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Projet de parc éolien Saint-Cyprien à Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville

6211-24-075

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**Subject: Kahnawà:ke Sustainable Energies Wind Energy Project**

Kwe (Greetings),

My name is Patricia Deer and I am of the Bear clan from the Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Community. I am a Project Manager for the Community Policy on Social Responsibility and Self Sufficiency for Kahnawà:ke. I would like to express my opinion about the St. Cyprien wind farm which my community is currently developing in the nearby community of Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville.

I feel very strongly that this is an important project for our community and for the host community based on the funds the project will generate over the course of 20 or more years. We have worked very hard to diversify our economy and develop mechanisms that can support our services and infrastructure, and all the unmet needs in our community such as language, culture, youth, elders, sports, underfunded social programs, and the list goes on. This project will have tangible outcomes and positive impacts in all areas of our community.

Similarly, this project can potentially stimulate the economy of the city of Saint-Cyprien-de-Napierville. With the land owners being handsomely compensated \$3.5 million and the municipality receiving \$2.4 million. Such capital can potentially increase disposable income and spending within their own community, and support *their* underfunded programs, services, and/or infrastructure. Like the Kruger project in St-Remi, it can also help generate tourism within the municipality. Furthermore, I believe it is the responsibility of all of both our municipalities to develop and support the overall economy of the Montérégie region.

The wind energy project is in line with our traditional values of respect for our Mother the Earth and planning for the future generations. The developmental sustainability aspect of the project is congruent with our philosophy of making decisions and planning for future generations. It is a relatively small project (8 turbines) and the site is ideal because of the wind, the existing roads, and the direct connection that can be made to the existing Hydro Quebec grid. Although we hear about the "energy surplus" issue and the argument that we don't need more electricity, I think it is important to put this project and wind energy, in general, into a larger perspective. Energy needs will always be growing, and energy grids are interconnected, so whatever we do here in our backyard will help counter environmental problems on a larger scale.

I am perplexed by the lack of support from some Saint-Cyprien citizens and the surrounding regions who are not supportive of the wind energy project when our neighbours, the people of St-Remi and many other areas around the world, live within reasonable distances from the turbines with a very good



quality of life. In the case of the St-Cyprien project, the turbines will be more than 750 meters from any homes—and most homes are more than 1 kilometer away.

Personally, I find the wind turbines very fascinating and support their use strongly. They also make me feel good about the clean energy they are producing. As per the Wind Energy Facts (Wind Energy Facts) website, wind energy is the most sustainable, and emits the least amount of GHG pollutants in comparison to coal, natural gas, nuclear, and Solar PV. They are also the least intrusive to the environment and generate the least social and environmental concerns whereas mega-hydroelectric dams have destroyed entire communities, the environment, and the way of life for First Nations people in Northern Quebec.

Kahnawà:ke Sustainable Energies has also continuously evaluated the positive and negative impacts of the project and has taken the necessary steps to mitigate any negative impacts and maximize positive ones. Furthermore, KSE has respected the strict requirements for environmental impact assessment and public consultation, and has satisfied the directive of the Quebec Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment & Parcs (MDDEP).

Regarding employment opportunities, my understanding is that this project will generate approximately 50-75 jobs to be shared between Kahnawà:ke and the host region—another potential opportunity to stimulate the St. Cyprien economy. Erecting the turbines requires the skills of ironworkers for which we have numerous community members skilled in that industry. In fact, many Kahnawà:ke ironworkers were fortunate to work on erecting the turbines for the Kruger project and could be involved, again, in the St. Cyprien project. Like the Kruger project in our backyard, the St. Cyprien project will become a source of pride for our people and add to our extensive ironworking history.

Should the project go through, I hope the people of the region can understand and be open to other perspectives on wind energy just like our people have had to adjust for centuries to the changes taking place in the world around us. I hope and believe that we can develop good relationships with our neighbours, despite our difference of opinions on wind energy and other issues. Based on all the points in my letter, I strongly recommend that this project be approved as-is.

Nia:wen (Thank you),

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Patricia K. Deer'.

Patricia K. Deer  
Kahnawà:ke Social Policy Project Manager

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