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

6211-24-075

Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton (Mohawk Greetings)

My name is Barbara McComber, I reside on the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawà:ke. I am the Director of Small Business Services at Tawatohni'saktha, Kahnawà:ke's Economic Development Commission. 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 that this is a very 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 are working 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, to name a few. This project will have far reaching benefits in all areas of our community.

The wind energy project is in line with our traditional values of respecting Mother Earth and planning for 7 generations. 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 bigger scale.

I understand that some people don't want to see the wind turbines. I feel good about the clean energy that windmills produce. However this is a very subjective thing. If we think of the bigger picture I don't think the First Nation people who were displaced in the north of Quebec wanted to see the mega-hydroelectric dams come in and destroy their entire communities, environment, and way of life. The St-Cyprien wind energy project will not destroy the way of life of the people living around the project. On the contrary it will stimulate their economy and potential tourism projects as has happened around the Kruger project of our neighbours.

Many of our people are involved in the iron working tradition. Some, including my brother in law, worked on erecting the turbines for the Kruger project and could be involved again in the St. Cyprien project (50-75 jobs are anticipated to be shared between Kahnawà:ke and the host region). Like the Kruger project in our backyard, the St. Cyprien project will become a source of pride for our people.

I hope that if the project goes through the people of the region can understand 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 differences 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.

Respectfully,

Barbara McComber