

From: dhan.james@comcast.net <dhan.james@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 12:58 PM

To: Atyeo-Gortmaker, Krista

Subject: [EXT] Edited - Comment to please consider on the discussion of the Grant County Wind Energy Ordinance.

Dear Krista,

I so appreciate your support and the commissioners support over the years of bringing wind energy development to Grant County. It has taken patience and vision. As time has passed, I think it difficult to not have the hope fade for an influx of money to landowners and the county. We at Wahpeton Wind and SummitWind still carry the hope and vision of so many of our friends in the area supplementing their income by harvesting the wind they have to put up with. It will still be good for the area for sure. There has been push back. I get that. The confirmed, peer-reviewed data are the best factors to use in discussing what wind energy does to the environment, property values and financial income. An excellent way to obtain such reviewed information is getting feedback from participants in and around current wind plants. (Please also see [AWEA fact page](#))

The Grant County Wind Energy Ordinance we discussed years ago is still a good one. I understand that there are naysayers who want to change it. I am not trying to be dismissive of people's concerns. However, in order for the project to continue to move forward, we need to keep the set back the same for investors. There does not seem to be adequate or accurate information that would justify a change. It is hard when something new takes so long. But we are still working; EDF Renewables and Apex are still committed to projects in the area.

I would like to offer my own anecdote of experiencing my community changing. Change is hard for sure, especially when you love the way something is. My intent is to show an understanding of my community growing in ways I did not expect, not to say this significant growth will probably happen in Grant County. Anyway, when I moved to Franklin, TN twenty years ago, it was a very different place. The population was about 27,000 people. My drive off the highway was one full of meadows that were periodically mowed down. Today the latest estimate I heard was our population closing in on 78,000. Now the meadowed area is full of buildings, including a 17-screen movie theatre, family owned businesses, music store, bike shop, Starbucks (of course) and so on. But every building is brick and looks sharp, that includes McDonalds, BP, Hardees, etc. Our town grows and looks beautifully consistent due to the regulations the city put in place. They knew Franklin was going to be a place of high value, due to the ever increasing interest in companies wanting to locate their headquarters here, rising houses prices, development interest and the like. The city and its citizens took care to think about what would work. There was a vision to make Franklin become a go-to place and keep its authenticity. And we have done both. I don't see as many meadows now, but I see a thriving city. Our schools are top notch. We have more neighbors with interesting backgrounds. Families walk around in the evening downtown. We have several company headquarters here like Nissan and HCA. Sometimes I would groan when a new hotel or business went up, but we also enjoy a ~3% unemployment rate. There is always good and difficult parts of growing. We did what was for the greater good. I am happy to be in Franklin, even if it is quite different than when I moved here.

There are only so many crops the land can yield and so many droughts and so much rain to suffer through in Grant County. We have figured out a great way for landowners to supplement their income. This is important. Please keep the Grant County Wind Energy Ordinance the same so that there is not a hinderance for progressing the county's citizens' livelihood.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

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