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My name is Kaylia Marquis from the Kahnawake Mohawk Territory. I am a Project Coordinator. I would like to express my opinion related to the St-Cyprien Wind Energy Project which Kahnawake is hoping to complete in our neighbouring community of St-Cyprien-de-Napierville.

Generating electricity through renewable means is an inevitable progression in our world's technological evolution. Wind energy is an efficient, logical, environmentally-mindful, profitable option. While there may be some objections to the St-Cyprien Wind Energy Project that change the status quo, in my opinion, these objections are at best ignorant.

My interest in this project stems from the knowledge that we need to diversify the sources of our electricity, we need to move toward more environmentally-friendly methods of powering our society, and, most especially, because I have children who will have to live here once we are gone.

I have no concerns about the project as it stands; I feel that the risks have been addressed, and the project planning is more than adequate. This project can only raise the quality of life for almost everyone affected by it at all. As I understand it, a number of birds may not be happy about it, however, if that were grounds to halt or cancel projects, we would be without a great many things, like tall buildings, logging, planes, and chewing gum. Given that hydro dams flood vast tracts of land and kill entire ecosystems, I am willing to concede that some birds may be inconvenienced or killed by the six proposed wind turbines.

Our energy needs are not diminishing, however, our understanding of the cost of those needs is improving. Quebec has an extensive history of mining, logging, as well as flooding vast tracts of land for hydroelectricity generation. Wind power production is the absolute best option of any other available.

Renewable energy is identified worldwide as an important and growing sector of the economy. Recently, world leaders have set a timeline to eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels. This is not in question. Oil prices are dropping precipitously, not to mention the environmental impact of oil extraction, refinement, and use. Quebec has a long history of capitalizing on renewable electricity generation (through hydroelectric dams), and this project is an opportunity to continue that tradition.

With the advent of home battery systems to stockpile electricity and the availability of electric cars, the demand for electricity within the province and beyond is likely to grow beyond previous projections. The need to increase the power generation in Quebec is there and must be addressed. The addition of new methods of power generation with existing

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infrastructure limits adverse effects to the economy and improves Quebec's capacity to provide electricity to its citizens, and to export reliably.

As a mutually beneficial project, Quebec and the First Nations in the province will continue our long history of caring for each other, and can be viewed as an example of positive relations as well as an environmentally and financially beneficial project for other provinces and countries to study and model.

First Nations people have a responsibility to care for the environment and the inhabitants of the land. This project meets those criteria. The electricity generated from this project will be produced with less environmental impact than almost any other approach, will help to diversify the sources of electricity our society draws from (therefore ensuring shorter power outages,) will reduce carbon emissions produced by supplying our electrical grid, have shorter distances to travel to their customers, will financially improve the situations of all direct stakeholders, and may maintain or improve relations between Quebec and the First Nations in the province.

The landowners in St-Cyprien agree to allow the installation of the wind towers, the roads used to access them already exist, there is a fund to decommission (or refurbish, as necessary) them at the end of their usable life, they are attractive (though subjective, I would definitely prefer to see a wind turbine in my back yard than hydro dams or nuclear power plants.) If a wind turbine fails, we don't need to worry about nuclear fallout or mercury poisoning. Inclement weather can actually improve the electrical output. I don't see any reason not to pursue this project on the basis on the wind turbines themselves or their location.

Kahnawake has been no stranger to imposed infrastructure on it's territory: it is home to high tension power lines, railroad tracks, two highways, a seaway, and two bridges. Kahnawake is also bordered on three sides by our neighbouring communities' toxic car-crushing plant, a waste-water treatment facility, and an Industrial sector that at one time was the 10th most toxic location in Quebec. Kahnawake is familiar with large-scale projects that benefit outside stakeholders, and have adverse effects on the community. This wind project is different from what Kahnawake has historically experienced: Kahnawake residents are in support of generating electricity through wind, they explored installing turbines on the territory long before the project under discussion was proposed, and (after careful research) the community agrees that the benefits (financially, practically and to society at large) far outweigh any potential perceived risks. The elected officials and individual affected landowners in St-Cyprien are also in agreement with, and will benefit directly from the

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project.

The partnership between Hydro Quebec and Kahnawake is ground-breaking in that it represents a modern path forward for the province and the First Nations that live in it; a path that values respectful interactions and fair agreements, environmental stewardship, and mutual benefit.

I have heard some of the objections to the project, and I can't bring myself to address them specifically, as their justifications are tenuous at best. I will say, however, that the tone of the objections seem fearful, panicked, and small-minded. I have faith that the impact of the project can be viewed through a

forward-thinking, conscientious lens. Such an approach will inevitably lead to a successful partnership and venture.

I hope that the project is approved unconditionally.

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