

**Testimony of Luann Therrien**  
**Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee**

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My name is Luann Therrien and I live in Sheffield with my husband Steve and our two children.

Have no idea what we have done or who we've done it to to deserve what we are being put through.

We consider ourselves to be hearty people. Living off grid and in the middle of no where is not easy but we love where we live.

We have lived at our home in Sheffield, for almost 17 years. The land has been in my husbands family since the 70's. Since Nov. 2011, our new neighbors are 16 turbines that line the ridge behind our home.

Before the turbines were built, we felt we did not know enough about Industrial Wind to have an informed opinion. We did not oppose them being built. We did not oppose the many inconveniences during construction that comes with a project this size. We did not oppose the project, not until it was up and running and creating noise. Creating noise that unlike what the wind developers will try and make you believe- IS distinguishable above natural sounds. I have never heard anything in nature make a repetitive whoosh whoosh whoosh sound for up to five days straight. And the only thing I have heard sound like a jet flying overhead, except for these wind turbines, is a jet flying overhead. This has now been going on for over a year.

To have no one believe or understand just what we are going through is like being constantly beat down. Having people say we are making it up or worse yet putting the blame on having children. Until you live with what we are dealing with you can not understand what it is like to walk in our shoes. People have openly scoffed at us because they paid a visit to a project and think they have the slightest clue what it is like to live day after day, month after month beside a project. One person had the nerve to say they had visited a project and the noise was no worse than their dishwasher. Well, I guarantee if your dishwasher was to run day and night you'd shut it off before five days were done.

It has been said that with all power comes sacrifice and problems. The problem is, my family and other families are the sacrifice.

In order to stop the continuing damage to our health and sanity we will have to sacrifice the land where we have lived, loved and planned to spend the rest of our lives. But when it comes to sacrificing our dreams or ourselves there really is no choice. We may have no choice but to sell out for whatever we can get just so we can move. Not only will we have to give up the land that we love but also at a reduced price.

The noise for us is at its worst when the wind is coming from the South/SouthEast. When we are not getting the worst of it, other families are. The prospect of more storm systems blowing up the coast is about as frustrating as the noise itself. Know it's coming and not a thing we can do about it.

My husband is feeling desperate because there is nothing he can do to protect his family. I've been feeling more agitated and working on unreasonable. Not a good combination with two little ones.

Since November both my husband and myself have been prescribed antidepressants. I honestly had no idea just how bad I had gotten because it came on gradually. About a month ago my son said something that made me laugh out loud. It was then the realization hit me that I had not done that in a long time and have not done much since, even with an increase in my medication. I used to laugh all the time, dance with my children and make up silly songs. I want to do these things again.

I have a constant ringing in my ears that can be very distracting.

My husband has been feeling so bad that he is currently unable to work, his doctor has pulled him from his job. It's impossible to work when you cannot concentrate due to lack of sleep, a constant pulsing in your head like a painless migraine and have the constant feeling of a head rush no matter what you are doing. He wakes up startled during the night in a panic state and can not go back to sleep.

Both of us have a lack of concentration. Many days we have this odd pressure in our heads. Can feel the pressure in our foreheads, cheeks even in the front teeth with a feeling of pressure as if something is pressing on the bridge of the nose.

We know if we do not feel well, our children do not feel well. They cannot tell us verbally, but they do in other ways. We see a noticeable change in our son's behavior. He goes from being a normally active 3 year old with an attitude problem to an unreasonable uncontrollable active 3 year old with an attitude problem, that doesn't end because he goes to sleep. Most nights both of our children have restless nights and both regularly cry out in their sleep. We are getting so tired of feeling like hell everyday. We feel as bad when we get up as when we go to bed.

Frustrating isn't even the right word to describe how it feels to get up in the morning already feeling tired, angry and agitated.

Our children deserve better. We deserve better.

We went through hell to have our children. It certainly was not my choice to have our first child at 40. We went through loss (one at five months along), tests, and operations. On our fifth try we had a healthy boy, and we now have a one year old baby girl. And instead of the joy of raising our babies, there is a feeling of being helpless and hopeless.

Helpless to protect our children from the Industrial Wind Project that has been built behind our home. Unable to protect them from the constant noise, annoyance and sleepless nights with all the side effects that go along with it.

Now, most people would advise us to move as our Dr. has done. We would gladly move, if we had the money. But as most people in this area, we aren't even close to even being considered middle class. Know very few who are.

We have contacted First Wind. Their only worry is that they are in compliance, and cannot set precedent by giving a homeowner money. We told them we would need \$100,000 to \$150,000 to move a doublewide home (low end) onto a lot in Derby. They say they are in compliance and everything is fine.

Some pro wind experts say 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile is too close, other studies say 1.5 miles is too close. The 16 turbines are all from just under 3/4 of a mile to just under 2 miles from our home. So almost all 16 are too close for some studies. The human factor of living with the constant annoyance of these machines does not matter to the wind companies.

There really needs to be regulation put in place for when an Industrial Wind Project is built. For starters, not letting the fox guard the hen house. Currently the wind companies are allowed to hire their own sound monitoring company and oversee the whole process. This should be overseen by an unbiased, independent group that has nothing to gain or lose from the results, with the funding coming from the wind companies.

More regulation; it should be automatic that any homes within X distance from a project, the wind company should have to make things right with the homeowner. Nothing like this exists now, everything is in favor of the wind companies.

The current way this is done is unfair to the home owner. Your option is to place a complaint with the wind company to only be told they are in compliance, and to keep a daily noise log. To what end? Good question.

So what are the real options? Sell? Move? Suffer for others' gain and agenda?

Why should people have to sell or abandon their homes?

Please, I ask on behalf of every family that lives near or will live near a wind project to give this matter some much needed attention. Please pass a three year moratorium into law.

I thank you very much for your time.

Luann Therrien  
Sheffield, Vermont