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Voters have already said "no" to industrial wind

Posted: 07/28/2010 10:21:50 AM EDT

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to last week's Manchester Journal article entitled, "Wind Project Mulled." We are aware of developers' interest in Glebe Mountain, but the town of Londonderry has been quite clear on this subject: the answer has been, and continues to be, NO. The Town plans of Londonderry and Windham say no to industrial wind. The Select Board of Londonderry has said no as well. The people of Londonderry said no by a 2:1 margin in 2005.

Why then is another developer seeking to again stir up the divisive and destructive feelings that come with ridgetop wind developments in Vermont? Developers may not like it, but what people are saying YES to is conserving and protecting this area deemed by two major land conservation groups as one of the few important large unfragmented forested wildlife areas in Southern Vermont. Glebe Mountain is part of a 20,000 acre area with bear corridors, moose habitat, a brook classified as A1 (pristine) from its headwaters on down. We need to protect these lands from industrial development, especially with climate change, so that our healthy ecosystems can continue to flourish.

Besides the ecological impacts, industrial wind power is inappropriate for Glebe Mountain for several reasons, among them:

1) Noise and low-frequency vibration (that can turn a house into a 24-hour boom box): Seriously disturbed sleep and health impacts that can result from sleeplessness are a growing concern for people around the

world living within a mile and a half or more of a project using mega-sized industrial turbines, and would affect a large population in our area. There are 208 structures in Londonderry and Windham that fall within a mile of the last proposed project, and within 2 miles there are 603. Anyone living or working in this area would be at risk to suffer from seriously disturbed sleep, dizziness, and nausea, among other documented complaints.

2) Wind's potential for electricity generation in Vermont is minuscule resource compared to solar, which is more versatile and less ecologically destructive than ridgetop-placed utility wind. The quickest way to build the renewable energy economy - something we all support - is to deploy solar generation. Vermont's solar resources are extensive, despite our northern climate, and can be utilized close to where and when the need for electricity exists.

In the last two weeks, a group of concerned residents have initiated an effort to acquire funds to preserve this important ecological area. We are encouraged by the initial response and pledges we have received and

believe this is a positive effort the whole community can embrace. We ask any of you who wish to participate in these efforts, to please get in touch with us at info@glebemountaingroup.org.

Sandy and Jim Wilbur

South Londonderry

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