

Dear Mr. Foley, I am a resident of Vinalhaven, Maine and live within a half a mile of three 1.5 MW wind turbines which are approximately 370 feet tall. When Fox Island Wind decided to build the turbines in 2009, many of us on the island were enthusiastic. We were concerned about climate change and supported the idea of harnessing the wind to produce energy on the island. We were informed that the turbine noise would not be a noise issue because the wind in the trees or ambient sound would cover the turbine noise. Once the turbines started running in October of 2009, we knew within minutes that the information we had been given was absolutely wrong. The noise model that the acoustical sound company used did not take into account our island topography or the impact of wind shear on coastal Maine. With the flip of a switch, our quiet island home was transformed. The turbine noise was pervasive, reaching into our house, into our bedrooms, waking us up at night, joining us for breakfast, accompanying us to the garden, sitting with us on island evenings on our deck. Red flashing lights robbed us of our starlit Vinalhaven nights.

Those of us who lived near the turbines immediately spoke up with hopes Fox Island Wind would turn the turbines down. However, FIW was more interested in the economic welfare of the project than the impact of the noise and infrasound on those members of the community who happened to live near the project. Maine's 45dBA nighttime and 55dBA daytime noise levels are much higher than other states and many other countries. Overtime due to the health issues associated with wind turbine noise, the state of Maine has lowered the nighttime noise to 42dBA, but on Vinalhaven, the louder 45dBA was 'grandfathered' in along with the health issues that accompany that noise level. The noise controversy tore our community apart. Eventually, my husband and I decided to use our limited retirement savings to build a downstairs sound proof bedroom so that we could sleep at night. We built a one foot thick sound insulated wall which is designed to stop some of the infrasound on the southern wall of our bedroom, which faces the turbines. I used to love to fall asleep listening to the sound of the wind in the trees, but with the turbines, we need to shut all of our windows and hunker down. Please understand the wind turbine noise changes life as you know it. One does not 'get used' to the noise because it is different every single day. It depends on how fast the wind is blowing, from what directions, and at what speed on the ground versus at the height of the blades. On Vinalhaven, the turbines were built on a lot that is too small and the turbines are placed too close to each other and in a triangular formation. Consequently, the turbines are apt to be down wind

of each which increases the noise. With new technologies in development, one has to hope that in the not too distant future tidal energy, solar energy, or some other renewable energy system will replace the noise producing, space eating, and environmentally damaging wind turbine technology.

It is my understanding, the wind project off of the Vineyard will have over 80 turbines that are twice as tall as ours on Vinalhaven. I can NOT imagine it! This project is insanity. Not only does it have the potential of ruining the peace and quiet of your island days, but it will also be sending infrasound across the water into your homes. I support doing all that we can to save our planet. However, if you do the research I think you will come to realize that wind turbines bring a host of problems along with them, a list so long that I will not begin to delineate it. That is your job! Do your homework and make sure you really understand the impact of such a tremendous wind turbine installation on the ocean, wind currents, fisheries, migrating birds, and islanders. Please, do not forget your community members who will have no choice but to try and sell the homes they love or to live day in and day out with the consequences of the choices you make. Sally Wylie, Vinalhaven