

STATE OF MAINE
LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF DEVELOPMENT)
APPLICATION DP 4889) Pre-Filed Direct Testimony of
CHAMPLAIN WIND, LLC) Roger Milliken, Jr. on behalf
BOWERS WIND PROJECT) of Champlain Wind, LLC

On behalf of applicant Champlain Wind, LLC (“Champlain Wind”), Roger Milliken, Jr. is submitting this pre-filed direct testimony in support of DP 4889 (the “Bowers Wind Project” or “Bowers”).

I. QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND

My name is Roger Milliken, Jr., and I am president of the Baskahegan Company. Baskahegan is a ninety-year-old family company that owns nearly 100,000 acres of forestland in northern Washington County, including some of the area proposed for development in this proceeding. I represent the third generation to care for this land, and we are now engaging leaders of the fourth generation in its stewardship. Since 2004, Baskahegan Company’s forests have been green certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as being sustainably managed.

Let me begin by saying how much I appreciate the largely thankless task in which you are engaged. Many people are now arguing for the abolition or diminishment of LURC, but the deliberations in which you are currently engaged demonstrate the benefit of citizens who dedicate themselves to sorting through competing values in order to assure the continuance of values that define the Maine woods. Maine needs a clear process and guidelines to make decisions, and nowhere is this more evident than when it comes to supplying energy for Maine people and businesses. I applaud your thoughtfulness, dedication and hard work both today and throughout the year.

Let me give you a little sense of the background I bring to the issue before you today. I have been involved with forestry issues and land conservation efforts for nearly thirty years. From 1986 to 1996, I was a director of the Maine Forest Products Council (“MFPC”), which represents all facets of Maine’s forest industry—loggers, truckers, landowners, sawmills and paper mills. During my tenure at MFPC, I worked hard to build an understanding between Maine’s forestry and environmental communities, and I was a leader in the effort that led to the bipartisan passage of Maine’s landmark Forest Practices Act.

From 1994 to 1999, I co-founded and chaired the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project (“MFBP”), a 100+ person collaborative with representatives from the forest industry, academic community, environmental activists, state agencies, sportsmen, conservationists and small landowners. The MFBP helped define ecologically sensitive forest practices and supported successful legislation to establish 100,000 acres of ecological reserve on state lands.

I am presently a trustee of the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a position I also held from 1996-2005. I co-chaired TNC’s successful For Maine Forever Campaign, which featured the protection of 185,000 acres along the St. John River. I also co-chaired the Katahdin Forest Campaign, which protected 295,000 acres.

I have served on The Nature Conservancy’s global Board of Directors since 2000 and have been the Chairman of that Board since 2008.

From 1995 to 2004, I served on the board of the Land for Maine’s Future program, during which time I chaired the program’s appraisal review committee.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

In August of 2010, I traveled to West Virginia. Its hills and hollows give rise to an amazingly vibrant forest. Springs feed streams, which ripple through groves of tall trees. New species are being discovered in these mountains every year. I was appalled to witness first-hand how, driven by our pursuit of cheap energy, miners are literally reducing to rubble the oldest mountains in the U.S. and filling with waste rock the verdant hollows that support the nation's most biologically diverse hardwood forests. This beauty and bounty are destroyed—forever. Five hundred mountains and over a million acres have been impacted by surface mining for coal. Further, the adverse environmental and health effects of the emissions from coal-fired power plants are well documented. In contrast, power generated from wind energy facilities produce no air or water pollution, and displaces energy generated from coal and other non-renewable sources. And while wind turbines do alter the appearance of ridgelines, they leave the land, itself, intact. To talk of wind turbines destroying mountaintops is hyperbole. It changes their appearance, yes, but let's be fair—unlike coal mining in central Appalachia—the production of wind energy in Maine does not “destroy” any mountain.

I applaud the State of Maine for its efforts to facilitate the production of renewable energy and believe we all have an obligation to do what we can to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. Wind power alone is not going to solve our energy crisis, but it is a part of the solution.

There is no perfect source of energy. Each one has its impacts. Some are local, others, especially those associated with fossil fuels, have local, regional and global impacts. Whether it is the need to send American troops to the Middle East to defend access to oil supplies, risks to globally productive ecosystems like the Gulf of Mexico or Prince William Sound, the demolition

of mountains in Appalachia, or risk to water supplies from hydro-fracturing—the full costs of fossils fuels to our environment and quality of life are enormous.

Alternative energy has its own risks: we need only to remember Chernobyl, Three Mile Island or the recent Fukushima disaster to know that nuclear fission is no silver bullet. Ethanol production displaces food crops from increasingly limited agricultural land. Commercial solar power has a huge footprint in desert areas. Offshore wind presents potential conflicts with navigation and fishing. And wind projects like those you are reviewing today affect flying birds and mammals, and change the views, often in areas that feel like wilderness.

Over the last 30 years, my work at Baskahegan has imbedded me in the beauty and richness of this part of Maine. I have spent many pleasurable hours on the waters of Baskahegan Lake, Maine's 24th largest. Paddling ten minutes out from the landing, as you turn south and slide behind the trees on Abriquidasset Point, the view opens up to thousands of acres of open water and an undeveloped shoreline framed by low ridges. It feels like wilderness. When I learned several years ago that First Wind was proposing to develop eight miles of ridge-top directly to the west of Baskahegan I was disturbed. My head argued for the carbon-free, local, renewable production of wind power, but my heart was troubled by the potential impact on the experience of solitude, isolation and freedom.

Of course, Baskahegan Lake is not a wilderness. I know that every tree I see from my canoe is part of a working forest. The sound of chain saws or logging equipment can usually be detected—even by my aging ears. And no matter what the time of day or night, I can hear the sound of jake brakes on logging trucks as they decelerate down the hills along Route Six to the south or Route One to the east.

Today I can count 38 turbines from Baskahegan Landing. My experience of the Lake has changed, but when I round the point I still enjoy the peace and solitude of that large expanse of water. I look up at those elegant turbines and I think—these are part of the solution. No soldier died defending them. No carbon is being added to the atmosphere by these slowly spinning blades.

III. SUPPORT FOR FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Presently, Maine's forest products industry is struggling. As president of a large forest landowning company, I can attest to the need for landowners to find alternative revenue streams during periods of low and volatile wood prices. The recent loss of the Millinocket mills are the latest cause of downward price pressure in our industry. While residential and commercial development is often incompatible with forestry, recreation, and ecological values, wind energy provides a much-needed financial boost to forest landowners while at the same time having little to no impact on forest management or wildlife values.

Because wind farms ultimately occupy very little land area and are often situated in less desirable locations for forestry operations, they are compatible with commercial timber harvesting. This is consistent with the values and goals in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and will reduce the risk of piecemeal development and the forest fragmentation that results from it.

Further, the existence of wind turbines has no effect on neighboring forestry operations, and conflicts of use are virtually non-existent. If properly sited – as I believe this project is – impacts to recreational uses are also minimal and reasonable.

For more than 100 years, Maine citizens have enjoyed the ability to recreate on private forest lands. This win-win alignment of public benefit provided by private landowners is unique in the nation. But it depends on the ability of landowners to produce revenues from their

holdings. Steady payments to a company like Baskahegan whenever the wind is blowing, will smooth out revenue volatility and increase the likelihood that our family will be able to continue to own and manage our 100,000 acres in a way that perpetuates benefits to wildlife and people.

As a Mainer, and a forest manager, what I am most concerned about over the long term is changes to the climate. The geological record tells us that over the last 12,000 years, spruce has moved into—and out—of Maine in response to temperature changes. Rising temperatures mean diminished vigor and fewer spruce trees, the backbone of our industry. Reducing carbon emissions is the best action we can take to protect Maine's spruce, and stabilize our increasingly volatile weather.

IV. CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND USES IN THE REGION

When I think about the largest impacts on my recreational experience in Maine during the fishing season, it has been weather like that we have been experiencing this month—days of heat, humidity and high haze. We did not have stretches of thick, hazy air like this when I was a boy. They are caused by the combustion of carbon to the south and west of us—coal fired plants in the Midwest, gas-powered automobiles along the urban corridor.

I would like to be able to experience the north woods of Maine without this headache-causing, lung-constricting smog. I would like more days of the clear blue skies that exemplify what I think of as “a real Maine day.” Do I wish that I could reduce smog without changing my view? Yes. But to trade wind turbines on the horizon for clearer air and a more stable climate strikes me as a bargain.

No one likes change. I often wonder what the regulatory hearing would be like if the lobster industry was newly created and they were proposing to “destroy” Maine's oceans with tens of thousands of day-glo plastic buoys, littering the view, putting spinning propellers at risk,

causing the sea gull population to burgeon. As we all know, these man-made features of the Maine coast are now seen to be part of its charm, its attraction.

Change involves tradeoffs, and you are assessing those tradeoffs today. You have heard my views. But I am here to tell you that I am not alone. Last summer, the Forest Society of Maine hired professors from the University of Maine to perform a recreational assessment of the Baskahegan watershed, which extends for 180° from the Stetson Wind development. The point of the study had nothing to do with assessing responses to wind power—we as the major landowner in the area, along with other interested parties, were simply interested in better understanding who was using the area's waters.

There were two surveys performed to gather data about recreational use patterns and site conditions around the Baskahegan watershed. Forty-seven interviews took place on the shores of Baskahegan Lake, and additional, in-depth interviews were carried out with folks who have been visiting the area for at least ten years. Some of these folks have been fishing on Baskahegan Lake for more than 60 years. They were asked open ended questions about how long they had been coming to Baskahegan Lake, how they use the lakes and streams, and what they felt were the best qualities of the region. They were asked specifically about scenery, if the use of the lakes or streams had changed over time, and if there were any developing problems related to their recreational use. Interestingly, *not one* respondent even mentioned the 38 towers on Stetson Ridge that have changed the view across the lake. This tells me that we are far more adaptable creatures than we give ourselves credit for. Yes, we can hear jake brakes and we can see wind turbines, but the heart of the experience remains. The fish still bite. The loons still call. The eagles soar and dive. Our blood pressure still drops with the rhythm of the waves and the casting

of the line. I have to assume that, despite the understandable fear of change, the impact on the experience of those fishing in the West Grand watershed will be no different.

Let me also say that I was a supporter of the Sunrise Conservation easement, which consists of a 312,000-acre working forest conservation easement (held by the New England Forestry Foundation) and lies immediately south of the Bowers Wind Project. The primary goals of this project were—and remain—to support the continued use of the area as a working forest, to conserve and enhance wildlife habitats, to maintain an undeveloped shoreline, and to protect historic public recreation. I was involved in that conservation effort and believe that the Bowers Project, which is located at the developed edge of the conserved lands, is consistent with and will not undermine the Sunrise Conservation easement or related conservation priorities in the region.

Given this, is the change to my view a worthy tradeoff for more dependable revenue streams for landowners, for a more stable climate for spruce and other residents of the forest, for cleaner air, for fewer soldiers dying, for keeping the mountains and hollows of the middle Appalachians intact? As I experienced when my head was arguing with my heart two years ago, it is not a simple decision. But having lived for two years with turbines in my watershed, I can unequivocally respond YES to that question today.

The Bowers Wind Farm is an extension of an existing development of more than 50 wind turbines. Surely, clustering wind development in the same area is good policy. No new energy transmission lines will be required. As I hope I have demonstrated, siting additional wind development on Bowers Mountain is consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It supports traditional uses like forest management and the range of ecological and recreational benefits that flow to the public from a working forest. Based on my many years of experience in the region, both as a landowner and a businessman, and as someone closely connected with and

who cares deeply about conservation and nature-based recreation, I do not believe that the Bowers Project will have an unreasonable adverse impact on recreational interests in the region. I believe quite the opposite, that it will help Maine's people work together to build a state that can sustain its forests, its livelihoods, and its special values.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and again, for the work you are doing to assure the values that are at the heart of the Maine woods.

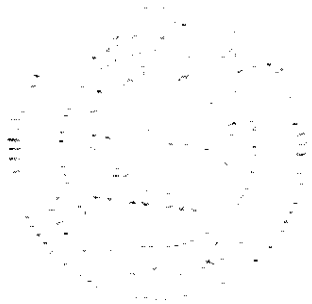
Date: 10 June 2011

Roger Milliken
Roger Milliken

STATE OF MAINE
County of Cumberland

Date: 6/10/11

Personally appeared before me the above named Roger Milliken, who, being duly sworn, did testify that the foregoing testimony was true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.



Before me,
Lisa Stuart
Notary Public
My commission expires: 10/10/17