFFIN:** Yes, S-C-H-A-I-N, and then  
18 Banks is B-A-N-K-S. Ms. Winterland, were you here  
19 when Mr. Parzyck testified that the project does not  
20 utilize any water?  
21 **MS. WINTERLAND:** I have been here at all  
22 of the testimony. I heard him say that there would  
23 not be any disruption to the water. I did not -- I  
24 guess I did not hear him say the project would not

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1 use any water.  
 2 **MR. GRIFFIN:** Okay. Well, I believe he  
 3 did say that, so --  
 4 **MS. WINTERLAND:** That's good. Then we  
 5 won't have to worry about the water issue.  
 6 **MR. GRIFFIN:** That's all the questions I  
 7 have. Thank you.  
 8 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would anyone in the  
 9 audience have questions? State your name and  
 10 address again.  
 11 **MR. BYARS:** Andy Byars, 708 Kingsley  
 12 Street, Normal, Illinois, 61761.  
 13 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 14 **MR. BYARS:**  
 15 Q. Have you been at or talked to anyone at  
 16 the Hudson project?  
 17 **A. No.**  
 18 Q. No?  
 19 **A. What Hudson project?**  
 20 Q. The Hudson wind project.  
 21 **A. White Oaks? Are you talking about White**  
 22 **Oaks?**  
 23 Q. Yes.  
 24 **A. No, I don't --**

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1 Q. Okay, have you -- so obviously McLean  
 2 County, you know, has a lot of wind turbines. Have  
 3 you driven around them a lot and -- you know, in and  
 4 around them and listened?  
 5 **A. Yes. I live just north of the Twin Groves**  
 6 **project, yes.**  
 7 Q. Okay, and did you know that Lexington  
 8 schools are cutting programs due to lack of funding?  
 9 **A. I did not know anything about that. I do**  
 10 **know that Lexington just passed a tax referendum**  
 11 **that will keep them in business.**  
 12 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** We're getting into  
 13 testimony. You know, we've got to have some  
 14 questions.  
 15 **MR. BYARS:** Okay, that's all, those are  
 16 the questions I had.  
 17 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any other questions?  
 18 I think you're off the hook. Feel better now?  
 19 **MS. WINTERLAND:** Yes, thank you.  
 20 **MR. DICK:** Julie Cotter.  
 21 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 22 sworn in?  
 23 **MS. COTTER:** Affirm please.  
 24 (Ms. Julie Cotter was duly affirmed.)

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1 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
 2 name and address?  
 3 **MS. COTTER:** Julie Cotter, 23571 North  
 4 2900 East Road, Lexington, Illinois.  
 5 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Do you need to have  
 6 her spell it?  
 7 **MS. COTTER:** C-O-T-T-E-R.  
 8 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thanks.  
 9 **MS. COTTER:** And I too want to thank all  
 10 of you for your patience and listening to those of  
 11 us who are not professionals at doing this. I am  
 12 certainly not a professional. I just have several  
 13 concerns that I am still not comfortable with with  
 14 this wind turbine. We do live in the country. We  
 15 would be surrounded by nine of these within two  
 16 sections around us.  
 17 The question about tornadoes was asked  
 18 previously and we were told that they'd have  
 19 liability insurance. I am concerned that this  
 20 possibly could be considered an act of God, which  
 21 then might leave somebody off the hook for liability  
 22 insurance, and if it were to cover, how much  
 23 coverage that would be.  
 24 My other concern is the property value

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1 comparisons that they presented in their  
 2 presentation, there were so many differences in  
 3 that, specifically the one between Downs and Sibley.  
 4 Bloomington people -- Downs is a booming community.  
 5 People from Bloomington are moving out there.  
 6 Sibley is a sad little dying rural town, nobody  
 7 moves to Sibley, so that is not even close to a  
 8 comparison. And the comparison why did people move  
 9 out of those homes. The homes that were for sale in  
 10 the wind farm areas, why did those people move?  
 11 Another thing that has been brought to my  
 12 attention is the flicker study of 30 hours per year.  
 13 It's my understanding those calculations are based  
 14 on 50 percent of the days being cloud covered, so  
 15 there would be no sun for flicker. So if there are  
 16 less than 50 percent cloudy days, there's obviously  
 17 going to be more flicker. And is that several days  
 18 in a row, is that so many minutes per day, what are  
 19 the -- I don't know what the 50 or the 30 hours is  
 20 based on. Because I have a lot of windows, I will  
 21 be getting lots of flicker in my house.  
 22 Let's see. I know -- another issue I have  
 23 is last night I asked about how they count the  
 24 carcasses because there are turkey vultures and

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1 various things, we've got many coyotes, that they're  
 2 going to eat these carcasses. And we were told that  
 3 the landowners helped participate in counting the  
 4 carcasses. Most of the landowners in the Lexington  
 5 area don't live on their property or they're not  
 6 there very much. A lot of them have it cash rented.  
 7 Nobody is around most of this property on a daily  
 8 basis, sometimes even a weekly basis, to see how  
 9 many animals are being killed there. And the people  
 10 that are cash renting these places, they hate  
 11 farming around those turbines, so the last thing  
 12 they're going to care to do is stop and pick up dead  
 13 animals.  
 14 One other thing that -- I understand  
 15 everybody here talking about the jobs. My husband  
 16 actually was a -- did participate, he's a Teamster,  
 17 we had 23 trucks running under us at the Odell wind  
 18 project, we made very good money on that project.  
 19 However, that project is up there. Those people are  
 20 living with it still. We're long gone. These  
 21 gentlemen will be long gone. They won't be living  
 22 with this for the next 30 years. And they will  
 23 probably find other work even if the wind project  
 24 doesn't go.

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1 So I guess that brings me to my last  
 2 point. That I hope you will consider this in light  
 3 of the lives of people, the environment and our  
 4 natural resources, not just on the money end of it,  
 5 temporary jobs and numbers that we've been told that  
 6 may or may not be true. That's it, thank you.  
 7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you. Questions  
 8 from the board?  
 9 **MR. DEAN:** Do you happen to be on this map  
 10 that Ms. Winterland gave to us? Would your place be  
 11 on this map?  
 12 **MS. COTTER:** I am closer to Lexington, so  
 13 I'm probably not on that exact map.  
 14 **MR. DEAN:** Great, thank you.  
 15 **MS. TURNER:** How close are the closest  
 16 wind turbines to you?  
 17 **MS. COTTER:** Just a little over 1500 feet.  
 18 **MS. TURNER:** And is that one or two or how  
 19 many are a little over 1500 feet?  
 20 **MS. COTTER:** At least three of them.  
 21 There's three of them in the actual section I live  
 22 in that will be just southeast of my home, and I  
 23 believe there's five right across the road.  
 24 **MS. TURNER:** Okay, and you say you live in

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1 Lexington?  
 2 **MS. COTTER:** No, I'm out in the country.  
 3 **MS. TURNER:** Out in the country.  
 4 **MS. COTTER:** We only have six acres, so we  
 5 are affected by this basically, but get very little  
 6 from it except the aggravation.  
 7 **MS. TURNER:** Okay, and you said that the  
 8 flicker study you understood allows for 50 percent  
 9 of the days cloud covered. Can you point to us in  
 10 the flicker study, is there -- do you know where  
 11 that is stated in the flicker study?  
 12 **MS. COTTER:** That was actually a  
 13 Livingston County study that they did. I could get  
 14 that for you, but I'm sorry --  
 15 **MS. TURNER:** But it's not the one that we  
 16 have here?  
 17 **MS. COTTER:** No, I don't believe so. They  
 18 just -- I've been at all these meetings and we were  
 19 just told that their flicker is --  
 20 **MS. TURNER:** But we have nothing, you  
 21 can't point to anything that we have in ours that  
 22 says that. In our packet, you can't point to any --  
 23 **MS. COTTER:** Of the 30 hours?  
 24 **MS. TURNER:** No, I know the 30 hours.

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1 **MS. COTTER:** Oh, okay, then you mean the  
 2 50 percent cloudiness?  
 3 **MS. TURNER:** 50 percent --  
 4 **MS. COTTER:** No, I apologize, I did not  
 5 get that.  
 6 **MS. TURNER:** That's all, thanks.  
 7 **MS. COTTER:** Thank you.  
 8 **MR. DEAN:** Okay, the reason for my  
 9 question was, where your house is located, I didn't  
 10 find it on that other map, but looking at this map  
 11 and the other maps that I have reviewed, it appears  
 12 to me that the energy company has avoided placing  
 13 the placement of these to try to avoid flicker, but  
 14 I'm unclear on that, so --  
 15 **MS. COTTER:** Three of them would be  
 16 southeast of my home and the rest are west and  
 17 southwest.  
 18 **MR. DEAN:** Okay, thank you.  
 19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any questions from  
 20 staff?  
 21 **MR. DICK:** (Shakes head).  
 22 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Did the applicant have  
 23 questions?  
 24 **MR. GRIFFIN:** No, thank you.

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1       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would anyone in the  
2 audience have questions for this witness? We've got  
3 one. It's probably a friendly question though.  
4       **MS. WINTERLAND:** Amy Winterland. So in  
5 the -- so my question is you're concerned with the  
6 30 hours of flicker. Are you concerned that that  
7 could be, in fact, 60 hours or one hour a day for 30  
8 days in a row, is that what your concern is, or are  
9 you concerned that it could be 30 minutes a day for  
10 60 days in a row or what is your concern with the 30  
11 hours?  
12       **MS. COTTER:** My concern is that we have no  
13 idea what their 30 hours is based on. It could be  
14 any of those things.  
15       **MS. WINTERLAND:** And so perhaps -- I mean  
16 I'm not sure. What do you think would be worse, one  
17 hour a day for 30 days in a row, or do you have a  
18 concern one way or the other?  
19       **MS. COTTER:** I guess 30 hours spread out  
20 over a year, if it were two or three minutes a day,  
21 would be preferable, but again there's no way of  
22 knowing that, no way that I could know that.  
23       **MS. WINTERLAND:** So are you aware that  
24 that flicker study is, in fact, an exhibit in the,

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1 in this zoning board's procedures?  
2       **MS. COTTER:** Yes.  
3       **MS. WINTERLAND:** So I have read that  
4 flicker study and it does mention the 50 --  
5       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Testimony.  
6       **MS. COTTER:** It does mention 50 percent?  
7 Okay, I'm sorry, I did not read that. I was told  
8 that. So if we have more cloudy days, that  
9 increases obviously, which the more sun in Illinois,  
10 the better off we are.  
11       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any other questions  
12 from --  
13       **MR. O'BRIEN:** I do.  
14       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Come forward.  
15       **MR. O'BRIEN:** My name is Tony O'Brien. I  
16 live at 103 Oak Street in Morton. Mr. Chairman, I  
17 feel like since I don't live in the county I should  
18 probably tell the people in the room what I do for a  
19 living and why I'm here. I'm a business  
20 representative for the operating engineers and I  
21 represent --  
22       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** This is time for  
23 questions.  
24       **MR. O'BRIEN:** Okay, my question is how

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1 many trucks did you have at Odell?  
2       **MS. COTTER:** 23.  
3       **MR. O'BRIEN:** Okay, and you said you made  
4 money off those trucks.  
5       **MS. COTTER:** Yes, sir.  
6       **MR. O'BRIEN:** Did you go to county  
7 meetings then when you went to Odell to work?  
8       **MS. COTTER:** No, we bid on it.  
9       **MR. O'BRIEN:** Okay, and were you  
10 considered -- were you concerned about flicker while  
11 your trucks were making you money at the Odell --  
12       **MS. COTTER:** I did not know anything about  
13 it at that point.  
14       **MR. O'BRIEN:** Okay, thank you.  
15       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** You can come back for  
16 testimony too.  
17       **MR. O'BRIEN:** Thanks.  
18       **MS. COTTER:** I would like to make one  
19 quick statement. We will not be bidding on any work  
20 for this wind farm knowing what we do.  
21       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay.  
22       **MS. COTTER:** Thank you.  
23       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you. You're off  
24 the hook.

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1       **MR. DICK:** Barb Metz.  
2       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
3 sworn in?  
4       **MS. METZ:** Certainly.  
5 (Ms. Barb Metz was duly sworn.)  
6       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
7 name and address and spell your last name.  
8       **MS. METZ:** Barb Metz, M-E-T-Z, 27709 North  
9 2550 East Road, Lexington.  
10       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Go ahead.  
11       **MS. METZ:** I bought a home 12 years ago on  
12 the outskirts of Lexington, five acres, a peaceful  
13 setting. My kids were raised there. They raised  
14 cattle and horses and dogs and cats, goats, a very  
15 good place for us. I work at State Farm, been there  
16 33 years, and we're not guaranteed a job. And I  
17 know jobs are important to all these union employees  
18 here, I understand that, but my job isn't guaranteed  
19 either. State Farm is if an iffy spot right now, so  
20 the thought of my property value going down is very  
21 emotional for me because I have no guarantees. And  
22 I wasn't going to talk at this thing because it's an  
23 emotional thing.  
24 I value the property we live on. I bought

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1 it 12 years ago because I thought it was a good  
 2 place to raise my children. McLean County has two  
 3 huge wind farms. We have been provided a sales job  
 4 by Invenergy. I think any of us who've worked out  
 5 in the world know that there's pros and cons to  
 6 every, every choice we make in life, but when we've  
 7 listened to the presentation by Invenergy, all we  
 8 heard is the good things. And whenever somebody  
 9 brought up a topic of a bad thing, we were either  
 10 moved on quickly to another topic or they had an  
 11 excuse why they didn't, nobody's reported it to us.  
 12 Now, quite honest, I wasn't involved in  
 13 any of the wind farm research since time has gone on  
 14 in McLean County because it didn't involve me. As  
 15 soon as I got that letter two weeks ago or whatever  
 16 it was, I started paying a little bit more  
 17 attention. I went on the Internet. Like Andy  
 18 whatever his name has said, that, you know, there's  
 19 valid sites and there's not valid sites. All I know  
 20 is when I look out there, there's health and safety  
 21 issues that have not been discussed in this meeting.  
 22 When the person from Invenergy talked  
 23 about the tax assessors not receiving any  
 24 complaints, they didn't really go and have a visit

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1 face-to-face with those people. They didn't talk to  
 2 the realtors in Lexington or McLean County to talk  
 3 about what the values of those properties are.  
 4 Those are all things that are important to me as a  
 5 property owner. I receive absolutely no benefit  
 6 from this farm. When you ask them where the wind  
 7 energy is going, they can't tell you where the wind  
 8 energy is going. They can't tell me if I'm getting  
 9 this much [indicating] of it.  
 10 My house is up for sale. It was up for  
 11 sale before the announcement was made. I do think  
 12 it'll -- I feel like I'll be lucky to get what I owe  
 13 on my property after I've been there for 12 years  
 14 and it breaks my heart because I've worked just as  
 15 hard raising two kids by myself to provide them a  
 16 safe and secure place, and I think would I want to  
 17 buy that property now if I was a new person coming  
 18 in with those windmills, and I would not. I would  
 19 not make that choice.  
 20 And when I hear people who aren't directly  
 21 affected and having to live with those windmills --  
 22 and I'm just a little person, people aren't going to  
 23 care if I complain, and so that's why I can't  
 24 believe Invenergy says that we don't have any

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1 complaints about health and safety issues, we don't  
 2 log that information, we don't do that kind of  
 3 research. I find that extremely hard to believe  
 4 because when you run a project you look at the good  
 5 and the bad, and if they have a long history, they  
 6 have a long history of complaints, because we all  
 7 know I might go to Kohl's and complain tomorrow  
 8 because I didn't like something that happened to me.  
 9 We all have a voice. And it may be little today and  
 10 huge tomorrow, but we're all going to complain about  
 11 something. And I can't believe Invenergy has not  
 12 received any complaints on health and safety issues.  
 13 And when you look at the internet, whether  
 14 it's true or otherwise, it looks to me like there's  
 15 lawsuits out there on that very topic. I don't know  
 16 how valid they are, but if I was the person who  
 17 can't sleep at night because of the energy and the  
 18 noise making, I would complain. And I'm just a  
 19 little bitty person. And I know without a class  
 20 action lawsuit of some kind or lots of money, which  
 21 I don't have, my complaint is not going to be heard.  
 22 I'm just a little bitty fish in the sea.  
 23 But I hope as you consider these things  
 24 there is no reason that they can't abide by the

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1 county and the Illinois Natural Resources  
 2 requirements. They want exceptions for everything.  
 3 Why? I have to obey the laws. Why shouldn't they  
 4 have to obey the laws that are provided to them? So  
 5 anyway, that's really all I have to say.  
 6 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you. Any  
 7 questions from the board?  
 8 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** How far away -- I was  
 9 trying to find your house on the maps. How far away  
 10 from the turbines are you?  
 11 **MS. METZ:** You know what, I don't really  
 12 know, but I have three on the section right across  
 13 from me and one kind of back on the side.  
 14 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** Okay.  
 15 **MS. METZ:** I would say the closest one is  
 16 probably within a half a mile.  
 17 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** How many acres do you live  
 18 on?  
 19 **MS. METZ:** Five.  
 20 **MS. TURNER:** How long has your home been  
 21 on the market?  
 22 **MS. METZ:** I listed it with a realtor  
 23 in around Thanksgiving I think.  
 24 **MS. TURNER:** Okay.

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1       **MS. METZ:** And I understand winter's a bad  
2 time.  
3       **MS. TURNER:** Sure, but you're experiencing  
4 it now. Do you know how long typically homes in  
5 your situation -- did your realtor give you an idea  
6 of how long they are typically on the market?  
7       **MS. METZ:** No.  
8       **MS. TURNER:** Okay.  
9       **MR. BANGERT:** Is there a reason you're  
10 putting this house on the market? Have anything to  
11 do with the wind farm or is there another reason?  
12       **MS. METZ:** No, my kids are grown, so I'm  
13 out there all by myself and it's too lonely.  
14       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** That was my question.  
15 I was just wondering why you were moving, if you  
16 were already in the mood to move or did this get you  
17 in the mood?  
18       **MS. METZ:** No, I would like to think I'm  
19 close to retirement and I would like to have that  
20 place sold because I bought property in Tennessee.  
21 So I would like that to be a home for somebody else  
22 to raise their family on. It's been a good place  
23 for me and my kids and I hope that it can be that  
24 way for someone else.

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1       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** I'm sure it will. Any  
2 questions from the board --  
3       **MR. DICK:** No.  
4       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** -- or from Phil? Any  
5 questions from the applicant?  
6       **MR. GRIFFIN:** No, thank you.  
7       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would anyone in the  
8 audience like to ask a question? Come forward.  
9       **MS. COTTER:** State my name again? Julie  
10 Cotter, 23571 North 2900 East Road, Lexington. Are  
11 you aware, Barb, that in the contracts, part of the  
12 reason there are no complaints is because part of  
13 the contracts say they cannot discuss this, the  
14 people that sign them?  
15       **MS. METZ:** I did not know that until I --  
16 I've been at all the meetings, I heard when they  
17 talk about the flicker and the noise and all that  
18 kind of stuff, that when they did their evaluations,  
19 they didn't take any of the contracted people into  
20 consideration. They were only looking at those of  
21 us who were not impacted by contracts.  
22       **MS. COTTER:** Yeah, they can't talk about  
23 it, so they can't complain. And I too have a three  
24 year old new home.

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1       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Just questions.  
2       **MS. COTTER:** Yes, okay, that's all I had.  
3       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Hit the button there,  
4 would you? Any other questions? Don't see any.  
5 Thanks for coming out.  
6       **MR. DICK:** Terry Killian? Dan Deneen?  
7       **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** He's not here.  
8       **MR. DICK:** Yale Young?  
9       **MR. YOUNG:** I respectfully decline.  
10       **MR. DICK:** Jim Pitzer?  
11       **MR. PITZER:** Evening.  
12       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
13 sworn in?  
14       **MR. PITZER:** Sure.  
15 (Mr. Jim Pitzer was duly sworn.)  
16       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
17 name and address and spell your last name?  
18       **MR. PITZER:** Excuse me, Jim Pitzer. I  
19 live at 29485 East 2100 North Road in Colfax.  
20       **MR. DICK:** Could you spell your last name  
21 please?  
22       **MR. PITZER:** P-I-T-Z-E-R.  
23       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Go ahead.  
24       **MR. PITZER:** Okay, I would -- well, I

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1       guess I'd like to offer my testimony this evening as  
2 kind of a supplement to Dr. Caparella's testimony  
3 that he gave last night, last evening, and if I may,  
4 I would just like to remind the board of some of the  
5 things that he presented last night in his exhibit  
6 on comments of the wildlife portion of Case  
7 SU-17-11, and if I could, I'll just read to you some  
8 of the things.  
9       He talks about in his supporting  
10 information in number two the IDNR recommendations  
11 and Invenergy's response. In recommendation number  
12 five, and I've highlighted this, it says that there  
13 is at least one perennial stream that deserves at  
14 actual one-half mile setback based on available data  
15 and that being Henline Creek.  
16       And then in his references to that, in  
17 number one on page 2, he says that Henline -- or it  
18 says that Henline Creek is listed as an Illinois  
19 Natural Areas Inventory, INAI site, as stated in the  
20 IDNR January 2018 letter page 4. INAI sites are the  
21 best of the best in the state in terms of being  
22 quality, a quality natural area.  
23       And then in number two it says Invenergy  
24 in its 4 January 2018 letter agreed to adopt IDNR

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1 recommendation number six, but only if the county  
 2 requires it, which is a one-half mile setback from  
 3 the Mackinaw River. This recommendation was made  
 4 because the river is listed as an INAI site. And  
 5 Henline Creek is included also in that Mackinaw  
 6 River INAI designation.

7 Then down in number four, he states: In  
 8 its 1990 study of the Mackinaw River watershed, The  
 9 Nature Conservancy, TNC, identified the Henline  
 10 confluence area as a high priority protection area  
 11 due to its high biotic quality.

12 Now, I've got opinions in regards to this  
 13 entire project, but I'm going to forego that and I  
 14 want to limit my remarks tonight to a particular  
 15 section, and that section is Section 025 of the  
 16 proposed turbine site. You all have a map of that  
 17 in your monster manuals there.

18 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** Which?  
 19 **MR. PITZER:** It's Section 5, and according  
 20 to --  
 21 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** In the right-hand corner  
 22 it says 5 of 6 or something?  
 23 **MR. PITZER:** Page 5 of 6, okay. And it  
 24 basically is the map that includes this confluence

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1 area where the Henline Creek comes into the Mackinaw  
 2 River. And there -- and one specific turbine, and  
 3 we've already -- this has already come up in  
 4 testimony in earlier sessions, but I want to  
 5 reiterate it tonight. And Invenergy has already  
 6 made the tentative statement anyway that they might  
 7 be -- they might consider moving this or eliminating  
 8 it altogether, but that's a tentative statement and  
 9 I want to revisit that this evening if I can.

10 So this proposed site is turbine number  
 11 80. As it sits on this map, it is roughly 1200 feet  
 12 away from the Mackinaw River. And from the  
 13 confluence of the Mackinaw River and the Henline  
 14 Creek, it is approximately 1650 feet. And then  
 15 there is a second creek that runs into the Mackinaw  
 16 River in this property about a quarter of a mile to  
 17 the west of the confluence. And both of these  
 18 creeks as well as the Mackinaw River, and this is  
 19 kind of why I'm here, flow through land that has  
 20 been in my family for over 130 years, and I'm just  
 21 the current resident and the latest in a long line,  
 22 and I plan to pass this land on to my kids and to my  
 23 grandkids.

24 Now, there has been a lot of mention about

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1 this confluence area where the Henline comes into,  
 2 and I'm sure that none of you have been there and  
 3 you have not seen it, and I'm sure they haven't been  
 4 out there and they haven't seen it either, so what  
 5 I'd like to do this evening is just kind of briefly  
 6 give you a firsthand description of what this  
 7 property is like because you really don't get a  
 8 sense of it just by looking at it on a map.

9 So first of all, when you hear the word  
 10 creek, most people I think think of it as a small  
 11 stream of water that you can just hop over, but just  
 12 on my property alone, there are times of the year  
 13 when the Henline Creek becomes a small river. In  
 14 fact, it is not unusual year in and year out that we  
 15 have people that are kayaking and canoeing down  
 16 Henline Creek to where it converges with the  
 17 Mackinaw River and then they just go on from there.  
 18 So it's navigable at many times during the year. It  
 19 is not -- it's more than just a small stream. At  
 20 some times of the year it is a small river and it  
 21 can get up to 20 feet deep in spots and 30 feet  
 22 across, so it's a sizeable water and it's navigable.

23 Now this area along the Mackinaw that is  
 24 the property that I'm talking about is about 200

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1 acres, and it consists of wetlands and about 40  
 2 acres of prairie grass, about 35 to 40 acres of  
 3 dense timber and about 20 acres of hilly pasture  
 4 land, and then there are a few sections of tillable  
 5 areas along this property as well. And it floods  
 6 two or three times every year, and so sometimes it's  
 7 about 80 acres of lakefront property if you want to  
 8 call it that.

9 It's an idyllic piece of property. It's  
 10 absolutely beautiful. And most of all, and this is  
 11 what I want to deal with tonight, it's teaming with  
 12 wildlife, everything you can imagine, and that's  
 13 what I want to raise up tonight because you won't  
 14 see that on the map either, okay?

15 You know, when you -- when you drive  
 16 through McLean County, and we've all done this, if  
 17 you look to the right wherever you're driving and  
 18 you look to the left, by and large all you see is  
 19 tillable farmland. That's all that -- I mean that's  
 20 what you see. It is very rare in this county, in  
 21 McLean County, where you find a section of ground  
 22 that combines all of the attributes that I just  
 23 described to you.

24 And I want you to think about that because

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1 there are very few places in McLean County where  
 2 wildlife can go, where they can find sanctuary and  
 3 protection from not just the elements, like the  
 4 severe cold that we've had in the last week or so,  
 5 but from man himself; where they can find a reliable  
 6 supply of water and reliable supply of food source.  
 7 It is very rare in this county. And this is just  
 8 such a place. It is just such a place.  
 9 My wife is kind of a naturalist and she  
 10 just decided that she wanted to write down some of  
 11 the things that we see on -- pretty much on a daily  
 12 basis. I mean we have deer. It's not unusual for  
 13 deer to be looking in our bedroom window on any  
 14 given morning. We have beavers, we have groundhogs,  
 15 we have foxes. We've even had a gray wolf pass  
 16 through last year. We've seen mink, we have a  
 17 family of black squirrels, which is unusual in this  
 18 county, we've got muskrats, we've got river otters.  
 19 When it comes to the avian life sources,  
 20 we have a family of bald eagles that graces us every  
 21 year, we've got golden eagles, we've seen golden  
 22 eagles, we've seen belted kingfishers, great blue  
 23 herons, wood ducks, Canadian geese, mallards,  
 24 hummingbirds, bluebirds, indigo buntings, redheaded

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1 woodpeckers. We've got wild turkeys everywhere.  
 2 We've even got something called a Rufous-sided  
 3 towhee, whatever that is, scarlet tanagers,  
 4 Baltimore orioles, American redstarts, bats galore.  
 5 And it is not unusual every night for us to be  
 6 serenaded by barred owls, which is good luck, from  
 7 one end of the river to the other. It is such a  
 8 blessing for me and my wife to be stewards of this  
 9 environment and protect it as best we can, and that  
 10 is why I am here tonight and that brings me back to  
 11 turbine number 80.  
 12 According to this application map, you  
 13 know, these -- Invenergy has proposed 117 or 120,  
 14 whatever the possible sites are for these turbines,  
 15 and if I remember correctly, in some of their  
 16 testimony they mentioned they intend to erect about  
 17 a hundred.  
 18 **MS. WALLEY:** Mr. Pitzer, your ten minutes  
 19 are up.  
 20 **MR. PITZER:** So you're going to cut me  
 21 off?  
 22 **MS. WALLEY:** At the beginning of the  
 23 hearing, everyone was told that it would be ten  
 24 minutes.

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1 **MR. PITZER:** All right, then I guess I'm  
 2 done.  
 3 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Can you do it in a  
 4 minute?  
 5 **MR. PITZER:** I can try.  
 6 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** We'll give you a  
 7 minute.  
 8 **MR. PITZER:** All right. Anyway -- all  
 9 right, let me do this. My proposal is that you put  
 10 in that recommendation at the very least that  
 11 Invenergy be required to comply with the IDNR  
 12 recommendation number six. Specifically as it  
 13 pertains to this turbine, that you recommend that it  
 14 not just be moved, but that it be eliminated  
 15 altogether as an option simply because of its  
 16 proximity to a highly sensitive natural area.  
 17 Now I know there's a lot of money involved  
 18 and I know that there's a lot of people that are  
 19 going to profit by this, and I'm a capitalist, I'm  
 20 not -- I'm okay with that, but out of over a hundred  
 21 of these, it will not change the financial viability  
 22 of this project one bit if you eliminate this one  
 23 turbine. This one turbine's elimination will not  
 24 change the economics of the project in the least

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1 either for the company or for the county or for the  
 2 school board or for anybody else. And even if it  
 3 does, these people over here are smart people and  
 4 they know how -- they can figure out a way to make  
 5 it.  
 6 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** We've got to cut it  
 7 off.  
 8 **MR. PITZER:** Okay.  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** I gave you that extra  
 10 minute.  
 11 **MR. PITZER:** So I just ask then that I'm  
 12 here to protect this area and I just ask that you do  
 13 the same thing because it is a special, special  
 14 place in this county and it's very rare.  
 15 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Questions from the  
 16 board?  
 17 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** How close is the next  
 18 closest turbine?  
 19 **MR. PITZER:** According to this map, it  
 20 looks to me like it's about three-quarters of a mile  
 21 to the northwest, number 78. There is also one to  
 22 -- almost due north from that area, but it looks to  
 23 be about a mile. So it's not like we're eliminating  
 24 the sector as it is; just this one. It's, and I --

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1 you know, once these things are up, once you put  
 2 these babies up, they're not going anywhere.  
 3 They're not going to come down. They're going to  
 4 be -- and that's when the law of unintended  
 5 consequences kicks in.  
 6 And I don't know what those consequences  
 7 might be in this area and neither do you and really  
 8 neither do they, but the point is and, you know, I  
 9 was -- I think their term was they want to minimize  
 10 the impact, minimize the impact. I just don't see  
 11 the point in taking the chance because it's not  
 12 going to impact the finances.  
 13 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Are you a farmer in  
 14 the area?  
 15 **MR. PITZER:** No.  
 16 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** You just --  
 17 **MR. PITZER:** Well, I own farmland, but I  
 18 don't farm it. I'm too stupid to farm.  
 19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** No comment on that.  
 20 **MR. PITZER:** Okay. I have a great deal of  
 21 respect for farmers because they have to fight  
 22 everything there is to fight.  
 23 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** We've got a couple  
 24 farmers on the board, but -- so you just enjoy your

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1 property or do you rent it out to somebody else?  
 2 **MR. PITZER:** No, I rent it out. I share  
 3 crop with somebody, yeah. It's about 80 acres that  
 4 are tillable. The rest of it's all timber and  
 5 pasture and railroad and water.  
 6 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** If this turbine number  
 7 8 was eliminated, would you --  
 8 **MR. KURITZ:** 80.  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** 80. Is it 8 or 80?  
 10 **MR. PITZER:** 80, 8-0.  
 11 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** I'm looking at the map  
 12 upside down. Would that make you feel better about  
 13 this project?  
 14 **MR. PITZER:** You're putting me -- now  
 15 you're putting me on the spot. I -- I understand  
 16 the benefits, the economic benefits to the county  
 17 and to the school systems and everything else, but I  
 18 also feel for the people that have to live with it  
 19 because once it's up, as I said, it's not going  
 20 anywhere. And those people that are out there,  
 21 especially the ones that aren't benefitting  
 22 financially from the project itself, they're the  
 23 ones that I really feel for, and if I were in their  
 24 shoes, I would be in the same position.

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1 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** But my question is do  
 2 you -- I mean would you feel better about this  
 3 project?  
 4 **MR. PITZER:** You mean would I be for it?  
 5 Let's say I would be a little bit more neutral than  
 6 I am right now.  
 7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** That's good enough.  
 8 **MR. PITZER:** Is that okay?  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Yeah. Questions from  
 10 the staff?  
 11 **MR. DICK:** No.  
 12 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Does the applicant  
 13 have questions?  
 14 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** Julia.  
 15 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Oh, yes.  
 16 **MS. TURNER:** One very quick question.  
 17 Just in this -- do you agree, though, that it would  
 18 have a financial impact on the landowner in not  
 19 having a tower on their land?  
 20 **MR. PITZER:** I -- let's put it to you this  
 21 way. If -- is there anybody in this room that  
 22 thinks that a view from your house or your property  
 23 is not something that affects your property values?  
 24 And if I have a pristine view out my window or off

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1 my front porch or anything and then somebody comes  
 2 along and puts a giant eyesore right in the middle  
 3 of that view, is there anybody here that doesn't  
 4 think that that's going to affect your property  
 5 value? I mean seriously. Now here's -- here's the  
 6 other thing.  
 7 **MS. TURNER:** Okay, my question though is,  
 8 is this going to have a financial impact on the  
 9 landowner? I mean --  
 10 **MR. PITZER:** On my particular?  
 11 **MS. TURNER:** No, on the person who owns  
 12 the land that the windmill is going on.  
 13 **MR. PITZER:** Absolutely will.  
 14 **MS. TURNER:** Okay, thank you.  
 15 **MR. PITZER:** Absolutely will, and it will  
 16 raise the value of that property for resale.  
 17 **MS. TURNER:** Right.  
 18 **MR. PITZER:** Yes, of course.  
 19 **MS. TURNER:** Thank you.  
 20 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay, do you have a  
 21 question from the applicant?  
 22 **MR. GRIFFIN:** We do not.  
 23 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Anyone in the audience  
 24 have questions for this witness? Come forward.

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1       **MS. WINTERLAND:** Amy Winterland. So you  
 2 weren't really speaking to this, but I'm curious.  
 3 So you've said that this has been in your family for  
 4 130 years. Are you aware of any Indian or other  
 5 archeological artifacts that have been found in that  
 6 land?  
 7       **MR. PITZER:** Yes. There was a Delaware  
 8 Indian village just about, well, a half a mile down  
 9 the road on my land. They have come out and done  
 10 archeological studies and surveys because they were  
 11 thinking of paving -- see, I live on a gravel road,  
 12 they were thinking of paving that road, and the  
 13 Illinois Archeological Society was part of the DOD  
 14 study on that. They came out, did a lot of digging  
 15 and whatnot along the road where they had the -- I  
 16 guess it was the easement for the road.  
 17       **MS. WINTERLAND:** So those studies would be  
 18 in the database, those that have actually occurred.  
 19       **MR. PITZER:** Yeah, it was the U of I. I  
 20 don't know what database it would be in, but yeah,  
 21 there was -- it is documented there is a Delaware  
 22 Indian village on my ground right down by where 2900  
 23 comes into 2100.  
 24       **MS. WINTERLAND:** Okay. I don't recall

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1 seeing that in the Invenergy study. Thanks.  
 2       **MR. PITZER:** It's a pretty nice piece of  
 3 real estate, it really is, and it's -- as I said,  
 4 wildlife is everywhere out there.  
 5       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any other questions?  
 6 I think you're off the hook. Push the button. I  
 7 think we're going to maybe take a break for about  
 8 ten minutes.  
 9       (Recess at 7:44 p.m. to 7:58 p.m.)  
 10       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** We're going to come  
 11 back to order. I think we've got everybody back.  
 12 We're going to go home at ten o'clock tonight no  
 13 matter what.  
 14       **MR. DICK:** Glenn Schwass.  
 15       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 16 sworn in or --  
 17       **MR. SCHWASS:** Sure.  
 18       (Mr. Glenn Schwass was duly sworn.)  
 19       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
 20 name and address --  
 21       **MR. SCHWASS:** Yes.  
 22       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** -- and spell your last  
 23 name?  
 24       **MR. SCHWASS:** So for the record, it's

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1 Glenn Schwass, S-C-H-W-A-S-S, 2241 North Wilder  
 2 Avenue, Decatur, Illinois, 62526. And again, I am  
 3 speaking on behalf of and in conjunction with the  
 4 property owner of 27709 North 2550 East Road,  
 5 Lexington, Illinois. It is referred to as the Metz  
 6 property.  
 7       **MR. GRIFFIN:** Can I clarify? Is Mr.  
 8 Schwass an attorney here representing somebody?  
 9       **MR. SCHWASS:** No, sir, I'm not.  
 10       **MR. GRIFFIN:** Does the board allow for  
 11 nonattorneys to represent other individuals?  
 12       **MR. SCHWASS:** I'm not representing. I'm  
 13 speaking on behalf of.  
 14       **MS. WALLEY:** I think Mr. Griffin's  
 15 question is Ms. Metz has already testified, so I  
 16 think that's where his confusion lies, is how you  
 17 represent Ms. Metz if she's already testified?  
 18       **MR. SCHWASS:** How do I represent her?  
 19       **MS. WALLEY:** Yes.  
 20       **MR. SCHWASS:** As a concerned party and of  
 21 interest between the two of us.  
 22       **MS. WALLEY:** Okay, so it's not legal  
 23 representation.  
 24       **MR. SCHWASS:** No.

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1       **MS. WALLEY:** You are simply testifying in  
 2 support of.  
 3       **MR. SCHWASS:** Yes, ma'am, in total support  
 4 of.  
 5       **MS. WALLEY:** Does that help?  
 6       **MR. GRIFFIN:** Well, I don't know if that's  
 7 sufficient standing, I don't believe it is, but I'm  
 8 not going -- you know, that will be up to your  
 9 discretion.  
 10       **MS. WALLEY:** Well, I don't think Mr.  
 11 Schwass is -- like I said, I don't believe it's  
 12 legal representation, but he certainly will be  
 13 subject to cross-examination.  
 14       **MR. SCHWASS:** I'm very receptive to that,  
 15 thank you very much. So I guess I'll state and I  
 16 had my -- my preparation has all changed since  
 17 listening to additional comments and questions and  
 18 opinions and such, so if I get a little off base, I  
 19 apologize, I've had several notes that have changed.  
 20 And that is that my following are opinions and they  
 21 have been formed because of these hearings along  
 22 with the research that I have been privy to over the  
 23 last eight days.  
 24       So with that said, like I said, I would

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1 like to thank you for your time in conducting these  
 2 hearings and allowing us, the public, to express our  
 3 support and/or concerns for such proposed wind farm.  
 4 We have heard a lot of people with some impressive  
 5 qualifications and valid points of which I respect.  
 6 I am referring to the following, not to draw  
 7 attention to one's self, but to remind this board we  
 8 are the people -- referencing the following, not to  
 9 draw attention to one's self, but remind the board  
 10 we are the people just as qualified and feel like we  
 11 have more in tune with the people of the community  
 12 and the leaders and the residents within and around  
 13 the proposed site, and that is is that a wind farm  
 14 is not something they like or want.  
 15 We have heard from Invenergy that this  
 16 is -- I think from all of their proposals and topics  
 17 and discussions, I think it's been nothing more than  
 18 a sales pitch, and I think that's also been referred  
 19 to as well throughout this meeting. They have  
 20 presented a lot of information, yet very little of  
 21 it has been negative. I think there were only two  
 22 topics of negative impact. Research also shows, and  
 23 I want to remind people, that there are several  
 24 lawsuits pending and also must be considered.

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1 We are just normal citizens and really  
 2 haven't known the impact of a wind farm other than,  
 3 like what Ms. Metz testified, a couple weeks ago  
 4 when the notice came in the mail and it was quite  
 5 devastating to us when we seen it given the  
 6 situation that we are in. We are not activists. We  
 7 do not want to bring any negative attention to any  
 8 one issue or concern. However, I'll say when one is  
 9 passionate about a topic and/or concern, it is our  
 10 right to voice our thoughts and opinions. We form  
 11 our own opinions and facts whether they come from  
 12 the labor, whether they come from Invenergy, whether  
 13 they come from the community, whether they come from  
 14 the board, and whether they come from those that are  
 15 against or for such a proposal.  
 16 This has been an interesting experience, I  
 17 have learned a lot in the last eight days, and given  
 18 the same time frame that Invenergy has had on this  
 19 project, rest assured my facts would be researched  
 20 in more detail and they would not be smoke and  
 21 mirrors like we have heard.  
 22 Our concerns with this proposed wind farm  
 23 are valid and I believe there have been many issues  
 24 presented over the hearings dates that support

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1 damaging effects of such a project. The only  
 2 positive effects are giant financial gains to a few.  
 3 Positive effects that I've noted are three. The  
 4 landowners and the rewards that they will receive,  
 5 but I think it's also been testified here as how  
 6 many of those really live on that land that they are  
 7 selling these towers to.  
 8 The school districts, we talked about a  
 9 positive effect, and I would say, however, are they?  
 10 We have heard from the retired superintendent in his  
 11 testimony that basically justified less than 1  
 12 percent of the district's budget is affected by the  
 13 impact of the gains from such a tower. And I  
 14 also -- we've also heard about how this is a  
 15 positive impact for the schools. I need also  
 16 remind, I think there's been testimony that a dollar  
 17 in is a dollar out, and it's time to hold the  
 18 politicians of this state accountable. They're  
 19 going to get money from this project. They're going  
 20 to use -- they're going to receive money that's  
 21 pulled out of this project. What is the net gain?  
 22 It's like a funnel. It's going in and it's coming  
 23 out. You can't be robbing Peter to pay Paul  
 24 forever. And then the Invenergy profits and how

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1 they will be profitted, and I'll refer a little bit  
 2 to that later.  
 3 Negative effects have been eight, eight in  
 4 total that I've noted: health issues, environmental  
 5 issues, wildlife impact, decreased land value, noise  
 6 issues, loss of decision making process as a county  
 7 board due to the gotcha contracts that were drafted  
 8 by Invenergy and will tie McLean County's hands in  
 9 the future. I think that's also been noted in here.  
 10 Unknown long-term effects and reduction in quality  
 11 of life.  
 12 The residents in and around the proposed  
 13 sites are but a small piece of the overall process.  
 14 Yet, we are the ones who will live with the decision  
 15 over time for the life of the project. The owner  
 16 Invenergy comes in with all the experts and their  
 17 PowerPoint presentations and paints this glamorous  
 18 picture of how great this is. Yet, all the experts  
 19 stand to gain financially. Once the project is  
 20 complete, they move on to the next small town or  
 21 prey.  
 22 In the hours of testimony, only one  
 23 Invenergy expert witness mentioned two negative  
 24 effects. They were, one, the negative effect on the

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1 school after 30 years, of which none of us will  
 2 probably be a part of, and two, a short-term impact  
 3 on property owners during the initial stage of the  
 4 phase, and I would really question that and don't  
 5 think that's going to be a valid interest.  
 6       Yet, after the references, it was  
 7 immediately followed by Invenergy's legal counsel  
 8 that they can install new turbines and raise tax  
 9 revenues if something should happen. I would say  
 10 that that won't happen and none of us again will be  
 11 here in the next 15 or 20 years to experience that.  
 12 We'll be on to something else.  
 13       Point number one. Expert evidence was  
 14 presented on land values and I can't argue -- I  
 15 cannot argue with the qualifications of this expert.  
 16 However, I ask that none of MaRous and Company's  
 17 presentation be taken into consideration.  
 18 Information was dated, as was noted by somebody else  
 19 before me, facts were skewed, and it appears that a  
 20 single -- not a single point came from within the  
 21 proposed site nor did the research contact a single  
 22 professional in the field of real estate within the  
 23 proposed site.  
 24       We talked a little bit about property

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1 owners and how they won't be affected, and as it was  
 2 stated by Ms. Metz, the property is up for sale.  
 3 There was a comment made for wind farms earlier. I  
 4 would extend my time at this point, if the gentleman  
 5 is interested, we have five acres with trees, a  
 6 wooded site, contract to be drafted tomorrow.  
 7       Proposed site. Support of this comes from  
 8 Invenergy's own witness testimonies on economic  
 9 impacts. Two days later, I think it was the  
 10 following Thursday, landowners do, in fact,  
 11 experience decreased land values within the duration  
 12 of the project. If Invenergy is so positive land  
 13 values will not be impacted, then they should have  
 14 no objection to buying the property from owners with  
 15 such concerns. MaRous and Company's information is  
 16 misleading and only stands to gain by supporting  
 17 Invenergy's interests and not the communities.  
 18       Point number two. Evidence and facts were  
 19 also presented on noise residual effects of wind  
 20 turbines. Again, only positive findings were  
 21 presented. Yet, when challenged as to why none  
 22 of the long-term effects the state of Wisconsin  
 23 experienced, did they want to answer that question  
 24 and skated the question and tried to move onto

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1 something else. And I have since learned after  
 2 drafting my closing statement, it is that other  
 3 states have legal actions and there are studies and  
 4 impacts as well. Again, I don't -- it's my opinion,  
 5 it's information that I received, it's something I  
 6 haven't researched yet myself. Again, I've only had  
 7 eight days to get involved in this.  
 8       There are some potential serious health  
 9 issues that are unknown that need to be known, and  
 10 that only can come back to you, the volunteers, the  
 11 community, the trustees and the citizens of McLean  
 12 County in time. Once again, one good question is  
 13 Invenergy's stake in this, and I'm sure they'll go  
 14 back to a contractual agreement of limited liability  
 15 and represent the facts as they were known at the  
 16 time.  
 17       Point number three. Environmental witness  
 18 I found to be most discreditable. The studies and  
 19 facts were vague. They claim to be environmentally  
 20 friendly, yet they only present information  
 21 supporting minimum requirements. We've heard a lot  
 22 about that tonight. This I -- this is all just  
 23 smoke and mirrors. You know, I've heard a little  
 24 bit more about some of the testimony of eagles

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1 coming back. That wasn't studied. Yet, we don't  
 2 know what is going to be the impact there.  
 3       Point number four. Economic impact,  
 4 although positive, will only be for a chosen few  
 5 short-term. No real long-term job development,  
 6 short-term impact, it's short-term impact. And when  
 7 you break it all down, the real numbers, the net  
 8 gain, as we've already referred to when we talk  
 9 about these big millions of dollars, and that one  
 10 question comes back to it's less than 1 percent of  
 11 that school district's budget.  
 12       I want to quote in the bylaws of McLean  
 13 County zoning ordinance, quote, the purpose of  
 14 special use will not be detrimental to or endanger  
 15 the health, safety, morals, comfort or welfare of  
 16 the public. I believe all four of the hearings that  
 17 I've been to have impacted or we've heard something  
 18 about the health and safety, morals, the comfort and  
 19 the welfare of the public. I'm going to skip to  
 20 another issue.  
 21       There was another meeting in Lexington  
 22 County I think I found where they, and I quote, with  
 23 the passage of time, experience and education, we  
 24 now know that these items are extremely harmful. At

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1 one time, lead was something that was good, asbestos  
 2 was good, smoking was preferred, and now Apple is  
 3 looking into the effects of the impact of long-term  
 4 cell phone use on youths. Again, what is the  
 5 long-term impact of these cell towers?  
 6 In closing, McLean County is a fertile  
 7 ground, it's got a lot of land, a lot of high value  
 8 land, it's looked upon as a very progressive town,  
 9 and do you want those towers up and running around  
 10 around you? And I think you as a board need to  
 11 reconsider that. I think there's been some very  
 12 valid points from a lot of people here, I think they  
 13 have some good points both for and against, but in  
 14 the long run, it's a long-term effect that's going  
 15 to affect property owners, period. That's all.  
 16 Thank you for your time. I didn't get to  
 17 all my statements, but I'm sure I would welcome  
 18 another minute, but --  
 19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Questions from the  
 20 board?  
 21 **MS. TURNER:** Do you own any property in  
 22 the affected area?  
 23 **MR. SCHWASS:** No, ma'am, I do not.  
 24 **MS. TURNER:** I have no other questions.

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1 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Turn the mic off over  
 2 there, would you? Questions from staff?  
 3 **MR. DICK:** No.  
 4 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Applicant have  
 5 questions?  
 6 **MR. GRIFFIN:** I'm Jim Griffin, attorney  
 7 for the applicant.  
 8 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 9 **MR. GRIFFIN:**  
 10 Q. Mr. Schwass, you just testified that the  
 11 increased tax dollars that the school districts  
 12 would receive as a result of the project is robbing  
 13 Peter to pay Paul. I don't understand that. Can  
 14 you explain who Peter and who Paul is in your  
 15 example?  
 16 **A. Well, the school district.**  
 17 Q. Who are they robbing?  
 18 **A. So my understanding -- robbing, I guess**  
 19 **it's just more of an analogy, and I think I also**  
 20 **used the analogy of a funnel, funnel in, funnel out.**  
 21 **Again, the school districts from the way I**  
 22 **understand how school is funded, and I'm not an**  
 23 **expert on this, again this is my opinion on this,**  
 24 **this is not my expert opinion and I do not -- it's**

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1 **been some time since I was on a school board, but**  
 2 **when you get funding from a new source, those -- the**  
 3 **funding gets reevaluated, it's going to catch up, I**  
 4 **believe it was in year three and four, it's going to**  
 5 **catch up, and then the state funding is lessened**  
 6 **based on the increase of that funding they receive**  
 7 **on that new taxing body.**  
 8 Q. So if you were on a school board, your  
 9 goal would be to reduce property values as much as  
 10 possible in your community to maximize the state  
 11 aid?  
 12 **A. No, when I was on the school board, my**  
 13 **interest was 1100 kids, period.**  
 14 Q. But you're --  
 15 **A. Their education and --**  
 16 Q. You understand what your testimony is, is  
 17 your testimony -- the logical conclusion of that is  
 18 the goal of the school district should be to  
 19 minimize the value of the property in their district  
 20 as much as possible. Do you understand that?  
 21 **A. I think they need to keep the value at**  
 22 **reasonable levels and have a certain responsibility**  
 23 **to be fiscally responsible.**  
 24 Q. Do you think it's better for a school

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1 district to be able to fund through its own tax  
 2 revenue or to be heavily reliant on state aid from  
 3 the State of Illinois?  
 4 **A. Well, the way the state is, they're going**  
 5 **to be relying on the state no matter what, so until**  
 6 **the state cleans up the way they fund schools, I**  
 7 **think they have to be reliable on both.**  
 8 Q. Okay, so you're saying that you don't  
 9 think there's -- you would not suggest that it's  
 10 better for a school district to be self-reliant than  
 11 reliant on state aid?  
 12 **A. Well, again, it's been several years since**  
 13 **I've been on the board, but I would caution and be**  
 14 **cautious that -- and I'll cite, look at the**  
 15 **Maroa-Forsythe schools. Maroa-Forsythe schools**  
 16 **received a tremendous amount of tax revenues from**  
 17 **the Hickory Point Mall. It's caught up to them,**  
 18 **sir. They don't know where to get their money now,**  
 19 **so they weren't fiscally responsible. So again, I'm**  
 20 **going to go back to the school board and district,**  
 21 **much like county officials, have to be accountable**  
 22 **and responsible for the funding and where it all**  
 23 **comes from.**  
 24 Q. And I don't think you answered my question

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1 though, sir. Do you think it's better for a school  
 2 district to be reliant on its own tax revenues or  
 3 reliant on the State of Illinois?  
 4 **A. I can't answer that question.**  
 5 Q. Okay.  
 6 **A. Like I say, it's been too far since I've**  
 7 **been out, I can't answer that question.**  
 8 Q. All right, you mentioned in your testimony  
 9 gotcha contracts drafted by Invenergy. Are you  
 10 referring to the contract between Invenergy and the  
 11 participating landowners?  
 12 **A. No, I have no idea what those are on, but**  
 13 **I'm guessing that a lot of the contract is foreign**  
 14 **language, and again it's my phrase, it's my**  
 15 **terminology of it, that it's probably just a draft,**  
 16 **it's cookie cutter for all these projects and that**  
 17 **certain language is probably just inserted in.**  
 18 Q. So what's gotcha?  
 19 **A. The gotcha --**  
 20 Q. Why is it a gotcha contract?  
 21 **A. Well, how is it beneficial to somebody**  
 22 **long-term of things we don't know? So again,**  
 23 **without reading -- I'm not a lawyer, sir, so I don't**  
 24 **know, I would refer to some legal counsel if that**

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1 **was the case.**  
 2 Q. But do you think that participating owners  
 3 read the contract before they signed it with  
 4 Invenergy?  
 5 **A. You know, I'll re -- I can't speak for the**  
 6 **owners, but if it's like most contracts, and I would**  
 7 **question then probably 90 percent of all the people**  
 8 **in here, does everybody read all the language in all**  
 9 **of them.**  
 10 Q. Do you know that the form contract is  
 11 right here in this application --  
 12 **A. No, sir.**  
 13 Q. -- for everyone to read?  
 14 **A. No, sir. Again, I've had eight days,**  
 15 **eight days.**  
 16 Q. You also testified that we will live with  
 17 this project, but you will not live with this  
 18 project because you don't live in the county.  
 19 **A. I very well could be. If we can build a**  
 20 **place, then I can sell mine and I can commute from**  
 21 **wherever.**  
 22 Q. You also critiqued the property value  
 23 impact study by Mr. MaRous. You criticized him for  
 24 not having looked at values in the project area,

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1 correct?  
 2 **A. You know, I -- I didn't criticize him, I**  
 3 **stated that, and I'll state also that I am not -- he**  
 4 **went through that very fast. And again, in the**  
 5 **short time that we've had to look at this and the**  
 6 **time -- if I had the time to look at this, like two**  
 7 **years like you have, I would have read that, but I**  
 8 **am -- I am pretty sure that he did not talk to any**  
 9 **real estate professionals within the area.**  
 10 **Now, how he looked at the appraisals and**  
 11 **the values of all that, I don't think that -- I**  
 12 **think we had some testimony earlier about that, and**  
 13 **it was pretty vague as to the properties that were**  
 14 **looked at in and around the area, so I would say**  
 15 **that I -- I don't know what he did on that.**  
 16 Q. All right, but you understand that Mr.  
 17 MaRous was looking to identify whether or not there  
 18 were impacts on property values in areas that  
 19 already had wind turbines. You understand that part  
 20 of his report?  
 21 **A. I -- I don't understand it because I**  
 22 **haven't read it, but I --**  
 23 Q. Let's assume --  
 24 **A. -- very easily could.**

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1 Q. Let's assume that's true.  
 2 **A. Okay.**  
 3 Q. If that is true, then you could see why he  
 4 would not interview and look at property in an area  
 5 that doesn't have wind farms?  
 6 **A. I think he would have -- I don't know why**  
 7 **he wouldn't want to look at areas that are going to**  
 8 **be impacted by a wind farm.**  
 9 Q. But you can understand that if you're  
 10 looking to review what the impacts have been on  
 11 communities that have wind farms, that you would  
 12 look at those communities and not communities that  
 13 don't have wind farms.  
 14 **A. I'm not sure I'm understanding the**  
 15 **question totally, but I'll answer it like this, and**  
 16 **that is I think again there was some testimony that**  
 17 **some of the areas that were discussed weren't as**  
 18 **similar to what he's looking at now.**  
 19 Q. And you're not an appraiser?  
 20 **A. No, sir, I rely on a realtor to tell us**  
 21 **that.**  
 22 **MR. GRIFFIN:** No further questions. Thank  
 23 you.  
 24 **MR. SCHWASS:** Thank you.

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1       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would anyone in the  
 2 audience have questions of this witness? I think  
 3 you're okay.  
 4       **MR. SCHWASS:** Excellent.  
 5       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Push that little  
 6 button there.  
 7       **MR. SCHWASS:** Thank you for your time.  
 8       **MR. DICK:** David Hill.  
 9       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 10 sworn in?  
 11       **MR. HILL:** Absolutely.  
 12       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Pardon me?  
 13       **MR. HILL:** Absolutely.  
 14       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay.  
 15       (Mr. David Hill was duly sworn.)  
 16       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** State your name and  
 17 address. I think we can get your last name.  
 18       **MR. HILL:** David Hill, 29725 East 2100  
 19 North Road. It's a Colfax address. I think we all  
 20 recognize or I hope we all recognize that our  
 21 dependency on fossil fuel is not the best future for  
 22 this country and that we need to develop alternative  
 23 energy sources. And I think if you look at -- if  
 24 you stepped into the building from outside today,

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1 there's an abundance of wind here, so it makes sense  
 2 in a lot of ways for us to have this kind of a  
 3 project. And so I've got mixed feelings on this. I  
 4 see that we need this kind of activity, but I have  
 5 concerns about the way this one is progressing.  
 6       We've heard the term that this thing -- or  
 7 I have heard the term around here, I've talked to  
 8 people, this seems like it's being railroaded in a  
 9 short time frame, it's one-sided input. I realize  
 10 that they might be a little biased, but is there a  
 11 balanced input being received by the board or has it  
 12 just been a sales pitch from the applicant? And  
 13 I'll try to give a couple of examples to that.  
 14       The wildlife studies, the biological  
 15 impacts. There's a big focus on mortality and  
 16 that's good, but that's not the whole picture. I  
 17 happen to be a neighbor to Jim Pitzer who talked  
 18 about the pristine setting where he lives and I  
 19 would echo that, and it's great to wake up in the  
 20 morning and see the deer crossing your driveway and  
 21 see the fox running through and hear the wild  
 22 turkeys. Is it going to kill them, the noise and  
 23 vibration? Maybe not, but is it going to chase them  
 24 away? Is it going to affect their breeding? Is it

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1 going to affect their activities? I don't really  
 2 feel those questions have been adequately addressed  
 3 or answered by the applicant.  
 4       I will also question the real estate  
 5 study. The area that was addressed in that study is  
 6 not really that similar to the area where this  
 7 project is planned to be located. Along the  
 8 Mackinaw River, you have a much different atmosphere  
 9 and the property -- I happen to be a good friend  
 10 with a realtor who has been in McLean County for 35  
 11 years, and she's quite successful and knows her job  
 12 pretty well. I was talking with her and I said,  
 13 well, the results of this study say that there's not  
 14 really a significant impact on the real estate  
 15 values, and she burst out laughing. She said that's  
 16 absurd. And she pointed out a couple of ways that  
 17 this just didn't work.  
 18       Along that stretch of the Mackinaw and the  
 19 Henline and through that wooded area, there are some  
 20 properties that are just residences well over half a  
 21 million dollars in value, and if you think  
 22 somebody's going to drive up to purchase that and  
 23 look out and see nothing but wind turbines in front  
 24 of them and go, oh, yeah, I love that, I don't think

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1 that's a realistic outlook. It is going to impact.  
 2 In fact, her statement was it will impact the values  
 3 drastically, hundreds of thousands of dollars  
 4 drastically. That is a real issue and there are  
 5 people here that are going to be really negatively  
 6 impacted by that.  
 7       I had -- when I worked in business, I  
 8 had -- I knew a department head that when he was  
 9 planning his annual budget he might need \$8 million,  
 10 but he would ask for 10.5, and his thinking was,  
 11 well, if I get it, it's gravy, and if I don't, they  
 12 cut it, I can still probably be okay because I  
 13 really only need 8.  
 14       And I feel like maybe I'm detecting a  
 15 little bit of this strategy in the application that  
 16 we've heard about. We could -- we could do it with  
 17 500 feet setback from the creek, but let's ask for  
 18 300 and tell them we don't really need to do that.  
 19 Let's say we only need to be 1500 feet away from a  
 20 residence. We can do 2500, but let's ask for 15.  
 21 That's the feeling in the back of my head as I hear  
 22 some of these figures thrown out. 1500 feet  
 23 distance to a residence in my mind is very close.  
 24 The noise and the vibration may not be intolerable,

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1 but it might be very annoying.  
 2 And I think that the answer to whether or  
 3 not we should have this project perhaps is yes, but  
 4 I don't want us to sell out just to get it and have  
 5 people punished for decades to come because we  
 6 didn't exercise the correct restraints, constraints  
 7 on this project, that we didn't demand that they  
 8 meet us halfway. We need to be reasonable with an  
 9 employer coming into the county, absolutely, but  
 10 that works both ways. How in the world could we not  
 11 say that the IDNR recommendations are worthy?  
 12 That's the group designated to protect us and help  
 13 us reach the right decision. How in the world could  
 14 we say, oh, you don't need to do those things? I'm  
 15 flabbergasted by that.  
 16 I guess my question to you is do we have a  
 17 true balanced picture of what the impacts are going  
 18 to be, and of course you guys have to decide that,  
 19 but I'm not sure that it has been. We do need wind  
 20 energy, but we also need to protect our citizens and  
 21 we need to be aware that a negative impact on them  
 22 can be really a lasting negative.  
 23 I was, I'll use the word, amused, I was  
 24 amused by all the people coming up that are really

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1 gung-ho about the project, but they're going to get  
 2 a couple of years of benefit and then they're gone  
 3 and it doesn't bother them, whereas the people  
 4 living there are affected for decades, and it's  
 5 really easy to say, yeah, let's build them like  
 6 rabbits. Well, sir, do you live there? Oh, no, it  
 7 won't bother me any.  
 8 I don't know if it will bother you, but I  
 9 happen to live on that -- in that territory and I  
 10 have the concerns. I'm not against the project. I  
 11 just think that it needs to be moving forward with  
 12 deliberation. Thank you.  
 13 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Questions from the  
 14 board?  
 15 **MS. TURNER:** Do you have any friends or  
 16 have you talked with anyone who lives close to the  
 17 other wind farms that we have up?  
 18 **MR. HILL:** I don't have friends that live  
 19 there. I have driven down in that area.  
 20 **MS. TURNER:** Okay, so you don't know how  
 21 their feelings are about them now or anything like  
 22 that?  
 23 **MR. HILL:** No.  
 24 **MS. TURNER:** Okay.

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1 **MR. HILL:** I won't pretend I do.  
 2 **MS. TURNER:** Did you ask your friend to  
 3 come forward, your real estate friend to come  
 4 forward with some examples of how the real estate  
 5 could be impacted or how she has seen it impacted?  
 6 **MR. HILL:** She has worked, she's worked  
 7 throughout the county, so the Carlock farm and  
 8 the -- I forget the -- the name of the other one  
 9 escapes me down on Route 9. She is familiar with  
 10 the property there, but I haven't -- I didn't ask  
 11 her for specific values. I just --  
 12 **MS. TURNER:** You didn't ask her to come  
 13 forward with any of that information?  
 14 **MR. HILL:** I didn't feel like I should do  
 15 that. I feel like frankly that part of your job  
 16 should be to try to seek information to find out if  
 17 you're getting a complete picture. And if I could  
 18 help with that, I can -- I can ask her to do that,  
 19 but I haven't, no.  
 20 **MS. TURNER:** Okay. Are you aware that we  
 21 have to base our decision based upon the information  
 22 that we find out here and that we have in our, in  
 23 our -- we don't do any --  
 24 **MR. HILL:** So is my understanding that's

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1 your only source? You're not allowed, you're not  
 2 allowed to research or --  
 3 **MS. TURNER:** Correct.  
 4 **MR. HILL:** Okay, no, I didn't know that.  
 5 **MS. TURNER:** Everything that we base our  
 6 opinion on has to have been heard in public.  
 7 **MR. HILL:** So my question back to you then  
 8 is how would we then -- we would need to get a  
 9 realtor, a local realtor to come forward and say --  
 10 **MS. TURNER:** (Nods head).  
 11 **MR. HILL:** Okay, okay. No, I wasn't aware  
 12 that that's how it worked.  
 13 **MS. TURNER:** Okay, all right. Thank you.  
 14 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** And to add to that, if we  
 15 feel that there's a major gap in information, the  
 16 board has the -- on its own volition can ask experts  
 17 to come should we feel there's a major gap in a  
 18 particular area if we don't flush it out in another  
 19 way.  
 20 **MR. HILL:** Okay. Well, that's --  
 21 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** So if we feel there's a  
 22 huge gap, we'll go get an expert.  
 23 **MR. HILL:** I'm glad to hear that. Thank  
 24 you for sharing that.

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1           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Do you live in the  
 2 area?  
 3           **MR. HILL:** Oh, yes.  
 4           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** And how many wind  
 5 towers around your property?  
 6           **MR. HILL:** Well, I'm right next to Mr.  
 7 Pitzer if you remember his testimony. There was one  
 8 that was scheduled to be practically across the  
 9 street from me. And as far as the ones, other ones  
 10 nearby, I have not measured that, but I'm right next  
 11 door to him. It's the view of, you know, yeah,  
 12 we're going to look out and see some. I don't have  
 13 the specific locations, but I could get them, but I  
 14 don't have them right now.  
 15           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Do you have property  
 16 that you could have put wind farm wind towers on?  
 17           **MR. HILL:** No, I have -- it's a residence  
 18 only, it's about 12 acres, it's just about all  
 19 wooded, very similar to what he was describing.  
 20           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Do the woods help you  
 21 a little bit?  
 22           **MR. HILL:** Would the woods help? No,  
 23 because the woods are kind of mostly behind me and  
 24 around me, and the towers, the turbines are going to

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1 be kind of out in front.  
 2           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay. Any questions  
 3 from staff?  
 4           **MR. DICK:** No.  
 5           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Will the applicant  
 6 have questions?  
 7           **MR. GRIFFIN:** No, thank you.  
 8           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Anyone in the audience  
 9 have questions for this witness?  
 10           **MS. WINTERLAND:** Just one question.  
 11           **MR. HILL:** Make it an easy question.  
 12           **MS. WINTERLAND:** Amy Winterland. One  
 13 quick question. Were you aware that there are 450  
 14 residents impacted as nonparticipating residents  
 15 within this project footprint?  
 16           **MR. HILL:** Yes, and I think one of my main  
 17 concerns is the nonparticipating people who their  
 18 benefit is peripheral as opposed to participating  
 19 people who are getting money directly to them. I  
 20 think those people need to be a major concern of the  
 21 process, that those are the people that sort of lack  
 22 control.  
 23           **MS. WINTERLAND:** Were you aware that  
 24 there's 50, I believe, that are participating

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1 residents out of the -- 450 that are  
 2 nonparticipating and approximately 50 that are  
 3 participating?  
 4           **MR. HILL:** I was sort of aware of that,  
 5 yeah.  
 6           **MS. WINTERLAND:** Okay, no further  
 7 questions.  
 8           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Anyone else have  
 9 questions? I think you're okay.  
 10           **MR. HILL:** Thank you, all of you, for your  
 11 efforts. Thank you.  
 12           **MR. DICK:** Jack Cotter.  
 13           **MS. COTTER:** He's not here.  
 14           **MR. DICK:** Ronny Paul.  
 15           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Like to be sworn in?  
 16           **MR. PAUL:** Yes.  
 17 (Mr. Ronny Paul was duly sworn.)  
 18           **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** State your name and  
 19 address and spell your last name.  
 20           **MR. PAUL:** Name is Ronny Paul, P-A-U-L.  
 21 Address is 2012 Fox Creek Road, Bloomington. All  
 22 right, first thing, I want to thank everybody for  
 23 being here and giving us the opportunity to come and  
 24 speak. I think it's definitely educational, learned

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1 a lot from coming to these. Of course, I've got  
 2 some things written down like everybody else, but  
 3 first I want to address a couple of comments we  
 4 heard tonight.  
 5           You know, we -- for hours and hours and  
 6 hours we heard about testimony about aquatic life,  
 7 and frankly I was back there kind of scratching my  
 8 head wondering what this was all about. And I think  
 9 the gentleman, Mr. Pitzer or Fitzer or whatever, I  
 10 think he really cleared it up and gave me a good  
 11 understanding of kind of what he was talking about.  
 12 And I can appreciate and understand where he's  
 13 coming from and I thank him for that because  
 14 originally I was sitting here thinking that we're  
 15 getting ready to axe a \$300 million project over  
 16 minnows and mud puppies, and I was kind of  
 17 scratching my head thinking that, well, that didn't  
 18 make too much sense for a county.  
 19           Also the lady who's concerned with her  
 20 property values, she's been there 12 years,  
 21 definitely feel where she's coming from. You know,  
 22 we get a lot of people up here talking about jobs  
 23 and what it does for our members and how it's going  
 24 to affect our lives and everything like that. Well,

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1 tonight I was sitting back there listening to her up  
 2 here and it's emotional, like she said, it's  
 3 powerful, her testimony tonight was powerful.  
 4 And like Eric Penn had said up here, you  
 5 know, these last wind farms we logged 140,000 man  
 6 hours, \$4 million in wages for our members. I'm not  
 7 the business manager of our local, I'm a field rep,  
 8 but I've heard stories from our business manager,  
 9 other business managers about members coming in and,  
 10 you know, he's a shoulder to cry on when there's no  
 11 work and they're in his office doing exactly what  
 12 she was up here doing to you tonight, so I can  
 13 understand and appreciate where she's coming from.  
 14 I'm not up here tonight to tell you that  
 15 I'm right and these people are wrong. You know, I  
 16 don't -- I'm not saying either one of us is wrong.  
 17 But there is a definite neglect in funding of our  
 18 schools and in particular our rural schools that  
 19 don't have the tax revenue that's needed to sustain  
 20 their doors being open.  
 21 Like I said, I'm a field rep, Laborers  
 22 Local 362, I've been there 18 years, a proud member.  
 23 As a field rep, I check on these local jobs, and I  
 24 want to tell you about the time I went to Gridley

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1 High School -- sorry, Gridley Junior High. Checked  
 2 on a project there, asked to use the restroom, went  
 3 to the boys locker room. Not a part of the project  
 4 mind you, this was not under construction. This was  
 5 the way it was. There was one dimly lit light bulb.  
 6 It smelled like mold and mildew. It was falling  
 7 apart. This is in a working functioning Gridley  
 8 Junior High School. Felt like I was in a third  
 9 world country and I was right here in McLean County.  
 10 So I know we can talk about 1 percent or  
 11 640,000 over four years, but the reality is that  
 12 would fix that locker room for 20, 30, 40 years to  
 13 come. That locker room hasn't been touched in 70  
 14 years. And if you can do that in a few years time  
 15 with this money, then you should. I walked out of  
 16 there and I was so glad my two boys didn't go to  
 17 that school. I can't tell you how glad I was that  
 18 they didn't have to go there. But the people in  
 19 Gridley, they don't have a choice. They have to go  
 20 there.  
 21 And, you know, the guy down in Springfield  
 22 and our state, you know, they're not funding it,  
 23 they're trying to privatize it. We're not getting  
 24 funding that we need. I understand where these

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1 people are coming from, believe me I do, but we also  
 2 have to do what's best for our schools. If we don't  
 3 educate our kids, where are we going to be? You  
 4 know, that's just, I don't know, my personal  
 5 opinion.  
 6 So let's say we get some of this money for  
 7 these schools and now our schools -- you know, not  
 8 only does the wind farm create jobs during  
 9 construction and jobs after construction, now it  
 10 creates projects for our local schools. Well, you  
 11 know what, those schools, they're going to hire our  
 12 local contractors who are going to hire our local  
 13 workers who are going to spend their money in our  
 14 local communities. You know, this is a cycle and it  
 15 all starts with this wind farm.  
 16 I'm not here to say anybody's right and  
 17 anybody's wrong, and I understand and appreciate  
 18 where all these people are coming from and I feel  
 19 for them. You guys have a tough decision to make,  
 20 but there's a lot of people counting on you to  
 21 support this wind and do what's right for McLean  
 22 County. Thank you.  
 23 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you. Any  
 24 questions from the board? Questions from staff?

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1 **MR. DICK:** No.  
 2 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Applicant?  
 3 **MR. GRIFFIN:** No.  
 4 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Anyone in the audience  
 5 have a question for this witness?  
 6 **MS. YOUNG:** I do.  
 7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Come forward.  
 8 **MS. YOUNG:** Does it matter?  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** You can take any one  
 10 with a chair.  
 11 **MS. YOUNG:** Abby Young, A-B-B-Y,  
 12 Y-O-U-N-G, common spelling, 27297 East 2250 North  
 13 Road, Lexington, Illinois.  
 14 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 15 **MS. YOUNG:**  
 16 Q. My first question is about the state of  
 17 the Gridley school. And are you aware of the  
 18 financial position of El Paso-Gridley district?  
 19 A. I am not.  
 20 Q. Okay. Are you aware of the information  
 21 that El Paso-Gridley School District has been given  
 22 about the money they will receive?  
 23 A. I am not. I think -- I mean I referenced  
 24 that in general, as in, you know, that's not the

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1 only school I've been in. I can honestly tell you  
 2 that was probably the worst school I was in, but no,  
 3 I don't know if that's a part of the project. I  
 4 know it's in a rural area and our rural schools are  
 5 hurting, and I don't think that -- I mean it's  
 6 affecting -- all this is affecting our schools. You  
 7 know, there's -- I don't know of one pristine rural  
 8 school out there, you know, they're closing left and  
 9 right, and I feel that this is a project that would  
 10 help them.  
 11 Q. I guess my next question would be are you  
 12 aware of the referendums that these districts --  
 13 A. I am not.  
 14 Q. -- have passed, including Lexington, to  
 15 continue to support their schools without seeking  
 16 out other monies?  
 17 A. No, I'm not aware of that. I'm not saying  
 18 they shouldn't do that. I think that's great. You  
 19 know, I mean I want them to do the best they can for  
 20 their schools or school districts, and whatever  
 21 referendum or whatever you're talking about that  
 22 they can pass that's going to create more money for  
 23 the schools, hey, I'm all for it, but I'm also  
 24 saying I don't think you should turn your back away

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1 from \$650,000. I mean I wouldn't.  
 2 Q. And the 450 people that live within the  
 3 confines of that school district that voted a  
 4 referendum, many of them to support their school  
 5 without doing anything else and have agreed to  
 6 raising the taxes that are not for the wind towers  
 7 should be -- you feel that they should be the ones  
 8 to have to support your job I guess?  
 9 A. Well, I'm not saying that they should  
 10 support my job, but I think as a county we need to  
 11 do what's best for the county. I mean there's more  
 12 than 450 people in the county, there's more people  
 13 that have a voice in this county, and I think that  
 14 if you're going to listen -- everybody should get a  
 15 voice. That's why we're here. I don't know where  
 16 450 people are that are voting against this, but I  
 17 haven't seen them here.  
 18 MS. YOUNG: That's it, thank you.  
 19 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: Push that button right  
 20 there, would you?  
 21 MS. YOUNG: Yes, sir.  
 22 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: Anyone else in the  
 23 audience have questions? Have one more.  
 24 MR. SCHWASS: Glenn Schwass,

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1 S-C-H-W-A-S-S.  
 2 QUESTIONS BY  
 3 MR. SCHWASS:  
 4 Q. I forget your first name.  
 5 A. Ronny.  
 6 Q. Ronny. What school district do you reside  
 7 in?  
 8 A. Do I reside? I reside in Williamsville  
 9 School District in Sherman, Illinois.  
 10 Q. Sherman, Illinois. So you're not part of  
 11 McLean County?  
 12 A. Let's see, I was a resident here for 38  
 13 years. I currently moved three years ago to  
 14 Springfield because my wife has a job in a hospital.  
 15 I still work here, I still own property here and I  
 16 still pay taxes here, but no, my kids don't go to  
 17 school here and I'm glad.  
 18 Q. Okay, so you made a comment, and I agree  
 19 with you, I think some of the funding has to be --  
 20 A. Right.  
 21 Q. -- accounted for, but -- so you think  
 22 McLean County should pull together and do what's  
 23 best for the schools. So in stating that then,  
 24 would it be best if McLean County pulled all the tax

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1 revenue from all school districts, pulled it and  
 2 then equally distributed it? Would that not be a  
 3 viability?  
 4 A. I mean I can tell you right now that I'm a  
 5 construction guy, I'm not a finance guy, so you're  
 6 asking me a finance question that I don't have an  
 7 answer to. Is that feasible? Is that possible? Is  
 8 that realistic? I don't know. I mean I don't --  
 9 you're asking me a question that I'm not equipped to  
 10 answer.  
 11 Q. So as a property owner then, and this will  
 12 be my last question, as a property owner, you're in  
 13 support of paying property taxes for the school  
 14 district, and I think it's been stated that the  
 15 Lexington School District passed a referendum to  
 16 increase the taxing body, so are we then, are we --  
 17 and they did that to fund their schools, but yet  
 18 there's going to be another source of revenue coming  
 19 in. So then do you think it would be a reasonable  
 20 request that they draw back that request for tax  
 21 funding?  
 22 A. So you're saying -- I understand what  
 23 you're saying, and I'm glad that Lexington is, you  
 24 know, doing what they can to support their schools.

1 You're asking me now that they've already done that  
2 and they're going to receive wind farm money, should  
3 they pull that back? I mean I don't -- I'm not a  
4 Lexington resident. I think they could vote on that  
5 if they like. I don't think that will happen. I am  
6 glad that they're seeking ways to fund their  
7 schools, I mean that's a big problem, and it's good  
8 that they are forward thinking and they're making an  
9 effort to do it.

10 But I'm also saying that I can't see --  
11 for me personally, my opinion, I'm not an expert,  
12 I'm not telling -- like I said, I'm not telling you  
13 you're right or I'm right and you're wrong. I'm not  
14 saying that. I'm giving you my opinion. My opinion  
15 is if they're going to create all these jobs, if  
16 they're going to supply all this tax money, then  
17 it's something that McLean County cannot ignore.

18 MR. SCHWASS: All right, thank you very  
19 much. That's all the questions I have.

20 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: Any other questions?  
21 Got one more here.

22 MR. HARTKE: About fell on the floor. How  
23 do I turn this on?

24 MR. PAUL: Button on the bottom right.

1 like that. It was hard to see. It was dark. So  
2 was I able to go to the bathroom and walk out of  
3 there healthy? At that time, yes. Does that mean  
4 that that is an environment that our kids should be  
5 put in to learn at a school where they have to go?  
6 My opinion, no.

7 Q. Okay. Do you know anything about my  
8 background?

9 A. Not at all.

10 Q. Okay.

11 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: This is just about  
12 questions.

13 MR. PAUL: That's what I thought.

14 Q. Okay. Do you think that when kids go home  
15 and they're in bed at night in their bed, do you  
16 think it's okay for a neighbor to make noise and  
17 wake that child up?

18 A. Let me give you a little bit about my  
19 background.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. I grew up on Bloomington's west side.

22 Q. Can you answer my question?

23 A. Do I think that that -- what did you ask  
24 me, do I think that happens?

1 MR. HARTKE: Good evening, my name is Ted  
2 Hartke, T-E-D, H-A-R-T-K-E. My address is 117 South  
3 East Avenue, Ogden, Illinois. That's the location  
4 of my employment.

5 QUESTIONS BY

6 MR. HARTKE:

7 Q. Sir, your name is Danny?

8 A. Ronny.

9 Q. Ronny. Nice to meet you, Ronny. When you  
10 used the restroom at the school, how long were you  
11 in there?

12 A. Long enough to see that it was dark and  
13 smelled like mild and moldew[sic].

14 Q. Do you think you were in there for more  
15 than 20 minutes?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Okay. Were you able to safely do what you  
18 needed to do?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Okay, so you could see enough and you  
21 didn't --

22 A. Well, I did not put an air sampler in  
23 there to see what kind of mildew or mold was  
24 floating around or anything on the walls or anything

1 Q. Do you think it's okay for a neighbor --

2 A. For 37 years I listened to neighbors,  
3 ambulances, gunshots, I mean that's --

4 Q. Okay.

5 MS. WALLEY: Mr. Hartke --

6 A. I don't know what you're getting at.

7 MS. WALLEY: Hold on just a moment, Mr.

8 Paul. Mr. Hartke, you have to limit your

9 cross-examination to what Mr. Paul testified to.

10 MR. HARTKE: Oh, well, he testified to  
11 being in a bathroom at a school --

12 MS. WALLEY: And I know you asked him  
13 questions about that, but you can't expound upon his  
14 testimony.

15 MR. HARTKE: Okay.

16 MS. WALLEY: Only what he previously  
17 testified to.

18 MR. HARTKE: Okay.

19 Q. Do you think that I owe you a job?

20 A. I never said you owed me a job.

21 Q. Okay. Do you think that I should give up  
22 the use of my home so that you can do a job for two  
23 years?

24 A. Nobody's asking anybody to give up the use

1 of a home.

2 Q. If a family is impacted by noise from wind  
3 turbines and they can't sleep in their home, is that  
4 fair to the individuals compared to the benefit of a  
5 worker that has a job for two years?

6 A. Let's see. I see what you're getting at.  
7 You know, you're asking me do you owe me a job. You  
8 know, I mean I came up here and I was pretty open  
9 and honest that I don't feel I'm right and anybody  
10 else is wrong. You know, I understand where these  
11 people are coming from. I feel like you are trying  
12 to back me in a corner with your questioning, and at  
13 that rate I would almost come back and say, well, I  
14 don't owe any of these people anything either.

15 Q. Okay, good.

16 A. But yet I still have compassion for them,  
17 I understand where they're coming from, and I feel  
18 their pain, but that doesn't -- that doesn't mean  
19 I'm right and they're wrong. And I think you are  
20 trying to pin me down with some of your questioning  
21 about how I grew -- how I feel about neighbors  
22 making noise and all that and it's -- it's nonsense.

23 Q. Okay, I have one more clarification that I  
24 was confused about that brought me up here to begin

1 people.

2 Q. Okay, I understand.

3 MR. HARTKE: Thank you for your questions  
4 or thank you for your answers and your patience with  
5 me too.

6 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: Push that button right  
7 there before you leave, thank you. Any other  
8 questions? Come forward.

9 MR. BYARS: Andy Byars, 708 Kingsley  
10 Street. Sir, are you aware this project will  
11 provide funding for the schools for 25 years?

12 MR. PAUL: Yes.

13 MR. BYARS: Are you aware this project  
14 will fund the schools without a tax gouge on the  
15 people of the area?

16 MR. PAUL: Yes.

17 MR. BYARS: Would you move to a school  
18 district that's hiking taxes but still cutting  
19 programs because their referendum didn't provide  
20 enough money?

21 MR. PAUL: No.

22 MR. BYARS: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: Anyone else for  
24 questions? I think you're off the hook. Push the

1 with. This will be my last two questions. When you  
2 took a seat up here, you mentioned Fox Drive?

3 A. Fox Creek. That is the address that I  
4 work, yes.

5 Q. Okay, and so --

6 A. I believe you gave the address that you  
7 work.

8 Q. That's correct.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. Okay, so when you sat down at first, you  
11 gave a Fox Creek --

12 A. 2012 Fox Creek Road, the labor hall.

13 Q. I understand now. And that's not where  
14 you live. You live in Springfield, Illinois?

15 A. I live in Sherman, 1055 Fountain Park  
16 Drive, Sherman, 62684.

17 Q. Okay, I'm not familiar with Sherman.  
18 Someone mentioned Springfield. Is that near  
19 Springfield?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay, now I understand. I was very  
22 confused. I thought that he gave a residential  
23 address at the beginning.

24 A. Sorry, business address like most other

1 button.

2 MR. PAUL: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: Run.

4 MR. DICK: Daniel Stewart. Daniel  
5 Stewart. Dan Whalen.

6 MR. WHALEN: Good evening, I'm Dan Whalen,  
7 W-H-A-L-E-N.

8 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: I need to swear you  
9 in.

10 MR. WHALEN: Oh, I'm sorry.  
11 (Mr. Dan Whalen was duly sworn.)

12 CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN: Okay, now state your  
13 name and address and spell your last name.

14 MR. WHALEN: Dan Whalen, W-H-A-L-E-N, 206  
15 Mays Drive, Bloomington, Illinois. I'm a McLean  
16 County resident, I'm 56 years old, lived in McLean  
17 County all my life except for from ages 18 to 36.  
18 Unfortunately I was never able to convince my wife  
19 to move into the country, so I'm stuck in the big  
20 city, but I certainly enjoy the rural nature of  
21 McLean County.

22 And through the history of McLean County,  
23 we've generally been an importer of electricity,  
24 typically from coal-fired and nuclear generation.

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1 As a geotechnical engineer employed with an  
 2 engineering firm headquartered in Springfield,  
 3 Illinois, I have spent a lot of time at coal-fired  
 4 power plants and I know firsthand what it takes to  
 5 turn coal into electricity, including dealing with  
 6 the coal combustion residuals. And I'm not here to  
 7 bash coal or nuclear power at all, but if we can be  
 8 making electricity with wind as the fuel, I think we  
 9 need to support that. And we need to support that  
 10 in a way that protects the environment, that  
 11 protects the rights of the citizens and property  
 12 owners. But to see McLean County where I grew up  
 13 and where I live turn into an exporter of energy  
 14 from electricity from renewable energy is I think  
 15 something that the board should support.

16 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay. Any questions  
 17 from the board? Staff?

18 **MR. DICK:** No.

19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** The applicant?

20 **MR. GRIFFIN:** No.

21 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would anyone in the  
 22 audience have questions? I think you're off the  
 23 hook, thanks for coming.

24 **MR. WHALEN:** Thank you.

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1 **MR. DICK:** Scott Schertz.

2 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Hello.

3 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be  
 4 sworn in?

5 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Affirm please.  
 6 (Mr. Scott Schertz was duly affirmed.)

7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
 8 name and address for the record?

9 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Sure. I am Scott Schertz.  
 10 I live at 22761 North 1300 East Road at Hudson,  
 11 Illinois.

12 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Do you need to have  
 13 him spell his last name?

14 **MR. SCHERTZ:** S-C-H-E-R-T-Z. And I am  
 15 here speaking on behalf of the company that I'm the  
 16 president of, that I own, Schertz Aerial Service.  
 17 Okay, I do have handouts for the board that  
 18 summarize what I'll be speaking about.

19 **MR. DICK:** We'll call this Neutral Exhibit  
 20 5.

21 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Okay, basically Schertz  
 22 Aerial Service is a long established aerial spraying  
 23 service that has three locations in McLean County.  
 24 I have been in front of this board several times for

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1 special use permits and some other wind energy  
 2 issues over roughly the last 25 years. I have  
 3 actually owned the business for 31 years, I have  
 4 sprayed actively as an ag pilot for 36 years, and  
 5 this is a continuation of a family business that  
 6 goes back nearly 50 years.

7 Some of the other industry experience I've  
 8 had is I got to be the president of our national  
 9 trade association a little over ten years ago and  
 10 then also our research and education foundation that  
 11 develops safety programs for the industry in the  
 12 U.S. of the ag pilots and crop dusters.

13 We do run four ag airplanes and we have  
 14 run up to ten or so additional airplanes servicing  
 15 McLean County farmers. In fact, a lot of this  
 16 property I've been over myself. And there are  
 17 reasons for aerial spraying. We can get over crops  
 18 without damaging them, we can get in when other  
 19 equipment can't, sometimes we can do it so other  
 20 people don't get sick by handling the products, but  
 21 we do have a niche and we have done it a long time.

22 Really the basis of my comments here are  
 23 the challenges that a couple of them will make on  
 24 our main strip which is in southeast Lexington

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1 Township just to the south of the project area. I  
 2 do some of the operations at night and that does  
 3 make it very problematic, a couple of the turbines.  
 4 I do want to call some attention to there's really  
 5 little in the application about aviation issues, and  
 6 the special use standards does specify that there  
 7 should be concern for crop dusting landing strips.  
 8 I have had some contact with Invenergy over the last  
 9 few days I would say that's been positive, but I do  
 10 want to acknowledge that, and there is some  
 11 similarity to Bill Thacker's testimony of last  
 12 night.

13 Where this is really problematic is when  
 14 we do have a south wind and it requires landing to  
 15 the south. Turbine 74 is directly in the path of  
 16 the landing strip. It's just slightly under two  
 17 miles out. The typical profile on a night landing  
 18 is that I would be at approximately 440 foot there  
 19 going about 120 mile an hour and that is right where  
 20 that turbine is and that is approximately a minute  
 21 from landing. Also turbine number 78 would be very  
 22 close to the west of that path. And over the last  
 23 roughly six or eight years I have worked around a  
 24 lot of wind turbines and I do have a fair amount of

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1 experience as far as what they do to the air, and I  
 2 mean you can feel them 23 miles away on a windy day.  
 3 There's a chop to the air that is different from the  
 4 normal turbulence.  
 5 So typically in the summertime the most  
 6 usual wind is a southwest wind, and, you know,  
 7 obviously these are not a big issue in the daytime,  
 8 a nice approach, but in the nighttime situation,  
 9 there's another wrinkle to this in that due to the  
 10 FAA's innovative lighting standards for wind  
 11 turbines, the light is on the top of the nacelle and  
 12 the lethal arc of the blades is considerably higher  
 13 than that. So even if they are lit, that really  
 14 does not define the risk.  
 15 And another thing about this, even though  
 16 I myself have 15,000 hours of ag time, you know,  
 17 some of the pilots that fly for me don't have this  
 18 type of experience. We do have extremely accurate  
 19 equipment that is used primarily for spray guidance  
 20 and actually I do actively use this on a nighttime  
 21 approach so I know exactly where I'm at and, you  
 22 know, if I'm a little bit left or right within a few  
 23 feet, and I mean this really is right on that path,  
 24 and an arced approach or an intercept under those

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1 conditions would be quite challenging.  
 2 So, you know, in short, I do believe that  
 3 attention to the standard in the special use  
 4 requirements that the tower should be located to  
 5 minimize interference from the crop dusting landing  
 6 strips in the area is something that I would request  
 7 that is required. Their section that references  
 8 that is really more about the layout of the project.  
 9 I don't really see that they've, you know,  
 10 accommodated these interests in the layout that I  
 11 could see. And like I said, the one landing strip  
 12 that they did show was one of Bill Thacker's, it's  
 13 actually inside of the ditch.  
 14 The second page of course shows the layout  
 15 I'm talking about. This is very close to the number  
 16 80 turbine that there's been a lot of talk about on  
 17 another level or some other issues with that.  
 18 The next page shows the traffic in and  
 19 out. This was actually just my traffic in a month  
 20 and that -- and this isn't the only strip that we  
 21 use, but each one of those tracts would have an  
 22 aircraft flight.  
 23 So anyway, I would request consideration  
 24 of these aviation issues for safety, and

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1 particularly given the lack of lighting, the lethal  
 2 area of the blades, and also the wind distortion and  
 3 rough air that you do encounter when you fly nearby  
 4 downwind of them. Thank you. Any questions?  
 5 **MR. DEAN:** We're debating about whether or  
 6 not how many of the towers are actually lit? Do all  
 7 the towers have a light? You probably understand  
 8 this, don't you?  
 9 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Well, my understanding of it  
 10 is sometimes the FAA allows in a cluster of them the  
 11 outer ones to be lit, and this would be a question  
 12 really for the operator of the project I believe. I  
 13 would suspect, since it's sort of a line of them,  
 14 that may be a challenge.  
 15 **MR. DEAN:** Okay, thank you.  
 16 **MR. KURITZ:** Has there ever been any  
 17 efforts -- you said you were a national -- chairman  
 18 of the pilots or crop dusters association. Any  
 19 efforts to get the tips of the turbines lit? It  
 20 would seem to me, my father was a private pilot,  
 21 that would be more helpful than the nacelle.  
 22 **MR. SCHERTZ:** During the time that I was  
 23 in leadership of NAAA, our big challenge with wind  
 24 energy at that time was unmarked met towers. There

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1 were a number of fatalities of ag pilots getting  
 2 into those wires of a tower that was not marked and  
 3 were killed. So that was -- I mean I have been in  
 4 several times to the wind energy lobbying all of  
 5 this in DC and really at that time that was what we  
 6 saw as the biggest risk, and there have been some  
 7 standards on the met towers, particularly the  
 8 temporary met tower markings, that has been a direct  
 9 result of that work.  
 10 I agree with you that that would be an  
 11 interesting proposal. I suspect that the wind  
 12 energy people would have some challenges as far as  
 13 maintaining blocks and types of things to make that  
 14 work, but it would be nice.  
 15 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** How much of your flying is  
 16 at night?  
 17 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Probably a couple percent.  
 18 No, it's not a big deal, but it is an operation that  
 19 we do. We have reflectors along that strip. That  
 20 is something that I do and I don't feel that, you  
 21 know, I want to stop doing it just because there's  
 22 towers in the area.  
 23 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** How would you suggest that  
 24 towers around your -- that would be in this

1 neighborhood I suppose be lit up?  
2 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Well, I really suspect that  
3 we're not going to get change from the nacelle  
4 lighting standard, okay, and my request is to  
5 require that those towers be deleted from the  
6 proposal.

7 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** So if tower number 78,  
8 which is directly north of or pretty close to north,  
9 that's the one you would most like to have  
10 eliminated, you testified is about a mile north of  
11 there.

12 **MR. SCHERTZ:** No, actually if I had a  
13 hierarchy on this, 74 is the top one because it's a  
14 direct path over it. 78 is a, basically a wake  
15 issue, and if there is a fair amount of wind, it is  
16 really rough around these things.

17 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** Do you have GPS or is the  
18 GPS in your plane programmable to identify, or maybe  
19 it already is, where the -- where the towers are?

20 **MR. SCHERTZ:** The three newer units that I  
21 have, we can load in something called an FAA  
22 obstruction database and it does have the towers  
23 over 200 foot in it and it's something that's  
24 updated about every two weeks. It's every 56 days

1 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Basically I said that I  
2 would be -- I would put this on the record, and here  
3 I am.

4 **MR. BANGERT:** And so to clarify, just  
5 those two towers, if you had a choice, those are the  
6 two of most concern. If they were deleted  
7 completely or moved someplace else, that would be  
8 sufficient for your operations for you.

9 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Let's be careful here. What  
10 my testimony is about is about the taking off and  
11 landing operations primarily centered in the dark.  
12 I'm not here to discuss all the other operations  
13 around wind turbines.

14 **MR. BANGERT:** Other operations, can you  
15 elaborate on that?

16 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Okay. We do work around  
17 them, okay, and they are not a new workaround.  
18 There are still reasons we do it. It takes more  
19 time. Anyone that thinks wind energy is carbon  
20 negative doesn't know the jet fuel I burn because it  
21 takes more time to work around it. And time is  
22 something we can't replace in summertime.

23 And the degree of difficulty. You know,  
24 it isn't just the wind turbines. It's how it plays

1 actually.

2 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** So they would allow you --  
3 if you have that in a plane, it would allow you to  
4 identify where the towers are both daytime and  
5 after, after night, so you would presumably avoid  
6 them.

7 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Yes, I would avoid them, but  
8 it does restrict the nighttime operations.

9 **MR. ZIMMERMAN:** Okay.

10 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Okay, and I've done this  
11 stuff for 36 years. I've worked around a lot of  
12 obstructions. I don't like additional obstructions.  
13 And it is already a challenging situation to be in  
14 an airplane that requires going at least 90 mile an  
15 hour shortly before landing on a half mile slick,  
16 wet, grass strip in the dark.

17 **MR. BANGERT:** Were you contacted by  
18 Invenergy or any other consultants related to this  
19 wind project in an effort to discuss the challenges  
20 with an airstrip in that vicinity?

21 **MR. SCHERTZ:** The first call that I got  
22 from this was yesterday.

23 **MR. BANGERT:** And what was the result of  
24 that phone conversation?

1 in the other obstructions, you know, the cross  
2 country wires, the local wires, the grain elevators,  
3 the elevator legs, the -- you know, it's the whole  
4 picture, and it keeps you very, very busy.

5 And also I would say if it's just a little  
6 bit on the windy side to spray, you know you're  
7 going to get beat up.

8 **MR. BANGERT:** So you're altering what you  
9 or how you do what you do when you're applying these  
10 products. Does it also alter the business side or  
11 the billing side? Do you have to -- a farm that has  
12 got wind turbines on it, does that change the fee  
13 schedule? How does that work for you?

14 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Well, I am a businessman,  
15 and, you know, the issue is it takes more time and  
16 that means we can't be doing somebody else's work.  
17 And it is on our website we do have the opportunity  
18 to do a surcharge based on how much more time it  
19 takes, and I don't know that there's any fairer way  
20 about doing it.

21 **MR. BANGERT:** Thank you.

22 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** When you had contact  
23 with the applicant, did they feel like -- was there  
24 discussion about moving them or not or you're coming

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1 tonight to voice your opinion?  
 2 **MR. SCHERTZ:** I felt it was a, you know,  
 3 relatively pleasant conversation. They were  
 4 attentive. I don't think anyone made any promises  
 5 in it. I didn't, you know, expect them to. I  
 6 didn't perceive that they did.  
 7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** That's fair enough.  
 8 Any more questions from the board? Got one more.  
 9 **MS. TURNER:** So right now what you're  
 10 saying is, as far as you're concerned, the only  
 11 thing that would make it better would be to get rid  
 12 of 74 and 78. I wanted to just make that clear.  
 13 Would moving them any distance make things any  
 14 better? For instance, if 78 were moved farther from  
 15 your approach. I understand 74 is your top concern  
 16 because it's a direct line and 74 is a turbulence  
 17 issue or whatever you call that.  
 18 **MR. SCHERTZ:** 78 assuming -- but yeah,  
 19 you're on the right track.  
 20 **MS. TURNER:** Okay. Is there a distance  
 21 that could move where it would have less effect?  
 22 **MR. SCHERTZ:** I'm sure that theoretically  
 23 that is the case, but when you get into all the  
 24 setbacks, et cetera, as they talked about last night

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1 I believe it was, you know, they have pretty narrow  
 2 constraints on where these go. So is there enough  
 3 movement that they could do it and would, you know,  
 4 mitigate the risk and still be able to call it 74  
 5 and 78? That would be up to their engineering and  
 6 their setbacks. And I would be willing to, you  
 7 know, take a look at it and try to give some insight  
 8 on it if I had any.  
 9 **MR. KURITZ:** Would you have the same -- or  
 10 would the same conditions as Mr. Thacker put forth,  
 11 3500 feet or a half mile or whatever and all that --  
 12 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Well --  
 13 **MR. KURITZ:** -- those would be what you  
 14 would need?  
 15 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Well, not exactly, because  
 16 really we've got a little bit different situation  
 17 here. Bill was faced with having them on the sides,  
 18 and at least right now we don't have them on the  
 19 sides, so we've got an open area to the south, we  
 20 have an open area to the east and west, and really  
 21 his concern was what is called, you know, a standard  
 22 rectangular pattern. The downwind leg is what it's  
 23 called where you sort of see the runway as you go  
 24 by.

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1 And I -- like I said, the real concern I  
 2 have is for nighttime operations here. On the  
 3 daytime, this probably isn't a real big deal, but I  
 4 don't really see that I need to give up nighttime  
 5 operations due to this project.  
 6 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Any questions from  
 7 staff?  
 8 **MR. DICK:** No.  
 9 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Applicant have any  
 10 questions?  
 11 **MR. GRIFFIN:** We do not have any questions  
 12 tonight, but we have been in contact with Mr.  
 13 Schertz and we will continue to do so.  
 14 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** You better state your  
 15 name for the record.  
 16 **MR. GRIFFIN:** Jim Griffin, attorney for  
 17 Invenergy. So we'll continue to communicate with  
 18 him, thank you.  
 19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would anyone in the  
 20 audience have questions? Come forward.  
 21 **MR. ADAMS:** Left or right?  
 22 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Right.  
 23 **MR. ADAMS:** Okay, my name is Walker Adams.  
 24 I live at 322 West Main Street, Lexington, Illinois.

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1 QUESTIONS BY  
 2 **MR. ADAMS:**  
 3 Q. Mr. Schertz, would you -- do you know me  
 4 at all?  
 5 **A. I think I vaguely recognize you, but I**  
 6 **didn't put the name to face.**  
 7 Q. I just want to say -- okay, would you say  
 8 that Lexington is a small town?  
 9 **A. Yeah, I'd say it's --**  
 10 Q. Kind of like Mayberry?  
 11 **A. Kind of --**  
 12 Q. Everybody knows everybody.  
 13 **A. Kind of like Mayberry, but I don't live in**  
 14 **Mayberry, but I know some people in Lexington, sure.**  
 15 Q. Okay, and you would say you probably do  
 16 the majority of the crop dusting through the  
 17 southern part of Lexington?  
 18 **A. We have a good market share in that area,**  
 19 **yes.**  
 20 Q. Okay. In that, are you aware that  
 21 Invenergy's been in Lexington for over a year?  
 22 They've had an office in Lexington?  
 23 **A. I have heard rumors of a couple of**  
 24 **different wind power companies prospecting in the**

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1 **area. Obviously I've seen met towers there. I've**  
 2 **-- I've watched the signs, yes.**  
 3 Q. Okay. So it's probably a pretty good  
 4 chance that they've seen your planes out flying?  
 5 **A. I can't speak for them.**  
 6 Q. But I mean you run at least, at least  
 7 three or four you said that you have yourself?  
 8 **A. Four is what I said.**  
 9 Q. And then you subcontract other planes?  
 10 **A. Some years we do, yeah.**  
 11 Q. Okay. And so would you think that if they  
 12 really wanted to get in contact with you, they would  
 13 be able to find you walking just in the city hall of  
 14 Lexington or a local bar even and ask whose  
 15 airplanes or whose crop dusters are out there  
 16 spraying?  
 17 **A. Okay, I just want to make sure. Are you**  
 18 **saying that could they find me or could I find them?**  
 19 **I just want to make --**  
 20 Q. No, no, no, could they find you?  
 21 **A. I would think so, yes. I would think so.**  
 22 Q. So it would be safe to say that if I was  
 23 putting up a tower that affected the well-being of  
 24 somebody, a pilot, that I would probably try to find

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1 out companies that work in the area?  
 2 **A. I would hope that they would, and I think**  
 3 **they've made at least a reasonable effort once I**  
 4 **brought this concern to them.**  
 5 Q. But when were you contacted, first ever  
 6 contacted from them?  
 7 **A. Yesterday.**  
 8 Q. Okay. Is your spraying season pretty  
 9 short, isn't it?  
 10 **A. Actually it's longer than what you may**  
 11 **think, but in a sense, you're correct because even**  
 12 **though it runs from February to November, probably**  
 13 **90 percent of the work is done between 4th of July**  
 14 **and Labor Day.**  
 15 Q. And you probably get done, I mean you get  
 16 as many in, as many fields as you can in, I mean  
 17 that's the name of the game, it's business, you get  
 18 as many fields as you can get done in a day and  
 19 you're coming back to land after it's dark. You  
 20 can't spray, but you can still -- you can get back  
 21 to your landing field and land, correct?  
 22 **A. Not exactly. I do some spraying actually**  
 23 **in the dark where I take off in the dark and I spray**  
 24 **in the dark too.**

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1 Q. Okay, so --  
 2 **A. This is just --**  
 3 Q. So this would impact your business,  
 4 correct?  
 5 **A. Uh-huh.**  
 6 Q. It cuts down on your spraying time because  
 7 you can't land in the dark.  
 8 **A. What it would mean is those nights with**  
 9 **the southwest wind, most likely I would end up**  
 10 **having to park the plane at Bloomington and then**  
 11 **you're dealing with a disorganized day and**  
 12 **relocation costs and all kinds of things that slow**  
 13 **things down, okay? That is really the reality of**  
 14 **what I'm describing.**  
 15 Q. So you're saying it would hurt your  
 16 business.  
 17 **A. Yes.**  
 18 **MR. ADAMS:** All right, that's all I have.  
 19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Come forward.  
 20 **MR. PITZER:** Jim Pitzer, 29485 East 2100  
 21 North Road, Colfax.  
 22 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 23 **MR. PITZER:**  
 24 Q. Do you know me?

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1 **A. I recognize your name, but I wouldn't put**  
 2 **the face to it.**  
 3 Q. Well, we call you the Cooksville Airport.  
 4 **A. Okay. Well, that's close.**  
 5 Q. It is very close. I'm just going to refer  
 6 you to -- I cannot give testimony here, so I have to  
 7 do this in the form of a question, but I will refer  
 8 you to this map here. And specifically -- and I  
 9 didn't bring my glasses -- is that turbine 78?  
 10 **A. Yes, and it's also on this one too. 78,**  
 11 **80, I mean that's the area, yeah.**  
 12 Q. Based -- I'm just trying to help you make  
 13 your case here. Based on this scale at the bottom  
 14 here that you see, this turbine sits here and that's  
 15 the Mackinaw River. Would you say that that's  
 16 within a half mile of the Mackinaw River, turbine  
 17 number 78?  
 18 **A. Well, what I can say is we measured it off**  
 19 **of our GPS equipment for this and it is a mile from**  
 20 **the north edge of our strip.**  
 21 Q. Of your strip. But I'm talking about if  
 22 this is the river here, if this is to scale on this  
 23 map, this by the way is page 4, page 5 and page 6,  
 24 it looks to me like it's roughly about 2500 or --

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1 yeah, 24 or -- 24 to 2300 feet from the Mackinaw  
 2 River?  
 3 **A. Well, our strip is a half mile long.**  
 4 Q. Yeah, I know.  
 5 **A. It looks like it's right about there,**  
 6 **okay.**  
 7 Q. At any rate, I'm just bringing that up  
 8 because this is one of those turbines that falls  
 9 under the IDNR requirements of being less than 500  
 10 or less than a half mile from the Mackinaw River.  
 11 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** That's testimony  
 12 though.  
 13 **MR. PITZER:** Sorry. Okay, then I'll quit.  
 14 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Does anyone else have  
 15 questions?  
 16 **MR. SCHWASS:** Again, Glenn Schwass.  
 17 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 18 **MR. SCHWASS:**  
 19 Q. Good evening, sir.  
 20 **A. Hello.**  
 21 Q. I heard in your comments that the, that  
 22 wind turbulence does cause, have cause and effects  
 23 on crop dusting planes.  
 24 **A. That's correct, yes.**

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1 Q. And I think I also heard comments, as an  
 2 owner I appreciate this, that you do have concern of  
 3 the safety and welfare of your employees --  
 4 **A. Yes.**  
 5 Q. -- or crop dusters. Would you say -- and  
 6 I think I also heard in your statements that it is  
 7 possible for a crop duster or a small plane such as  
 8 yours to encounter some sort of safety and/or  
 9 welfare that could affect one of these pilots?  
 10 **A. Yes. I mean one of the things that I did**  
 11 **refer to is fatalities from contacting obstacles,**  
 12 **and the particular instance that I was referring to**  
 13 **was where ag planes got under guy wires for wind**  
 14 **towers, and it would be similar and actually there**  
 15 **have been some cases in other states of ag planes**  
 16 **hitting the turbine blades with similar results.**  
 17 Q. And this next question is going to be a  
 18 very difficult question to ask but I'm going to ask  
 19 it, and that is that no one life is worth any amount  
 20 of money. Would you agree with that statement?  
 21 **A. It's irreplaceable, yes.**  
 22 Q. Yes, sir. And then my last question is  
 23 this, and I'm not -- I just want to see if you're  
 24 aware of the standard for issuing of special use

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1 permits by the McLean County board. Special use  
 2 permits shall not be granted if they should endanger  
 3 the health and/or safety or welfare of a person or  
 4 the public.  
 5 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Is there a question  
 6 there?  
 7 **MR. SCHWASS:** Yeah, I was asking if he was  
 8 aware of this standard.  
 9 **A. Yes, I am, and I tried to use that**  
 10 **standard on an earlier wind project and I didn't get**  
 11 **very far.**  
 12 Q. Again, I will reiterate my previous  
 13 question. There is no amount of money or financial  
 14 gain that can support the welfare of one's life?  
 15 **A. Yes.**  
 16 **MR. SCHWASS:** Thank you very much.  
 17 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Can I ask a question?  
 18 How many farmers have opted to do ground application  
 19 around wind towers?  
 20 **MR. SCHERTZ:** I would say that we've lost  
 21 market share because of them. I mean there's --  
 22 there's still a fair amount of work I do like in the  
 23 Ellsworth area. Obviously I live south of -- we  
 24 operate out of Hudson. I work in that area.

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1 Actually I work in several others. And we do take  
 2 it on a case by case basis of where it's really, you  
 3 know, very time-consuming versus a slight annoyance  
 4 on the amount of time it takes.  
 5 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** But some farmers have  
 6 or in your opinion have gone to taller type sprayers  
 7 and gone to their own application or hire somebody  
 8 to do that?  
 9 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Yes, and I routinely see  
 10 tracks through fields where they've knocked down  
 11 corn and beans in order to do that. And it probably  
 12 is costing them more to knock down the corn than pay  
 13 the surcharge.  
 14 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** That would be their  
 15 choice.  
 16 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Certainly. I mean this is a  
 17 free marketplace, yes.  
 18 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Okay, and the last  
 19 question I got is you have the choice to do spraying  
 20 around wind towers or not; is that right?  
 21 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Uh-huh, yes.  
 22 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you. Any other  
 23 questions?  
 24 **MR. SCHERTZ:** Thank you.

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1       **MR. DEAN:** One clarification. When you  
 2 said that you could feel the chopping of the wind or  
 3 impact on your aircraft, what was the distance you  
 4 quoted there?  
 5       **MR. SCHERTZ:** I have felt this over 30  
 6 miles away.  
 7       **MR. DEAN:** Okay, that's what I --  
 8       **MR. SCHERTZ:** And let me -- if I can, let  
 9 me explain it just a little bit more. You know,  
 10 obviously there's a lot of wind turbines roughly 15  
 11 miles south of my main location here, that is what  
 12 we're talking about, and coming back to the north  
 13 and on a windy day out of the south, you'll feel a  
 14 definite chop when you start getting into it and --  
 15 but then when you are actually working in between  
 16 them, the reality of it is that you don't have the  
 17 performance to go over them until you get really  
 18 light, I mean you need some energy to turn with, so  
 19 you're turning in between them. And if it's, you  
 20 know, 7, 10, 12 mile an hour, 15 mile an hour, it's  
 21 going to be really rough when you're actually  
 22 between, between them at their operating height.  
 23       **MR. DEAN:** How many feet do the blades, I  
 24 mean they go up in the air another 200 feet. How

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1 many feet up, how many feet are they from the ground  
 2 when the blade turns? You're probably not familiar  
 3 with that. That's for the wind company.  
 4       **MR. SCHERTZ:** The exact dimension I'll  
 5 refer to them. What I have found is -- I mean that  
 6 part of going underneath them is one of the easier  
 7 parts. I mean it isn't as tight as going under a  
 8 power line for instance, okay?  
 9       **MR. DEAN:** Yeah.  
 10       **MR. SCHERTZ:** It does take a little  
 11 training to get used to coming up to one and you  
 12 hear or see this blade coming down at you and you  
 13 got to say, well, it's not going to get to me, but I  
 14 mean at a certain point what you do is you just  
 15 decide that that is a disk, you're not going in that  
 16 space and you ignore it when you can see it, you  
 17 know.  
 18       **MR. DEAN:** Thank you.  
 19       **MS. WINTERLAND:** Amy Winterland. Two  
 20 questions. Have you ever flown around a 500-foot  
 21 turbine before?  
 22       **MR. SCHERTZ:** Yes.  
 23       **MS. WINTERLAND:** And do you find them very  
 24 much -- okay, so this is a follow-up to that because

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1 I said I was only going to have two. Have you  
 2 ever -- do you find they're much different than the  
 3 shorter ones?  
 4       **MR. SCHERTZ:** Yes. A couple of things is  
 5 effectively I cannot turn over them, and if they're  
 6 blowing out power, they blow out more power so it's  
 7 rougher in between them, but they also tend to be  
 8 spaced out a little further from each other when  
 9 they're bigger.  
 10       **MS. WINTERLAND:** Second question. As a  
 11 farm owner in an -- in the area where turbines are  
 12 going to be but not actually having turbines on my  
 13 farm, you're going to have to fly around the  
 14 turbines to get to my farm. Am I going to be  
 15 charged a surcharge?  
 16       **MR. SCHERTZ:** If it's take me a lot more  
 17 time, yes.  
 18       **MS. WINTERLAND:** Really?  
 19       **MR. SCHERTZ:** Because I mean at the end of  
 20 the day I can't replace time, right? Nobody can.  
 21       **MS. WINTERLAND:** So --  
 22       **MR. SCHERTZ:** But I mean this is one of  
 23 the unintended consequences of being in the  
 24 neighborhood, that, you know, somebody else's doing

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1 may affect some of your costs.  
 2       **MS. WINTERLAND:** Thank you.  
 3       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** If you don't mind,  
 4 I've got one more question. Do they ever turn them  
 5 off? Would the -- would it be an option to turn the  
 6 turbines off for to do the spraying or has that ever  
 7 happened?  
 8       **MR. SCHERTZ:** I've never had that. I have  
 9 had one of their other LLCs talk to me about  
 10 possibly doing it, and it got to be pretty  
 11 complicated on, well, which ones do you really need  
 12 off and for how long, and it never really went  
 13 anywhere, and then that individual went on to a  
 14 different project. So I'm not saying that wouldn't  
 15 be nice, but it still is -- when you're in a big  
 16 project area, if you're going to get beat around  
 17 from one three miles away, it doesn't help that much  
 18 to turn off the one a quarter mile away. I mean  
 19 that's the reality of it. And actually when you're  
 20 spraying underneath of them, you don't feel it then.  
 21 It's when you turn is when you get beat up.  
 22       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you.  
 23       **MR. SCHERTZ:** Thanks.  
 24       **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Break for less than

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1 five minutes, we got somebody needs to make a phone  
 2 call, and we'll be right back, unless we can  
 3 continue without him. I think we can continue  
 4 without him. So call your next one.  
 5 **MR. DICK:** Tim Jolly.  
 6 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Want to be sworn in or  
 7 affirm?  
 8 **MR. JOLLY:** Sworn please.  
 9 (Mr. Tim Jolly was duly sworn.)  
 10 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** You'd think as many  
 11 times as I said that I could do it right. State  
 12 your name and address and spell your last name.  
 13 **MR. JOLLY:** Okay, my name is Tim Jolly,  
 14 T-I-M, J-O-L-L-Y. Address is 26759 East 2700 North  
 15 Road, Chenoa. Okay, all right, there's been quite a  
 16 number of testimony or a lot of testimony the last  
 17 several days. I really wasn't aware of these  
 18 hearings starting at the time that they were. I  
 19 didn't see notice in any of the papers in my  
 20 hometown area. I didn't receive any notice in the  
 21 mail.  
 22 So what I'm asking for is for a  
 23 continuance to go into at a later time to present  
 24 the amount of evidence that I'd like to present

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1 because I don't want to just provide my opinions,  
 2 but I need to provide some expert evidence from  
 3 other people to provide testimony that I may call.  
 4 And I believe under some Supreme Court statutes that  
 5 I should be entitled to be able to at least put this  
 6 out maybe a week, possibly two weeks to be able to  
 7 come up with the amount of testimony that's been  
 8 brought, to be able to get people and experts to go  
 9 against that.  
 10 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** I'm not an expert, so  
 11 our counsel is right here and can answer your  
 12 question.  
 13 **MS. WALLEY:** Mr. Jolly, it is 9:34 p.m.  
 14 and we're not done. We still have several  
 15 witnesses.  
 16 **MR. JOLLY:** Right.  
 17 **MS. WALLEY:** I believe due to scheduling  
 18 issues the continuation date is approximately two  
 19 weeks out. So there wouldn't be a continuation of  
 20 the hearing, the hearing would be ongoing, but if  
 21 you wanted to present at that time, you certainly  
 22 could bring whatever witnesses you had, but the  
 23 hearing has already started. Once it starts, it has  
 24 to go. It's similar to a jury trial in that regard.

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1 **MR. JOLLY:** Okay.  
 2 **MS. WALLEY:** If you wish to reserve your  
 3 time, you can do that, but it will have to be at  
 4 that later date.  
 5 **MR. JOLLY:** And I don't know how many  
 6 people have signed up and that's why -- you know,  
 7 with me being called, that's why I would kind of  
 8 like -- I'm going to need more days to be able to  
 9 get in contact. I haven't heard back from the  
 10 people that I want to call yet and haven't really  
 11 had an opportunity to present my case as, as  
 12 evidence. Like I visited with Mr. Dick last night.  
 13 What my thought as to how I presented evidence was  
 14 was completely different from what he indicated to  
 15 me. So I have to provide the actual evidence.  
 16 I would just ask that we have some kind of  
 17 a continuance, or how long this may go, if I would  
 18 be able to speak at least at the end and if there's  
 19 time that I had to be able to do so. I would --  
 20 **MS. WALLEY:** Well, I can tell you  
 21 generally speaking, unless you're an expert, you're  
 22 given ten minutes. You can have whatever  
 23 individuals you'd like to testify that you believe  
 24 are pertinent. They can certainly come and testify

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1 at the continuation of the next hearing which is a  
 2 couple weeks out, so that would give you a little  
 3 bit of time. Generally speaking, the way this  
 4 hearing process goes, the applicant has the last say  
 5 simply because they have the burden, they bear the  
 6 burden to prove their application should be granted,  
 7 but everyone that speaks has an opportunity to  
 8 provide a closing argument, so you would be provided  
 9 with another opportunity to speak.  
 10 But again, if you want to reserve it for  
 11 that next date, that's fine, if you want to defer it  
 12 until that time, it will be ongoing, but like I  
 13 said, we cannot continue the hearing because once it  
 14 starts, it has to keep going.  
 15 **MR. JOLLY:** I believe I understand what  
 16 you're saying here now. So did I understand you  
 17 saying that there is a continuance? In two weeks,  
 18 there's another hearing set?  
 19 **MS. WALLEY:** Yes, it's January 23rd.  
 20 **MR. JOLLY:** Okay. Well, then that's  
 21 perfect, then that's exactly -- I didn't realize  
 22 that that's what your next date was that we were  
 23 going to be able to take this.  
 24 **MS. WALLEY:** What the zoning board did

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1 because of the application, they set out -- usually  
 2 it's only the first Tuesday of the month, they set  
 3 out a handful of dates knowing that there would be  
 4 several members of the community that would want to  
 5 participate and ask questions, contribute, that sort  
 6 of thing. So this is one of -- this is now our  
 7 fourth hearing or our fourth segment of this  
 8 hearing, and I fully expect it will go on to the  
 9 23rd.

10 **MR. JOLLY:** Okay, so I will be able to  
 11 take care of that --

12 **MS. WALLEY:** If you wish --

13 **MR. JOLLY:** -- at that time.

14 **MS. WALLEY:** -- to defer at that time, you  
 15 can.

16 **MR. JOLLY:** Very good. Okay, I understand  
 17 that now. That's actually what I was wanting to do,  
 18 I didn't realize that you were having that, so I  
 19 would like to take up my case at that time.

20 **MS. WALLEY:** That's fine.

21 **MR. JOLLY:** Very good. That answers my  
 22 question, thank you.

23 **MR. DICK:** Sara Emberton.

24 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you like to be

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1 sworn in?

2 **MS. EMBERTON:** Yes.  
 3 (Ms. Sara Emberton was duly sworn.)

4 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would you state your  
 5 name and address and spell your last name?

6 **MS. EMBERTON:** Sara, S-A-R-A, Emberton,  
 7 E-M-B-E-R-T-O-N, 25218 North 2175 East Road,  
 8 Lexington, Illinois, 61753.

9 So I'm going to start off by saying that  
 10 I, like everyone else, want to thank you for your  
 11 time, and forgive me if I am choppy at this and my  
 12 voice wavers because I'm not a public speaker. This  
 13 isn't in my comfort zone by any stretch of the  
 14 imagination. I'm here tonight because so many  
 15 people can't find their voice to come to you, and so  
 16 I want to speak to the concerns that myself and  
 17 other people in our community have.

18 Living in rural Lexington for the last 20  
 19 years, I am -- I'm in love with the area. We have a  
 20 peaceful one acre piece of property, which I know is  
 21 not much to many of you, but it's ours. I've raised  
 22 my children there. My child's going to graduate  
 23 from high school this year. I've got another one  
 24 going through for four more years. I understand the

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1 implications of the longevity of the school  
 2 district. However, I don't want you all to make  
 3 your decision based on money. I plead that you  
 4 don't make your decision based on money.

5 The outcome will impact my family, my  
 6 home, my community, your community, your friends,  
 7 your neighbors. For us, it won't be something to  
 8 gaze out at when we're driving down I-55. We're  
 9 going to be living near it, under it. Other family  
 10 members are going to be surrounded. Thank goodness  
 11 mine are going to be to the east of me by at least a  
 12 mile, east and northeast are the closest, but we're  
 13 also going to be impacted by the construction zone.  
 14 So we're going to be dealing with this day in and  
 15 day out once the money factor kind of trickles away.

16 We're going to be living in the shadow  
 17 flicker that you guys have seen and read about. So  
 18 when the sun comes up in the morning and then, you  
 19 know, trails behind these, we don't know what impact  
 20 that will have on my home or my neighbors' homes.  
 21 We might be forced to close our windows like others  
 22 in other communities, pull our curtains to avoid  
 23 having to deal with this. The constant day-in and  
 24 day-out droning and pulsing of the turbines, which

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1 everyone wants to mitigate the noise available, but  
 2 when you're talking about a constant noise, I can't  
 3 imagine it would be pleasant.

4 I grew up in Bloomington, so like other  
 5 people have talked, I grew up around other types of  
 6 noise as well, sirens, neighbors. However, when you  
 7 are living under a constant noise that will never  
 8 stop, I can't imagine that would be pleasant.

9 I can't picture sitting in our backyard on  
 10 a starry night anymore with our kids by a campfire  
 11 gazing up because all I can picture as I drive by  
 12 these other wind farms is the pulsing red light and  
 13 the one that I can see miles and miles away from the  
 14 nearest wind farm.

15 Again, what's this all based on? Money.  
 16 I get it, our world runs on money, but I plead that  
 17 you guys understand the impact that you're having in  
 18 this decision. And meanwhile, my corporate friends  
 19 over here, they're going to leave and they're going  
 20 to head up north, north of I-80. They're going to  
 21 truck this energy out. I know that people were  
 22 talking about where the energy goes. We don't know.  
 23 I'm all for sustainable energy, but we have to think  
 24 about the implications of what's going to happen if

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1 we do this.

2 This project I feel and many of us feel

3 would be injurious to the use and enjoyment of our

4 properties, and I know we keep saying those phrases,

5 but that's because those phrases are very important

6 to us. I know we've talked about the lack of or

7 reduction in cost of property value in the initial

8 phases which we're in. People are already

9 experiencing that it sounds like. At this point

10 we're relying on the one speaker that they provided

11 because I along with many of my other neighbors and

12 friends can't afford corporate lawyers. I don't

13 know how to organize specialized speakers to bring

14 to you. Most of us didn't even know that that's a

15 requirement until tonight. We were under obvious,

16 you know, misinformation that we were just

17 presenting some information, just our opinions, our

18 feelings, and that other things were going to be

19 taken into consideration. So I want you to

20 understand that.

21 I know that one person has said that he

22 would be more than willing to buy a home in the

23 shadow of a hundred windmills, but I don't know if

24 that's truly going to happen, other people are going

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1 to step up to that.

2 This was -- if we're subjected to this

3 wind farm, we're subjected to unknown health

4 possibilities that really haven't even been

5 discussed. And I know that everyone pooh-poohs the

6 whole wind turbine syndrome, but I have to say that

7 I'm concerned. I'm concerned because I believe

8 people, and I believe that there are people out

9 there that are experiencing symptoms they did not

10 experience before wind turbines were brought to

11 their area. I also know that environmental issues

12 like cancer clusters for many years were equally

13 dismissed until proven at later dates. I'm in no

14 way suggesting that these are going to cause cancer

15 on the record. I don't want anybody jumping up here

16 saying that. I'm just saying that there have been

17 concerns in the past of other environmental causes.

18 Most of you I assume live in, you know,

19 more residential areas or some of you at least.

20 Those inside the city limits can't even have pet

21 chickens in town because it might endanger the

22 health or be injurious to their neighbors' ability

23 to enjoy their property. So we can't have chickens

24 next door, but we can throw up a wind farm, a wind

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1 farm that's going to be there for at least 30 years

2 and without any -- without any really thought behind

3 it I guess except for what the salesmen are telling

4 us.

5 I just -- we've heard from many speakers

6 tonight. Our unions, I understand it's about money.

7 I just hope that you can see past that part of it.

8 I also hope that you can see past the good face that

9 the company is putting on. If you look, you can

10 find evidence of property tax bills as recent as

11 2016, past due owed by Champaign -- or past due owed

12 to Champaign County that was through a company

13 partially owned by Invenergy to the tune of 480,000,

14 \$480,000. I'm not -- I'm tripping over my words

15 again, I apologize, because I'm stressed.

16 I also want to clarify that the state aid

17 that the others referred to as monies that we are

18 being gifted by the state, it's taxpayer money that

19 we paid in. I pay my taxes every year, it goes to

20 the state, and that money is then filtered out to

21 the appropriate agencies.

22 I don't think I have anything more to say

23 than I hope that you will see that there are

24 deficits in information being presented and it's

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1 very one-sided at this point being that we have no

2 access to the corporate lawyers and the speakers

3 that you are probably relying on to hear the other

4 side of the story from. And I beg that you will

5 find it necessary to deem that there is a gap and

6 bring those people in. That's all.

7 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Questions from the

8 board? I've just got one. I mean have you ever

9 read our standards, the set of standards?

10 **MS. EMBERTON:** Correct, I have them on

11 your list here.

12 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** So there's really

13 nothing in there about the money. We don't -- we

14 have no effect on money in any of our standards, so

15 we don't base our conclusions on money.

16 **MS. EMBERTON:** I appreciate that.

17 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** I mean I don't think

18 anybody here would put money over --

19 **MS. EMBERTON:** That's the only word that

20 I've been hearing to the positive.

21 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Questions from the

22 staff? Questions from the applicant?

23 **MR. GRIFFIN:** No, thank you.

24 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Would anyone in the

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1 audience have questions?  
 2 **MS. ADAMS:** Hi, I'm Katie Adams, 322 West  
 3 Main Street, Lexington, Illinois. I do have a  
 4 couple questions.  
 5 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 6 **MS. ADAMS:**  
 7 Q. Were you -- I think you tried to state it,  
 8 but I want to clarify it. Were you under the  
 9 assumption that these wonderful people who are here  
 10 and appointed to this job to watch out for our  
 11 county zoning, that they were allowed to do their  
 12 own research?  
 13 **A. I was as -- I was as well as I believe**  
 14 **many of the people that I have spoken with were**  
 15 **under that assumption.**  
 16 Q. Okay, I was as well, I was -- I repeatedly  
 17 heard that they'll know. Have you, you mentioned,  
 18 I'm trying to -- there was a lot of information,  
 19 which I appreciate. You mentioned about like having  
 20 chickens next door or -- and how that affects our  
 21 neighbors within a certain range. Would you assume  
 22 that what your neighbor does affects your -- like  
 23 not just your home value but like insurance, like if  
 24 your neighbors affect you?

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1 **A. I would very much assume that things like**  
 2 **owning dogs and I don't know what else it would be,**  
 3 **but yes, I could assume that somebody might affect**  
 4 **my ability to get insurance.**  
 5 Q. So do you think that kind of based on  
 6 that, that maybe you can -- you're assuming that  
 7 having a wind turbine placed near your home within  
 8 its safety and evacuation zone can affect your  
 9 property insurance and home?  
 10 **A. That is something I would worry about.**  
 11 Q. Okay. Have you been able to find any  
 12 information on that?  
 13 **A. No.**  
 14 Q. On what the actual safety and evacuation  
 15 zone of these 500-foot windmills are?  
 16 **A. There are numbers out there.**  
 17 **Unfortunately, in compiling all of my data, I have**  
 18 **misplaced some. Once again, I'm just so**  
 19 **overwhelmed, and coming in tonight I was hoping that**  
 20 **there would be others to speak on that.**  
 21 **MS. ADAMS:** Am I allowed to ask you guys  
 22 have you found those numbers?  
 23 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Just questions.  
 24 **MS. ADAMS:** Okay, all right, because I

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1 know that she had talked about like the neighbors,  
 2 so I -- that's why I wanted to know like is that  
 3 fair to ask?  
 4 **A. It's fair to ask for sure. I don't know**  
 5 **unfortunately. I wish I did. I misplaced it.**  
 6 Q. If there were windmills next to your home,  
 7 would you have bought your home?  
 8 **A. Absolutely not.**  
 9 **MS. ADAMS:** Okay, that's all I had to ask.  
 10 **MR. HARTKE:** My name is Ted Hartke,  
 11 H-A-R-T-K-E, 117 South East Avenue, Ogden, Illinois,  
 12 61859.  
 13 **QUESTIONS BY**  
 14 **MR. HARTKE:**  
 15 Q. Can you repeat what your name is?  
 16 **A. Sara.**  
 17 Q. Sara. Have you ever spoken with anyone  
 18 that lives near a 500-foot tall wind turbine?  
 19 **A. No, I'm sorry.**  
 20 Q. Have you visited the Twin Groves wind farm  
 21 here in McLean County?  
 22 **A. I've driven by, but I've never visited.**  
 23 Q. When you've driven by, how close do you  
 24 think you've gotten to the turbines?

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1 **A. As close as the road.**  
 2 **MR. DICK:** Ms. Emberton, could you talk  
 3 into the microphone?  
 4 **A. I'm sorry, just as close as the road.**  
 5 Q. Okay. Do you know who I am?  
 6 **A. I only know you by name and that you must**  
 7 **support the not putting up the wind turbines.**  
 8 **That's all I know of you.**  
 9 Q. Okay, so you recognize my name. Do you  
 10 know where I live?  
 11 **A. No.**  
 12 Q. Okay. Are you aware of Dr. Paul Schomer?  
 13 Have you ever heard of the name?  
 14 **A. I heard the name mentioned in testimony**  
 15 **the other night.**  
 16 Q. Okay. Are you aware that Dr. Paul Schomer  
 17 was an acoustician that was hired by Invenergy?  
 18 **A. No.**  
 19 Q. Are you aware that Dr. Schomer did an  
 20 analysis in Livingston County, Illinois?  
 21 **MS. WALLEY:** Mr. Hartke.  
 22 **MR. HARTKE:** Yes.  
 23 **MS. WALLEY:** Just like before, you have to  
 24 limit your cross-examination to what Ms. Emberton

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1 testified to.

2 **MR. HARTKE:** Okay, I apologize for not

3 being clear on the rules.

4 **MS. WALLEY:** That's all right.

5 Q. Do you, do you think it would be a good

6 idea for this board to ask experts to come here,

7 which I believe was in your testimony, you're asking

8 this board to have independent experts present in

9 front of this board about safe noise limits and

10 setbacks?

11 **A. Yes, I am pleading to this board to please**

12 **bring in expert witnesses not only on the noise and**

13 **the setbacks but other health issues that again are**

14 **being dismissed that I'm still concerned about.**

15 Q. Did you attend any of the Livingston

16 County hearings?

17 **A. No, because I was too center,**

18 **self-centered at the time, I'll admit right now it**

19 **didn't affect me, and I horribly regret it now**

20 **because I feel that we should all look out for each**

21 **other and I failed them.**

22 **MR. HARTKE:** I don't have any more

23 questions. Thank you, Sara.

24 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Does anyone else have

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1 questions?

2 **MR. BYARS:** Andy Byars, 708 Kingsley

3 Street.

4 **QUESTIONS BY**

5 **MR. BYARS:**

6 Q. So I was just wondering, have you ever

7 pulled any of the property values around the area

8 for any other Invenergy projects that have gone up?

9 **A. No.**

10 Q. Did you know that on other Invenergy

11 projects, you know, they've seen property value

12 increases up to 6 percent?

13 **A. I was actually at a meeting the other**

14 **night that told us that there would be a drop or**

15 **probable drop in property values before that**

16 **happened, and I know that was just based on one, I**

17 **believe it was maybe a 2012 evaluation, so I'm not**

18 **sure what you're getting at, but go ahead and try to**

19 **rephrase it if you want.**

20 Q. No, I was just asking if you knew that at

21 other Invenergy projects property values have gone

22 up by 6 percent?

23 **A. I've heard of one and I -- before that, I**

24 **heard that the property values did drop in the**

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1 **initial phases.**

2 Q. Okay. Did you know that the guy that just

3 spoke, Ted Hartke, gets paid to travel around the

4 country and stop wind projects?

5 **MS. WALLEY:** Mr. Byars, you have to

6 limit -- like Mr. Hartke, you have to limit your

7 cross-examination to what Ms. Emberton testified to

8 not Mr. Hartke.

9 **MR. BYARS:** Okay, all right.

10 **MS. WALLEY:** So the things that she

11 testified to you can ask her about, but it has to be

12 limited to that, okay?

13 **MR. BYARS:** That'll do. All right, that's

14 it then, thank you.

15 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** One more time, any

16 more questions? I think you can push your button

17 and then I think we're going to set the date on --

18 **MS. EMBERTON:** Thanks again.

19 **CHAIRMAN FINNIGAN:** Thank you. We're

20 going to set the next meeting for -- we're going to

21 quit tonight and readjourn, re -- come back here on

22 the 23rd and it's going to be at 6:00 and we're

23 going to run in this room. So it will be January

24 23rd from 6:00 to 10:00 here in the Government

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1 Center and we're going to reconvene at that time.

2 (Adjourned at 9:57 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
2 COUNTY OF FORD )SS

3  
4 I, June Haeme, a Notary Public in and for  
5 the County of Ford, State of Illinois, do hereby  
6 certify that the following hearing was taken at the  
7 McLean County Government Center, 115 East Washington  
8 Street, Bloomington, Illinois, on January 10, 2018.

9 That the said hearing was taken down in  
10 stenograph notes and afterwards reduced to  
11 typewriting under my instruction and that the  
12 transcript is a true record of the testimony given  
13 at the hearing.

14 I do further certify that I am a  
15 disinterested person in this cause of action; that I  
16 am not a relative, or otherwise interested in the  
17 event of this action, and am not in the employ of  
18 the attorneys for either party.

19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
20 hand and affixed my notarial seal this 5th day of  
21 February, 2018.

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JUNE HAEME, CSR  
NOTARY PUBLIC

"OFFICIAL SEAL"  
June Haeme  
Notary Public, State of Illinois  
My Commission Expires:  
September 28, 2020

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