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6/12/12

Dear Mr. Miller,

We are writing in regard to Chapter 12 of the Humboldt County General Plan. Our issue is directly related to Wind Energy. As you know Shell Wind is proposing a wind industrial sight on Bear River Ridge. In concept it sounds good but after spending many hours reviewing the negative impact that wind energy has on the environment, the required subsidies it needs, and most outstanding, the lack of regulations on the decommissioning of these large turbines.

Chapter 12 does not address these issues. There is not one paragraph in the general plan that discusses the removal or disposal of these turbines. No one has addressed the issue of fiber carbon blades and their disposal. It does not address the responsibility of the land owner regarding the disposal of these turbines. From the information that we have gathered, the disposal from several sights have ended in land fills. One blade the length of a football field would impact even a large landfill. It does not mention in the general plan a requirement that the applicant for commercial turbines post a bond to defer the cost of decommission. It does not address the responsibility of a property owner regarding removal of a defunct turbine if they fail to do so. It is possible in the future that abandoned turbines could litter the landscape like dead cars.

We have been told that Shell Wind is a limited liability company. In the future when better technology has been developed, these large turbines will be obsolete. Decommission and removal of an obsolete technology should be a major concern of Chapter twelve, the responsibility and disposal should be addressed and clearly defined. Abandonment is also not addressed.

Having attended the only presentation from Shell Wind.. It was clearly stated that the energy from these future turbines would be transported south through a grid and sold from that source. Please review chapter 12 and make some revisions that would address these issues.

We respectfully remain,


Marlin and Sandra Mesman