

1 STATE OF NEW YORK

2 COUNTY OF BROOME

3 - - - - -

4 In the Matter of the Application by

5 BLUESTONE WIND, LLC,

6 for Financial Assistance

7 - - - - -

8 A virtual public hearing held by the Broome County
9 Industrial Development Agency on the 29th day of
10 December, 2020, commencing at 5:00 PM.

11
12 BEFORE: JOSEPH B. MEAGHER

13 Counsel for Broome County

14 Industrial Development Agency

15
16 REPORTED BY: CZERENDA COURT REPORTING, INC.

17 71 State Street

18 Binghamton, New York 13901-3318

19 KEVIN CALLAHAN (via video)

20 Shorthand Reporter

21 Notary Public

22 Binghamton - (607) 723-5820

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24

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1 HEARING OFFICER: Good afternoon
2 or good evening, as the case may be.

3 My name is Joseph Meagher and I am
4 counsel to the Broome County Industrial
5 Development Agency. The Agency is
6 conducting a hearing pursuant to General
7 Municipal Law, Section 859-A, to seek public
8 comment on the application for financial
9 assistance submitted by Bluestone Wind, LLC,
10 in connection with a proposed wind-powered
11 electric generating facility to be located
12 in the Towns of Sanford and Windsor in
13 Broome County, New York.

14 The acceptance of the filing by the
15 Agency does not infer any position on the
16 approval or disapproval of the financial
17 assistance requested. No position will be
18 taken by the Agency until the public hearing
19 is concluded.

20 Notice of this public hearing was
21 published in THE PRESS & SUN BULLETIN on
22 December 18, 2020.

23 I request that each person wishing
24 to speak state his or her name, and if you

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1 are speaking on behalf of an entity or
2 organization, please, identify that entity
3 or organization.

4 The hearing will remain open until
5 all public comment is concluded. We have a
6 number of individuals who will presumably
7 speak this evening, so we are going to limit
8 each person's statement to five minutes.

9 First I'm going to request that
10 Stacey Duncan, Executive Director of the
11 Agency, explain the project and the benefits
12 that have been requested by Bluestone Wind,
13 LLC.

14 Stacey.

15 MS. DUNCAN: Thank you, Joe.

16 So, as stated -- as Joe mentioned,
17 my name is Stacey Duncan, Executive Director
18 of the Agency. Thank you for joining this
19 public hearing this evening regarding the
20 Bluestone Wind project.

21 Northland Power is seeking
22 financial assistance from the Agency via a
23 20-year payment in lieu of tax agreement, a
24 sales and a mortgage tax exemption, as well,

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1 for the acquisition, construction,
2 installation and equipping of up to 26 wind
3 turbines with a capacity of up to 124
4 megawatts to produce electricity into the
5 power grid.

6 Total project investment of,
7 roughly, \$210 million will provide payment
8 in the value of \$9,600 per megawatt through
9 a host community agreement and PILOT payment
10 combined.

11 Upon feedback from the Agency
12 Board, the project applicant provided a new
13 application with a modified PILOT schedule.
14 That application was approved by the -- was
15 accepted, excuse me, accepted by the board
16 at the December 16th meeting, which brings
17 us to our public hearing this evening.

18 PILOT benefits sought are for a
19 term of 20 years down from the previously
20 proposed 30-year term and provide,
21 approximately, \$5.6 million in payments to
22 the taxing jurisdictions over the term of
23 the PILOT.

24 The project expects to create

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1 100 -- 150 construction jobs with total
2 compensation of up to 5 million. The
3 average annualized salary for these jobs is
4 \$74,000.

5 In addition the project expects to
6 create between five to seven jobs in the
7 professional services and engineering sector
8 with an average salary of \$71,500 and four
9 full-time equivalents with an average salary
10 of \$86,000.

11 In December of 2019 the project
12 received Article 10 Sighting Board approval
13 from New York State and recently on December
14 17, 2020, received approval from the Public
15 Service Commission for its tree clearing or
16 phase one plan, part of the construction.

17 The project has received all
18 necessary county and local approvals, as
19 well, to begin construction in a planned and
20 timely manner.

21 Information on decommissioning of
22 units compliant with any required
23 environmental agencies and the structure of
24 support through New York State through

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1 planned purchasing power agreements has been
2 provided to the Board.

3 In addition all correspondence sent
4 to the offices of the Agency via e-mail or
5 in regular mail have been forwarded to the
6 Board, as well.

7 Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER: All right. I
9 remind everyone who wishes to speak to,
10 please, state your name before you speak,
11 and if you're speaking on behalf of an
12 entity or organization, please, identify the
13 organization. And I request that you keep
14 your comments to five minutes.

15 Does anyone wish to be heard on
16 this application?

17 MS. DUNCAN: Just a point of
18 reference, Joe, to the Board from my
19 previous announcement, the County Executive
20 will be joining late due to a previous
21 meeting that he's currently in. So, we will
22 provide time when he arrives.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Does
24 anyone wish to be heard?

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1 MR. O'BRYAN: We have a number,
2 Joe, that are interesting to be heard, and I
3 will call them as they come up through the
4 chat and I will give -- I'm timing everybody
5 for the five-minute time period. Once I hit
6 30 seconds, I will announce that there's
7 30 seconds remaining so that you can wrap up
8 your comments.

9 First on the list we have Scott
10 Kurkoski, and then up next will be Tony
11 Wagner.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Scott.

13 MR. KURKOSKI: Good evening,
14 everyone. My name is Scott Kurkoski. I
15 reside in the Town of Maine.

16 As I've stated at prior meetings, I
17 represent over 50 landowners who support the
18 Bluestone Wind project. I also represent
19 several businesses who hope to have an
20 opportunity to participate in the work that
21 the project will create.

22 Many local companies will -- have
23 already, actually, been involved in the
24 project doing things like analyzing their

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1 sites, clearing land for met towers, doing
2 land and title services and much more, but
3 what's coming is really going to be a
4 tremendous economic impact to our area.

5 I believe it was mentioned in some
6 of the introductory comments that the
7 investment will be over \$210 million. I
8 think the major construction contract will
9 be worth as much as \$100 million, and in
10 addition there will be electrical
11 interconnection contracts on top of that.

12 So, dozens of local subcontractors
13 will be hired by the master contractor. One
14 of them is Gorick Construction. I spoke
15 with Al Gorick this morning. He grew up in
16 Windsor. He's an active member of this
17 community and he fully supports the project.
18 He recognizes that this project means
19 opportunities for so many companies in our
20 area like his, and yearly lease payments to
21 landowners will get injected right back into
22 our community and our economy producing more
23 investment and producing sales tax revenue.

24 Of course, this area has

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1 experienced the hope of a different economic
2 opportunity in energy, one that didn't
3 really work out the way that we thought it
4 was going to, and, perhaps, no community has
5 experienced the frustration of the loss of
6 that opportunity more than Windsor and
7 Sanford. We cannot have that happen again.

8 People I work with feel that this
9 time we need to get something done. We have
10 to show that Broome County is open for
11 business and that Broome County supports the
12 opportunities that the Bluestone Wind
13 project will create.

14 At the last meeting I mentioned
15 that projects like this are being developed
16 throughout the state because it's our
17 state's policy to achieve a carbon-free
18 electricity system. These renewable energy
19 projects are essential to meeting the
20 state's energy goals and, of course,
21 essential to addressing the challenge of
22 climate change.

23 The project has been
24 comprehensively reviewed. It's been issued

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1 a certificate of environmental compatibility
2 and public need, and the PILOT has been
3 negotiated extensively by the communities
4 and the taxing authorities involved, and
5 they've been represented by highly competent
6 municipal attorneys producing, perhaps, some
7 of the highest, if not the highest, payments
8 within our state.

9 I do want to thank everyone
10 involved on the board for your work in
11 taking a hard look at this project. The
12 change from 30 to 20 years is -- is
13 definitely a prudent approach, but with that
14 change it's time to approve the PILOT
15 because the Bluestone wind farm
16 overwhelmingly satisfies your goals to
17 foster economic development, promote job
18 opportunities, general prosperity and the
19 economic welfare of the people of Broome
20 County.

21 Thank you and have a happy New
22 Year, everyone.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
24 Scott.

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1 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have Tony
2 Wagner, and then following him will be Anne
3 Lawrence.

4 Go ahead, Tony.

5 MR. WAGNER: Thank you for your
6 time.

7 I'm a member of the Stoney Wagner.
8 I'm a member of Broome -- Broome County
9 Concerned Residents and landowner in both
10 the Towns of Sanford and Windsor.

11 As mentioned at the last IDA info
12 session, I'm a mechanical engineer with 40
13 years experience -- almost 40 years
14 experience in the power industry including
15 everything from small machines to the
16 largest generator in New York State, Big
17 Allis, in New York City, previously owned by
18 Con Ed. So, I have vast experience with
19 equipment of -- of this type.

20 I commented on some of the
21 equipment and technical factors during the
22 10/14/20 IDA meeting and will not repeat
23 those. However, those equipment issues
24 remain unanswered. And when Bluestone Wind

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1 finally decides on their design of the
2 plant, as far as public knowledge goes, that
3 has not been decided as to what types of
4 machines. I note that it's now 26 machines
5 instead of 27 and that the value of the
6 project is 210 million down from 230
7 million. So, it's still undecided. Once
8 they decide on that type of equipment, it
9 will be interesting to see how their numbers
10 will work financially as far as operations
11 go.

12 It's interesting that an extensive
13 industrial facility of this type covering a
14 vast portion of some farm land and woods and
15 homeland does not yet have a final design,
16 and portions of the project like the batch
17 plant have had limited, if any, details as
18 to capacity and the amount of water that
19 will be consumed by that facility.

20 The 670-foot machines, if that's
21 what's selected, are designed for ocean use,
22 some of the largest ever and the first of
23 its type proposed on land in low-wind and
24 mountainous areas. Broome County has

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1 relatively low wind compared to the rest of
2 New York State, and, in fact, there's --
3 actually, Broome County shows in some --
4 some reports hardly any wind on average to
5 support wind turbines. Due to the location
6 of this facility and the corresponding
7 impact, this should not be a test place for
8 these types of machines.

9 The new PILOT proposes a 20-year
10 plan which after regular taxation -- which
11 after 20 years regular taxation would occur,
12 as my understanding. The projection that --
13 the drop -- the -- Bluestone Wind dropping
14 their requirements from 34 million to 23
15 million is almost completely offset by the
16 recent COVID and federal financial rule that
17 was passed a week ago yesterday in that the
18 investment tax credit increases by 4
19 percent, which means Bluestone Wind on 230
20 million would gain 9 million in tax credits.
21 On 210 million they'd gain 8.5 million in
22 tax credits. So, what they're giving up
23 here they're making up elsewhere in addition
24 to the numbers that we've heard before that

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1 the total cost of the plant is 40 -- is up
2 to 40 percent paid for by state and federal
3 moneys.

4 Other county IDA groups are not
5 accepting PILOT programs through proposals.
6 I think Anne's going to comment on that.
7 One of them, Chautauqua, has a plant already
8 under construction and is having some of the
9 same concerns that we have and issues during
10 construction, and some of that corresponds
11 to information that's been submitted to the
12 IDA by County of Chautauqua this morning.

13 In addition the -- the power from
14 that facility, Chautauqua, is totally going
15 through a power agreement to New England
16 utilities, and it's anticipated that the
17 NYSERDA payments that BSW will receive will
18 be reimbursed by NYSERDA with New England
19 Power Pool or some other utilities; meaning,
20 both the Chautauqua facility and the
21 Bluestone Wind facility will not generate
22 renewable energy credits, which is what
23 Governor Cuomo was looking for. Also --

24 MR. O'BRYAN: Tony, you have

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1 30 seconds left.

2 (Whereupon there was an outside
3 interruption)

4 MR. WAGNER: Okay. I've been in
5 touch with the DEC on some of these rules.
6 They have a series of rules and regulations.
7 It does (unintelligible) on the DEC. We've
8 addressed that with both organizations, and,
9 unfortunately, they have to live with what
10 DEC decides right now until something
11 occurs.

12 I also submitted today a letter
13 from an ad hoc member of the High Bridge
14 project who resigned from the siting board
15 stating that it was not in the interests of
16 both -- of all parties to continue to work
17 on the board and try to --

18 MR. O'BRYAN: Tony, you're out of
19 time.

20 MR. WAGNER: Okay.

21 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Tony.

22 MR. O'BRYAN: I'm going to -- our
23 County Executive, Jason Garnar, jumped on
24 and he's -- we're going to get him up next

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1 since he's got a short amount of time and
2 then we'll get to Anne Lawrence after the
3 County Executive.

4 So, Jason, go ahead.

5 MR. GARNAR: Thank you, everybody.
6 I appreciate it. I'll -- I'll be brief. I
7 have to jump back onto a county legislative
8 meeting.

9 I'm here today, as I was a couple
10 months ago, speaking in favor of the
11 project. I appreciate the IDA and also
12 Bluestone for, you know, coming and
13 listening to the input that board members
14 and also members of the public have and
15 revised their PILOT agreement and -- which I
16 think is a really fair agreement and I think
17 it shows good faith on their part to -- to
18 compromise on this project.

19 This is a really important project
20 for Broome County. This is, in addition to
21 it being, you know, alternative energy, it's
22 the wave of the future, it, just as
23 important, I think, it's going to provide
24 temporary construction jobs, which we all

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1 need right now in this pandemic economy, but
2 also long term it's going to provide a
3 substantial amount of revenue that is going
4 to local governments and school districts.

5 You know, I can tell you that, you
6 know, towns, Village of Windsor, Sanford and
7 certainly Broome County will stand to, you
8 know, reap significant revenues through
9 this.

10 In addition, I think this is a good
11 shot in the arm for the landowners who are
12 going to be getting pretty substantial
13 payments.

14 So, whether it's the short-term
15 construction jobs, whether it's the revenues
16 to municipalities in a time when we're
17 really going to be short revenue for several
18 years, right now the county is -- we're off
19 \$30 million in revenue because of -- because
20 of COVID. We're down 6 or \$7 million in
21 sales tax, and the state is withholding
22 about \$23 million from us, and, you know, we
23 need every amount of revenue that we can get
24 to continue to fight this pandemic and, you

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1 know, build up our infrastructure and, you
2 know, and not -- and be fair to our
3 taxpayers.

4 So, I'm -- I'm hoping that the --
5 this is a -- the board members will vote and
6 approve this project. It's a good project
7 for Broome County and it's one of our first
8 real economic development projects that's
9 going to start during COVID, which I think
10 people in this community need to see. I
11 think people in this community need to see
12 that we're -- we're, you know, working our
13 way through this pandemic, that there's
14 light at the end of the tunnel, that there's
15 a -- that there's a recovery on the way.

16 So, appreciate your time in
17 consideration and hope everybody has a good
18 day and a happy New Year.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
20 Jason.

21 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have Anne
22 Lawrence and then Rob Aikens.

23 I do believe he -- Rob is on the
24 phone, so make sure you unmute the phone

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1 business. I appreciate that there will be
2 short jobs and I also appreciate that we
3 need to find a solution to cover budget gaps
4 as a result from all the COVID diasters
5 we've all suffered, but, again, this -- this
6 project is not a solution and -- and to make
7 it a COVID-related issue is an emotional
8 short-term appeal we -- we should not fall
9 for.

10 At the end of the day the balance
11 we need to make up is about long-lasting
12 effects, and all the costs and benefits have
13 to be taken into account. Many of these
14 costs have been left out of the equation by
15 the developer, and property values is just
16 one of them that the state is not lingering
17 to recognize as a side effect of all these
18 developments.

19 We strongly believe that the math
20 does not add up and we're proud and happy
21 that the IDA Board recognized the problems
22 with the project and voted no for the PILOT.

23 These large industrial projects are
24 helping state energy goals at least on

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1 paper, but they're not helping our local
2 community in the long run. They will ruin
3 our merry -- they will ruin our area for
4 many quantity other kind of developments
5 that will not come here now, and that
6 includes the recent influx of city people
7 looking to buy or build new homes and that
8 would help us develop these towns into
9 pleasant places to live rather than
10 industrial sites.

11 There are precedents in other
12 counties where IDAs have adopted regulations
13 not to accept pilots for these state-imposed
14 projects, and I'm hoping that our IDA will
15 follow suit.

16 In any case, the urgent concerns
17 we've previously raised about the
18 detrimental impacts for this project have
19 not been addressed in this new PILOT
20 proposal, and for that reason alone it
21 should be rejected once more.

22 The fix is purely monetary then
23 from 20 to -- 30 to 20 years and a little
24 bit less of a discount on the tax break, but

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1 I really urge the members of the board not
2 vote in favor this fix.

3 If the IDA would be willing to work
4 with the developer and consider a PILOT
5 agreement, we implore the IDA to use their
6 authority to work with the local residents
7 to prepare a list of minimal conditions that
8 this project must meet in order to qualify
9 for a local sponsorship and tax break.
10 These conditions should remediate what
11 the Article 10 process fails to do,
12 safeguard the health and equity of all
13 Broome County residents.

14 I don't have enough time now to go
15 into all of these conditions, but here are a
16 couple. The project should not receive a
17 tax break if it does not comply with the
18 local law. Why would we give benefits and
19 money away if they can't be bothered to
20 protect us with setbacks and noise
21 requirements that are in our own local law?

22 Also, the surrounding residents,
23 400 residents have been identified by the
24 developer that they will be flicker

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1 recipients and that they have all the noise
2 in their own living rooms. We don't even
3 have a decent noise complaint resolution
4 protocol. The present protocol is abusive
5 and inadequate, and the IDA could help make
6 a protocol that would actually help people
7 in case there are problems later down the
8 line.

9 Three, if the loss of property
10 values can't be honestly acknowledged, we're
11 really in deep trouble. The project should
12 adhere to minimally invasive construction
13 solutions to further avoid unnecessary
14 aggravation and devaluation of properties.
15 That includes, for example, minimizing the
16 noise, as stated before, or the avoidance of
17 light pollution at night. The IDA can help
18 here, as well, and should insist that the
19 project design must not include, for
20 example, synchronized blinking lights.

21 Other things. The eagles. I think
22 if nobody else wants to step up for the
23 eagles, if the DEC and the DPS and even
24 potentially the US Fish & Wildlife can't do

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1 anything, the IDA can still demand, for
2 example, that the high-risk turbines should
3 be curtailed and that publically accessible
4 cameras should be installed to monitor eagle
5 collision. The IDA has this authority, and
6 they should use it to make sure that this
7 project is safe and that it doesn't use
8 the -- the urgency that the state has been
9 putting on this and pushing it --

10 MR. O'BRYAN: Thirty seconds left,
11 Anne.

12 MS. LAWRENCE: -- down the line.
13 Okay. The developer refused to
14 work with the local residents just to save
15 costs to avoid impacts. The IDA must help
16 us to avoid those impacts.

17 Do not vote now, but help us to
18 come up with a list of conditions that
19 should be a minimum requirement in order to
20 approve the PILOT. I hope we can have
21 another meeting about that later and that
22 today we're not voting to accept the PILOT
23 as is.

24 Thank you.

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1 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
2 Ms. Lawrence.

3 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have
4 Mr. Rob Aikens, and then following that will
5 be Dr. Lawrence Snyder.

6 MR. AIKENS: Yeah. Can you hear
7 me?

8 MR. O'BRYAN: Yes, we can.

9 MR. AIKENS: Okay. Thank you. My
10 name is Rob Aikens.

11 MR. O'BRYAN: Go ahead and
12 identify yourself.

13 MR. AIKENS: My name is Robert
14 Aikens. I represent the operating engineers
15 in the Southern Tier. I'm also the
16 president of the Binghamton-Oneonta Building
17 Trades.

18 We are in support of this project.
19 A lot of our members throughout the past
20 years have had to work out of town. We
21 would like to see them work in town because
22 of this project. They're local members,
23 local contractors like Gorick, which Scott
24 Kurkowski mentioned earlier. We have also a

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1 lot of general manager contractors that are
2 bidding on it that have promised to use
3 local members.

4 There's, approximately, 30,000 man
5 hours just for the operating engineers on
6 this project, let alone the other trades
7 that will be on the project, as well.

8 The operating engineers support
9 this project, as well as the Building Trades
10 Council. So, we believe this project should
11 be approved by the Agency so it can forward
12 as scheduled.

13 Thanks for your time.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Rob.

15 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have
16 Dr. Lawrence Snyder, and then following him
17 will be Jen Caci, Caci.

18 (Whereupon there was no response)

19 HEARING OFFICER: Dr. Snyder?

20 MR. O'BRYAN: Dr. Snyder, you
21 might be on the phone?

22 (Whereupon there was no response)

23 MR. O'BRYAN: All right. I'm not
24 sure if we want to move on to the next

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1 person.

2 HEARING OFFICER: I would say move
3 on, and if he comes back on, we can let him
4 in then.

5 MR. O'BRYAN: Okay. So, it would
6 be on to Jen -- it's start -- it's Caci,
7 C-A-C-I.

8 (Whereupon there was no response)

9 MS. DUNCAN: Someone on the phone,
10 Brendan? Make sure if you're using just
11 your telephone you're unmuting the phone.

12 MR. O'BRYAN: If Jen would like to
13 speak, please, speak up. Otherwise, I'll be
14 moving on to the next person.

15 (Whereupon there was no response)

16 MR. O'BRYAN: All right. Next we
17 have Carolyn Price, and following Carolyn
18 will be Ginger Schroder.

19 MS. PRICE: Thank you. Good
20 evening, everyone. And I'd like to thank
21 you, thank the Agency, for giving me the
22 opportunity to speak.

23 The Agency is the lead economic
24 development organization for Broome County,

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1 and we as municipalities in rural Eastern
2 Broome County depend on you to help us move
3 forward with economic development. Because
4 of our topography and lack of infrastructure
5 economic development for us focuses on
6 natural resources, which we have a lot of
7 them, stone, lumber, natural gas, oil, sun
8 and wind.

9 New York State has approved the
10 Bluestone Wind project for the Towns of
11 Windsor and Sanford. The Agency helped with
12 economic development in our towns, Windsor
13 and Sanford, through a PILOT for the
14 Millennium natural gas pipeline. Now you
15 have before you another PILOT, Bluestone
16 Wind.

17 We appreciate the Agency allowing
18 the Town of Windsor and the Town of Sanford
19 to help negotiate the host community
20 agreement, known as the HCA, and the PILOT
21 for this project. We learned from working
22 with the Millennium natural gas pipeline
23 PILOT what to avoid and what we should have
24 in a PILOT agreement.

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1 Here are a couple examples. In the
2 Millennium PILOT there were no payments in
3 the first year. With the Bluestone PILOT
4 payments will start with tree clearing.

5 Another example, in the Millennium
6 PILOT there was a formula developed for
7 payments. The equalization rate in the
8 formula can cause a decrease in payment from
9 one year to the next and can cause errors in
10 the calculations. The Town of Windsor has
11 experienced a decrease in payment in the
12 Millennium PILOT four times year to year
13 because of this formula, and one year's
14 payments were miscalculated because of the
15 formula.

16 As we worked with the Bluestone
17 PILOT, we said we need to do better. So, we
18 developed charts that clearly show annual
19 payments at a 2 percent increase each year.
20 The Town of Windsor compared the Millennium
21 payments and the Bluestone payments over the
22 same number of years, and the payments
23 through Bluestone will be over double what
24 they were with Millennium.

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1 Regarding this new application for
2 the Bluestone PILOT, the Town of Windsor is
3 supportive of the 20-year PILOT.

4 What are the economic benefits from
5 the Bluestone Wind project for the Town of
6 Windsor? Our estimated HCA and PILOT
7 payments are \$1,298,179.

8 How will the town use that money?
9 Tentative plans are to use the money for
10 capital improvements, vehicles and equipment
11 in our highway department. For example, a
12 Gradall is needed, estimated cost of
13 \$352,977. Using money from the Bluestone
14 project makes it not necessary to tax for
15 this and other purchases in the highway
16 department. This is good news to taxpayers.

17 Other economic benefits, road use
18 escrow accounts start at 125,000 and will be
19 replenished. The Windsor Fire Department
20 will receive \$350,995. A skid-steer is
21 being purchased through the project,
22 \$48,000. There's a cultural mitigation
23 funding for our history program at 14,500,
24 and legal cost reimbursement which started

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1 at \$13,505, and more will be reimbursed. We
2 estimate by the end of the project the
3 economic benefits to the town will be,
4 approximately, \$2 million.

5 The company has already made
6 charitable contributions to community
7 groups, and we expect that will continue.

8 The Village of Windsor will receive
9 \$32,500 in mitigation. The Windsor Central
10 School District will receive an estimated
11 \$3,905,691.

12 There are also payments to
13 landowners and neighbors. The four wind
14 turbines in the Town of Windsor will be at
15 Sky Lake, currently a tax-exempt property.
16 Now the town will have revenue from that
17 property.

18 Matthew Williams, Director of Sky
19 Lake, wrote a letter of support for the
20 previous --

21 MR. O'BRYAN: Carolyn, you have
22 30 seconds.

23 MS. PRICE: Okay. I'd just like
24 to finish with his quote.

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1 It is a way for the natural
2 resources of Sky Lake to contribute to the
3 financial well-being of the Town of Windsor.
4 He stated it so well.

5 And thank you very much for this
6 time.

7 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
8 Carolyn.

9 MR. O'BRYAN: I do believe we've
10 found Dr. Snyder, so I'm going to unmute his
11 phone and try to get him to participate.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Dr. Snyder?
13 (Whereupon there was no response)

14 MS. DUNCAN: Dr. Snyder, if you're
15 on the phone, please, unmute yourself and
16 start talking.

17 MR. SNYDER: You can hear me now?

18 MR. O'BRYAN: We can hear you.

19 MR. SNYDER: Okay. I'm Lawrence
20 Snyder. I purchased my farm on Bryce Road
21 in 1966. At that time I was a member of
22 technical staff at Bell Laboratories in
23 Murray Hill, New Jersey.

24 Right after I bought the farm the

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1 first thing I did is speak to a conservation
2 agent from Binghamton whose name was
3 Clarence Padgett. And we had a long
4 discussion of the future of the farm, and
5 one of the major things he said was, don't
6 put any money in the barn. What do you mean
7 by don't put any money in the barn? He
8 meant that if I put money in the barn, I'd
9 probably lose it.

10 So, what happened? I initially
11 developed the farm as a vacation home for
12 myself. I then rented it to vacationers and
13 hunters, and they enjoyed that farm and that
14 purpose very much.

15 I moved to -- in the -- pardon me.
16 I moved to the University at Albany in 1990,
17 gosh, my notes are getting mixed up, and --
18 I'm sorry. I had my notes here.

19 I want you to know that I think use
20 of the farm for wind -- wind turbines is a
21 good idea. The fraction of this space
22 occupied by the wind turbines, access roads
23 and transmission lines will be small. The
24 potential for income will be significant.

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1 Most of the -- most of the land will still
2 be usable in agriculture.

3 My daughter Lenore is a biochemist
4 now teaching at the City University of New
5 York. You'll probably be surprised to know
6 that she's been teaching her courses over
7 the Internet from the farm. Now, that's
8 something we would never have guessed
9 50 years ago. She's been doing research
10 with Cornell University on hemp as an
11 agricultural crop and may produce hemp in
12 the future.

13 For the 20 years -- for 20 years
14 I've supported -- as a professor at the
15 University of Albany for 20 years I've
16 supported two \$2,000 scholar awards for
17 students with disadvantaged backgrounds. I
18 plan to continue to fund such awards by the
19 SUNY at Albany with income from the
20 turbines. So, these are -- these are awards
21 for the education of students from
22 disadvantaged backgrounds, and we have a lot
23 of them.

24 Okay. Just a second here, if I

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1 have anything else. I'm almost out.

2 Anyhow, I think that this is a good
3 idea, and it will not be disruptive. It's a
4 good use for the land. It will be very
5 productive, and I'm in favor of it and I
6 want to see it -- I want to see it move
7 ahead. That's where I am.

8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
10 Dr. Snyder.

11 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have
12 Ginger Shroder followed by Richard Rogler.

13 MS. SCHRODER: Hi. This is Ginger
14 Shroder. Can you hear me?

15 MR. O'BRYAN: Yes, we can.

16 MS. SCHRODER: Okay. Great. I'm
17 an attorney in Cattaraugus County and I'm
18 also a Cattaraugus County legislator and I'm
19 a member of the Cattaraugus IDA. I want to
20 thank you for the opportunity to speak.

21 Just a little bit about optics. I
22 can't say I've been following this very
23 heavily, but I know that just about 13 days
24 ago your board considered a resolution to

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1 sponsor Bluestone. And now there's another
2 meeting, and it's being held between two
3 heavily observed holidays in the year, and
4 to advertise in the media sources that
5 aren't really likely to reach the community
6 members most likely to be impacted by this
7 project I really don't think is a very good;
8 look for an IDA. So, that's just a comment
9 that I would offer to you.

10 In August of 2018 the Cat County
11 Legislature joined other counties in New
12 York directing their IDAs not to sponsor
13 large-scale renewable projects unless the
14 PILOT was for full taxation. Our
15 legislature, after looking at all the data,
16 was convinced that projects like these will
17 be a net economic detriment to our county,
18 and the small economic benefits the
19 developers dangled before the host
20 communities will be greatly outweighed by
21 the economic, environmental and quality of
22 life losses that the collective community at
23 large will suffer.

24 By and large, people do not move to

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1 rural parts of New York State to be
2 surrounded by industrial wind turbines. The
3 loss of tourism, property value decline,
4 agricultural losses will all add up. And
5 for anyone who says that this was all
6 considered by the New York State Siting
7 Board in issuing the developer the
8 certificate to build this project, that is
9 just simply illogical. The siting board has
10 made it clear that they will not consider
11 property value decline when they add up the
12 benefits and the detriments of such
13 projects, and New York State lead by Cuomo
14 and his green dreams is on an absolute
15 mission to colonize all of Upstate New York
16 into wind turbine factories, and the heads
17 of the agencies that are supposed to be
18 protecting our natural resources and us are
19 appointed by him, and he's already made it
20 clear that he doesn't one wit about Upstate
21 New York.

22 (Whereupon there was an outside
23 interruption)

24 MS. SCHRODER: I'm sorry. There's

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1 a lot of feedback.

2 MR. O'BRYAN: Go ahead, Ginger.

3 There was one person unmuted.

4 MS. SCHRODER: Okay. Not a
5 problem.

6 So, then there's the lack of
7 permanent jobs. The developer states this
8 project will result in very few jobs. There
9 are two exhibits in -- in their application.
10 One is Exhibit D. It says that the facility
11 would create up to seven permanent jobs.
12 Then it goes on to say it will be two
13 permanent jobs in the three years following
14 commencement.

15 Exhibit E says the construction of
16 the facility will create a minimum of five
17 jobs, but it's anticipated to create up to
18 seven engineering professional jobs and
19 then, ultimately, two to run the facility.

20 In general IDAs are not authorized
21 to sponsor projects that don't create
22 permanent jobs under 874(4)(a). It says
23 when the IDA is developing a UTEP, it shall
24 in adopting that policy consider such issues

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1 as the extent to which a project will create
2 or retain permanent private sector jobs, and
3 that really, I think, the IDAs, needs to be
4 our job, not looking at the four months to
5 six months of construction jobs or 10 months
6 of construction jobs. Does your IDA
7 actually have a guarantee from the developer
8 that these jobs are going to be held by
9 county citizens? That is something that a
10 lot of IDAs have not been able to get
11 developers to agree to. I certainly doubt
12 it. And so, the millions upon millions the
13 developer's asking for a tax break any job
14 created in this county will be
15 astronomically expensive to your taxpayers.

16 Taxpayers are already continuing to
17 pay higher electric rates in New York
18 because of renewable energy, will continue
19 to have our tax dollars diverted to pay
20 enormous subsidies to these developers both
21 on a state and federal level, that's already
22 been alluded to, and now you're going to ask
23 them to take less than the developer's fair
24 share in breaks on sales tax, mortgage

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1 recording taxes and property taxes. A bit
2 about how this project has been granted
3 enormous tax breaks on the back of your
4 citizens really shouldn't be permitted.

5 And last I come to your own
6 economics as an IDA. In the wise words of
7 Upton Sinclair, it's difficult to get a man
8 to understand something when his economic
9 fortunes depend upon his not understanding
10 it.

11 Looking at Exhibit G of the Agency
12 fee schedule on the application, the
13 developer is due to the IDA --

14 MR. O'BRYAN: Ginger, you have
15 30 seconds left.

16 MS. SCHRODER: -- 100,000 at the
17 transaction closing, 150,000 due prior to
18 the start of construction and 1 percent of
19 the project less \$250,000 over 20 years,
20 which, basically, equates to \$94,000 a year.
21 I note in your proposed budget, which was
22 approved by your board on November 18th,
23 you've already included Bluestone project
24 revenue to the tune of \$250,000. If you

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1 came to the project with an open mind, how
2 is it that your 2021 budget already captures
3 revenue from a project that you have not
4 even approved? I think that that is a
5 terrible optic for the IDA and I think you
6 should very seriously consider --

7 MR. O'BRYAN: You're out of time,
8 Ginger.

9 MS. SCHRODER: -- you know, this
10 issue.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Richard Rogler is up
13 next followed by Valdi Weiderpass.

14 MR. ROGLER: Can you hear me?

15 MR. O'BRYAN: Yep. We can hear
16 you. Go ahead.

17 MR. ROGLER: I'm Richard Rogler.
18 This is my wife, Deborah Rogler. We live in
19 Nineveh.

20 This a copy of a letter I submitted
21 to the PRESS & SUN BULLETIN yesterday as
22 guest viewpoint. Calpine inadvertently
23 disclosed in an in-house study that revealed
24 the eagle-kill count for the Bluestone Wind

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1 project --

2 (Whereupon there was an outside
3 interruption)

4 MR. ROGLER: Okay. I just got
5 some feedback.

6 But Calpine inadvertently disclosed
7 an in-house study that revealed the
8 eagle-kill count for the Bluestone Wind
9 project would be over 10 times higher than
10 what they told the public. Calpine's
11 lawyers originally stated that this study by
12 West, Incorporated, was classified, and
13 after two years of the Broome County
14 Concerned Citizens residents group
15 requesting the alleged classified results
16 the study was found two weeks ago among
17 thousands of pages of produced materials.

18 West, Incorporated, was hired by
19 Calpine to perform an eagle survey using a
20 model developed by the US Fish & Wildlife
21 Service. The results of this survey
22 estimated that 84 bald eagles and 21 golden
23 eagles would be killed during the life of
24 this project.

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1 Calpine discredited and classified
2 the survey knowing that the project would
3 never be approved if the results were made
4 public. In its place they stated that only
5 six bald eagles and three golden eagles
6 would be killed just because one gold -- one
7 bald eagles has -- has ever been killed by a
8 wind turbine in New York. However, unlike
9 that incident, the Bluestone Wind project is
10 located directly in a major migratory path
11 with the wintering habitat for the eagles.

12 The Audubon Society, a conservation
13 group and an advocate for wind power,
14 completed its own eagle survey and
15 determined that West, Incorporate -- West,
16 Incorporated's, allegedly classified study
17 missed a large part of the documented
18 high-use area of the eagles and that the
19 eagle count could be even much higher.

20 How will this reflect on the IDA if
21 you approve this project for a tax break and
22 up to four eagles are being killed each year
23 as predicted?

24 Thanks for letting me speak.

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1 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
2 Mr. Rogler.

3 MR. O'BRYAN: Next we have Valdi
4 Weiderpass followed by John Kamp.

5 MR. WEIDERPASS: Hi. My name is
6 Valdi Weiderpass. I live in Endicott, which
7 is part of Broome County, and I am an
8 environmentalist, a nature lover since I was
9 a young boy and I see the overarching
10 problem we are faced with as being climate
11 change, and this is going to kill a lot more
12 bald eagles and golden eagles if we don't do
13 something about it.

14 And we already subsidize fossil
15 fuels, and people were just using the
16 permanent job question to try to bash this
17 project, which is a renewable project, but
18 they didn't talk about how many permanent
19 jobs were created by a pipeline that was put
20 in with a PILOT agreement. So, it's unfair
21 to just pooh-pooh a small number of jobs
22 that are permanent from this project when
23 you -- when you don't consider the same
24 criteria for a pipeline project that carries

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1 natural gas or oil or gasoline.

2 The other thing is that fossil
3 fuels right now actually kill, roughly, 19
4 times as many birds, from a study that was
5 done in 2013, per gigawatt hour of energy
6 generated than wind turbines do. You can
7 look this up in Wikipedia. The article --
8 the person who -- researcher is, I think,
9 Sabacool that's cited in the Wikipedia
10 article.

11 And what I want to point out here
12 is, also, that it is the mission of the
13 Agency and the IDA that reports to it to
14 encourage and provide assistance to economic
15 development projects and to enhance the
16 quality of life in Broome County.

17 Now, fossils fuels, the use of them
18 and burning of them, creates cancer-causing
19 substances. Gasoline has up to 1 percent
20 benzine allowed to be in it, and that is one
21 of the worst carcinogens there -- there are.
22 And when people are filling their gasoline
23 tanks or even living near a gasoline
24 station, they're exposed to fumes from

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1 gasoline vapors that have this benzine
2 carcinogen in it, and they're not even aware
3 of this. People aren't protesting that, but
4 they should be.

5 And this project would help meet
6 the goals of New York State's law, which was
7 signed by the Governor over a year ago, and
8 that is the New York State Climate
9 Leadership and Community Protection Act, and
10 it has goals that include 85 percent
11 reduction in greenhouse gas omissions by
12 2050, the transition to 100 percent zero
13 emission electricity by 2040, a 70 percent
14 renewable energy by 2030 and also adding
15 3,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030,
16 and this project is going to have a little
17 bit of energy storage along with it, too.

18 So, the developer has responded to
19 a few of the IDA board members' concerns
20 regarding the original PILOT agreement being
21 30 years by reducing it down to 20, and this
22 is a good-faith effort. So, this should be
23 taken into account, as well as the fact that
24 building the Bluestone Wind project is the

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1 most effective, largest, fastest single
2 project to help Broome County do its part to
3 help save a habitable climate. It would
4 meet the existing electricity demand of over
5 42,000 households, which is about 84,000
6 people, which is more than all the residents
7 within the electricity -- I mean within the
8 city limits of the Triple Cities without
9 producing any greenhouse gas emissions.

10 And note that the electricity
11 demand is rising and will rise at a faster
12 rate as we need to electrify almost
13 everything related to energy use including
14 heating, transportation and industrial
15 processes as part of the urgent need to
16 prevent the worst of climate change, which
17 is going to kill people, too, besides eagles
18 and wildlife if we don't do anything about
19 it.

20 The general population is for
21 renewables. A study came out this summer
22 and as well as this fall. It came out
23 before the November election. I wrote an
24 essay about this and had it published in the

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1 PRESS & SUN BULLETIN. You can look it up.
2 And this is backed up by data.

3 So, the negotiation of the PILOT
4 and landowner agreements was --

5 MR. O'BRYAN: Thirty seconds,
6 Valdi.

7 MR. WEIDERPASS: -- negotiated
8 over many months, and rejection of it at
9 this late date considering development
10 started back in the summer of 2016 with
11 outreach to prospective landowners would be
12 unfair to the project developers, the
13 landowners and the host communities, which
14 are all in favor of this.

15 So, voting yes is a good look for
16 the IDA because it would fulfill its
17 mission. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

19 MR. O'BRYAN: John Kamp, if you're
20 on, you're up next. If you're on your
21 phone, please, make sure you unmute
22 yourself, and then Carol or Brant Hill is up
23 after John.

24 HEARING OFFICER: John Kamp?

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1 MR. O'BRYAN: John Kamp, are you
2 available?

3 (Whereupon there was no response)

4 MR. O'BRYAN: If John is unable to
5 respond, Carol or Brant Hill.

6 MR. HILL: Yes. Can you hear me?

7 MR. O'BRYAN: Yes, Carol. We can
8 hear you.

9 MS. HILL: Okay. Thank you.

10 My name is Carol Hill. My husband
11 and my son and I have a working diary farm
12 up here on William Law Road in the Town of
13 Sanford with over 200 head of cattle. My
14 son is the sixth generation that will be
15 taking over the farm, and I'm just going to
16 make this short and sweet and not ramble on
17 about facts of what is and what isn't.

18 All I can say is here we go again
19 with the same people against this project
20 and the same people like us Hill Family are
21 for it. You're probably going to hear the
22 same pros and cons that have echoed in this
23 community since 2016. I'm not going to
24 waste your time pounding the same arguments

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1 over and over again. Frankly, I'm getting
2 pretty sick of it. Just wanted to voice my
3 vote and our vote for the project.

4 What this town needs is a boost for
5 the economy, the schools, the infrastructure
6 and mainly the businesses here. This town
7 has suffered tremendously. The US has over
8 65,000 wind turbines including Alaska and
9 Puerto Rico. My opinion is bring them on.
10 I have a lot of wind up here.

11 I want to thank you for your time
12 and I'll end it here. Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
14 Mrs. Hill.

15 MR. O'BRYAN: I do believe we have
16 John Kamp on the -- on the phone. I asked
17 him to unmute his line.

18 John, are you there?

19 MR. KAMP: Yeah. Can you hear me
20 now?

21 MR. O'BRYAN: Yes, John. Go
22 ahead.

23 MR. KAMP: This is John Kamp. I
24 own property in Windsor, New York. I run a

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1 business in Deposit, New York, and I own
2 property in Sanford, New York.

3 This project is very important to
4 the infrastructure and to create jobs and to
5 help people survive this pandemic.

6 Especially these times there's a lot of
7 people out of work. There's a lot of things
8 that are going on, and a lot of people won't
9 be able to survive this pandemic much longer
10 unless they have some sort of input and
11 more -- more money into the local areas.

12 Right now my company is struggling
13 with COVID because of shutdown. They were
14 shut down for quite a while in New York
15 City. They're starting to open up, but it's
16 not opening up fast enough or quick enough.

17 I don't want to draw this out very
18 long, but I employ 20 -- over 20 people here
19 in Deposit, New York, and we need to have
20 this kind of project in order to make this
21 area more profitable and more livable.

22 Yes. The turbines will be there,
23 but they'll be creating renewable energy,
24 and I think it's the way of the future and

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1 we must continue and we must support this,
2 if we can.

3 I appreciate the IDA's and the
4 Agency's support and their time and that's
5 about all I have to say.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

7 MR. KAMP: Thank you. Yep. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. O'BRYAN: We have Brady Begeal
10 up next followed by Andrew Mason.

11 So, Brady, go ahead.

12 MR. BEGEAL: All right. Thank
13 you. My name is Brady Begeal. I'm an
14 attorney at the Law Firm of Coughlin &
15 Gerhart. Our firm represents the two towns,
16 the two host towns here, Town of Windsor and
17 Town of Sanford.

18 I'm not going to reiterate
19 something that Carolyn already said so well.
20 Dewey Decker, the Supervisor for Sanford,
21 couldn't be here tonight. So, my comments
22 are on behalf of both towns tonight.

23 We -- they previously submitted
24 letters in support of the first PILOT

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1 application and have submitted letters in
2 support of this revised PILOT application,
3 and I've also submitted the transcript from
4 the last public hearing so I don't have to
5 repeat all the comments that we had upon
6 that one.

7 But I'd just like to reiterate that
8 the towns support this proposal and I'd
9 encourage the board to approve it tonight.
10 I'm not aware of any legal reason why the
11 board can't approve it tonight or shouldn't
12 approve it tonight after this public hearing
13 is closed. Putting off a vote on this any
14 longer would just add more uncertainty and
15 confusion to the process. So, I would
16 encourage the board to make a decision
17 tonight.

18 And if you're hearing comments
19 tonight, they're very similar to all -- the
20 other public hearings that were held, not a
21 lot of new information being -- being
22 raised. So, you know, I -- I'd certainly
23 encourage the board to make a decision
24 tonight.

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1 Really quick, I -- I want to kind
2 of address some of the -- some of the
3 comments that were made tonight. You know,
4 there are certain details of the project
5 that are uncertain at this point, but that's
6 no -- no secret. The developer here has
7 been pretty open about that that they are
8 negotiating their -- their turbine selection
9 right up to the last minute to get the best
10 deal.

11 They -- all of their testing has
12 been and all of their studies have been
13 based on the worst-case scenario. So, the
14 biggest, loudest, worst turbines that they
15 could -- could possibly choose, that's what
16 all the studies are based on. So, it's
17 really not an issue that they haven't chosen
18 their final turbine yet.

19 And most of all the other issues
20 that have been raised tonight and have been
21 raised at other public hearings, you know,
22 have been heard and have been vetted and
23 have been either addressed by the siting
24 board or dismissed by the siting board one

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1 way or another. So, you know, a lot of the
2 stuff raised tonight has been -- has been --
3 has been vetted.

4 It is true, whoever said it, that,
5 you know, property values isn't a topic that
6 the siting board gets into. It's outside of
7 their -- at least they've determined that
8 it's outside of their jurisdiction, but at
9 least in the Bluestone project, you know,
10 the Town of Sanford and Town of Windsor
11 wanted to make sure that something was on
12 the record on -- in that regard.

13 So, the towns required that
14 Bluestone submit whatever studies supported
15 their position that there would be no -- no
16 significant impact on property values on the
17 record. So, they did submit a number of
18 studies that support their position on that.
19 There are certainly studies that are
20 conflicting with that, but if you read them
21 in their totality, essentially, what they
22 say is that there's conflicting information,
23 but the impact is nominal, and typically the
24 impact on property values is short term.

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1 And really what the short-term impact is is
2 the anticipation. It's the fear that builds
3 up due to the -- due to the turbines. And
4 then once they're actually built and people
5 get used to them, people realize they're not
6 that big of a deal and there's really no
7 impact after that. The impact is initial
8 because of the -- the anticipation. At
9 least that's how I -- I read the studies in
10 their totality.

11 And, also, mentioned, you know, I
12 heard for -- about the -- about Cattaraugus
13 County tonight and I certainly can't speak
14 to, you know, what they considered as part
15 of their decision, but, you know, they
16 decided they didn't want to, you know, take
17 a chance on a project like this -- project
18 like this, but all I can say is that the
19 five host communities including the county
20 who considered this all decided that they do
21 want to take this opportunity. So, that's
22 really the -- the consideration of the board
23 here.

24 I mentioned this last meeting.

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1 I'll quickly touch upon it. I'd like to
2 remind the board that, you know, a vote -- a
3 no vote on this doesn't necessarily mean the
4 project goes away. It means likely that
5 they come back to the towns to try to
6 renegotiate, try to come back to the host
7 communities and renegotiate or they go to
8 build the project and have it fully
9 assessed, and we've already done the hard
10 work. We've been -- we've worked hard on
11 this.

12 This is -- one way to look at this
13 is a pre, you know, pre-settlement of a
14 future dispute. We -- we've already done
15 this. So, to -- to punt it back to the
16 towns and school districts and the county to
17 deal with it would really -- would really be
18 unfair to them.

19 MR. O'BRYAN: Thirty seconds,
20 Brady.

21 MR. BEGEAL: Okay. And the last
22 thing I'd like to point out is that, you
23 know, really the towns are expecting this
24 payment at this point, and just to -- to

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1 point this out, the first payments come at
2 the commencement of tree clearing. Their --
3 their schedule at this point, which is
4 unofficial and it's not finalized at this
5 point, but at this point they're -- they're
6 expecting to start tree clearing in
7 February. So, in terms of Town of Sanford
8 we're looking at \$500,000-plus coming in the
9 town in two months, and that's what's on the
10 table tonight. So, in terms of an economic
11 impact it's hard to -- hard to deny.

12 So, I'd like to thank -- thank you
13 for considering this again and allowing
14 everybody to speak.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
16 Brady.

17 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have
18 Mr. Andrew Mason followed by Rob Ksionzyk
19 from IBEW.

20 MR. MASON: My name is Andrew
21 Mason. I'm co-president of the
22 Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society. We have
23 members in Delaware and Otsego County,
24 Broome County, Chenango County.

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1 Our organization is a supporter of
2 wind power. We have a formal position in
3 that regard, and, in fact, one of the
4 state's first wind projects in Madison
5 County we supported financially through the
6 purchase of wind credits. We've been
7 involved in the review of a number of other
8 wind projects throughout the region some of
9 which we supported and some that we did not.

10 We were heavily involved in the
11 review of the Bluestone project including
12 doing on-ground surveys of migrating
13 raptors. We were aware that this was a
14 migration corridor for raptors including
15 bald and golden eagles and we found high
16 numbers of eagles passing directly through
17 the project, in fact, through the swept
18 areas of the turbines in some cases. We
19 also found that a significant number of
20 eagles wintered in the region which --
21 within the project area, which raises the
22 risk for these birds.

23 We also commissioned studies of the
24 developer's project studies and presented

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1 those during the review process. Most of
2 our information was largely ignored by the
3 administrative law judge, and, in fact, as
4 was earlier mentioned, the judge deemed
5 confidential numbers from the developer that
6 showed a much higher eagle kill that was
7 presented to the public. That was --
8 recently had become public, and now I think
9 the true -- the true risk of eagles is
10 apparent.

11 The review process was very skewed
12 in favor of the developer. The law judge,
13 basically, took the word of the developers
14 in -- in every significant aspect regarding
15 the environment.

16 I'd like to point out that as far
17 as the siting board that approved the
18 project that also is heavily weighted
19 towards state representatives. The two
20 local representatives that were on that
21 board both opposed the project. They felt
22 that the project was not beneficial to the
23 local municipalities and voted against it.

24 We -- I'd just like to read a

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1 portion of the state law that enables
2 industrial development agencies. It reads,
3 it is -- it is hereby further declared to be
4 the policy of this state to protect and
5 promote the health of the inhabitants of
6 this state by the conservation, protection
7 and improvement of the natural and cultural
8 or historic resources and environment.
9 Clearly, this project does not meet that
10 test.

11 We -- I don't want to speak to the
12 finances here. The others know that better
13 and can address it better, but it appears to
14 me that considering that other counties have
15 proceeded without approving these sort of
16 projects, these sort of arrangements with
17 developers, shows that it could be done
18 here. You do not have to approve every
19 project that comes before you.

20 This one there may well be -- there
21 may well be locations in Broome County that
22 are appropriate for wind projects. This one
23 is not. This is a dangerous project for
24 wildlife, and its economic benefits, I

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1 think, have shown are questionable.

2 So, we -- we would ask the board to
3 take a hard look at the environmental
4 impacts of the project beyond what the state
5 has put forth.

6 MR. O'BRYAN: Andrew, you have
7 30 seconds left.

8 MR. MASON: And we would encourage
9 you to vote against this project. If it
10 can't stand on its own feet, then it
11 shouldn't be built.

12 Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
14 Andrew.

15 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next I do believe
16 we've got Rob on the phone. So, Rob will be
17 going next followed by Jim Donowick.

18 So, go ahead, Rob.

19 MR. KSIONZYK: Can you hear me
20 okay?

21 MR. O'BRYAN: Yes, we can hear
22 you.

23 MR. KSIONZYK: Okay. My name is
24 Rob Ksionzyk. I'm a third-generation

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1 resident of Windsor. My grandfather was
2 post master for 20 to 30 years here and my
3 father was a 40-year IBEW electrician. I'm
4 continuing the tradition as being a 15-year
5 IBEW member at this time still growing from
6 there and still working in the trade to do
7 so.

8 I'd like to voice my opinion as a
9 long-term member of Windsor, born and
10 raised, as a -- in favor of this turbine
11 installation simply for the fact that I'm
12 currently calling you from the road from
13 installing renewable energy power generation
14 up north that I'd love to be able to work on
15 one and have my fellow brothers and sisters
16 do the same in our backyard, for lack of a
17 better yard. It will generate several jobs
18 that will last for the length of the
19 project, and I know there will be
20 maintenance and other things that will also
21 be involved in directly. So, I can foresee
22 it being work that will be part of the IBEW
23 membership for quite some time while it's in
24 place.

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1 Just a few words on, you know,
2 power generation in general. I mean, we're
3 only going to have higher and higher demands
4 of electrical generation, and as of right
5 now the least impacting would be renewable
6 energy sources. I don't think anybody can
7 argue that fact that a wind turbine produces
8 a lot less harm to the environment over a
9 coal-fire steam turbine of any kind.

10 So, along with that being said, I
11 would be absolutely in favor of this wind
12 turbine project to be installed where -- in
13 an area where I've grown up in and my father
14 has grown up in and so has my grandfather,
15 for that fact, right along with my kids, who
16 will be the fourth generation to live and
17 learn and grow in the Town of Windsor.

18 So, with that being said in final,
19 I -- I really hope that this gets voted
20 through tonight and we get moving on it
21 because there's a lot of families that are
22 going to be struggling with this whole COVID
23 impact.

24 Thank you.

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1 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Rob.

2 MR. DONOWICK: Hello?

3 HEARING OFFICER: Hello.

4 MR. DONOWICK: Can you -- can you
5 hear me?

6 HEARING OFFICER: Yes. Could you
7 state your name, please.

8 MR. DONOWICK: Okay. My name is
9 James Donowick. I'm a landowner up here in
10 the Town of Sanford right up in the sights
11 of some of the turbines, and the wind is
12 definitely strong enough up here to support
13 a wind project.

14 And an angle that no one else has
15 presented, if you want a long-term
16 environmental and economic benefit of this
17 project, I'm a member of the New York State
18 American -- American Chestnut Foundation,
19 and we are involved with Syracuse SUNY ESF,
20 Environmental Science & Forestry School, and
21 to develop a blight-free American chestnut
22 tree, and they have been successful at
23 developing a blight-resistant tree. And
24 they also offer an alternative energy degree

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1 and they strongly support this project and
2 wind renewable energy.

3 And Calpine when they had the
4 project already made a couple years'
5 donation to SUNY ESF, and I'm hoping that
6 Northland will continue that tradition, but
7 a blight-free American chestnut would have
8 not only for timber but for wildlife boon,
9 carbon sequestration, et cetera, et cetera,
10 and there's a lot on the Internet about
11 that.

12 And, anyway, even though now we
13 have a New York Governor and a
14 President-elect who are Democrats and who
15 are promoting renewable energy the first
16 wind farm in New York was put in under
17 Pataki, a Republican. And if you travel
18 around Upstate New York, Pennsylvania and
19 I'm sure if you go to Texas or Illinois,
20 you're going to see a lot of conservative
21 Republican landowners, farmers who have
22 become involved in wind energy.

23 The fact is that people who have
24 the sites to produce wind energy sign up for

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1 these projects, and the people who don't are
2 quite often, well, sour groups. And one
3 benefit of our project up here is that we
4 are headed towards a transmission line,
5 which is really important for these
6 projects.

7 So, anyway, I would recommend that
8 you support the American Chestnut Project
9 and thank you. Bye.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Jim.

11 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have Joan
12 McKiernan followed by Matt Centofante.

13 Joan.

14 MS. McKIERNAN: Yes. Hi,
15 everybody. Thank you very much for allowing
16 me to speak, and I would like to
17 congratulate Mr. Mason and Ginger for their
18 remarks.

19 Climate change, let's start there.
20 Climate change is the -- after we survive,
21 hopefully, this COVID episode, climate
22 change is the biggest thing facing the
23 next and numerous generations in society.
24 We cannot argue that this is going to be a

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1 contribution to climate change when it's
2 based upon the use of fossil fuels and the
3 use of precious minerals which are
4 dangerously -- endangering the lives of
5 people around the world, young workers and
6 it --

7 Fossil fuels right here. Why do
8 you think the oil and gas companies are
9 here? They still want to dig up the fuels
10 from New York State and they're ready to do
11 it the next time somebody lets them go, you
12 know. We thought fracking was over, but it
13 may not be.

14 I would like you all to consider.
15 Everybody's talked about a few jobs and the
16 garage that -- that they'll get in Deposit
17 or the equipment that Carolyn Price will get
18 in Windsor. Nobody has actually done a
19 cost-benefit analysis. If you're looking at
20 the number of jobs that are coming in, are
21 you balancing it against the cost that this
22 project will take place -- will incur to
23 those two towns?

24 I live in Deer Lake in the Windsor

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1 part of it. I live right under Sky Lake and
2 I will be in the path of all the debris from
3 the concrete building, from the oil that's
4 dripping down, from the all the other
5 pollution that already comes from Sky Lake,
6 and it will be coming down and it's going to
7 go and destroy our water supply, our wells
8 and our lake. Now, are you looking at that
9 like the impact on the environment and the
10 people who are actually living here in the
11 path of these.

12 And this is not a wind farm. These
13 are industrial turbines. Let's get back to
14 remembering that. They were meant to be
15 built on the ocean. They weren't meant to
16 be built on steep hills where people are
17 living.

18 Anne Lawrence has already pointed
19 out how the company, and the state has
20 allowed this, has rejected consideration of
21 people's health. They're putting these
22 turbines close to people's home. In Europe
23 there are rules. In Europe there are rules
24 about noise. There are rules about

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1 distance. We don't have any rules here in
2 New York State that we can count on.

3 So, let's measure it up. You're
4 destroying the environment for a number of
5 jobs and for a good garage in Deposit and a
6 few other things. Are you measuring up the
7 impact and how much it's going to cost the
8 state and the community to pay the medical
9 costs for people who are going to get sick?
10 Are you -- have you included the cost for
11 all of the tourism that is going to be
12 destroyed? The trout that rise in those
13 hills up there on those hills, once those
14 forests go that you're destroying, the trout
15 will be gone. The fisherman will be gone.
16 The hotels and inns all around the county to
17 house these people, everybody who comes on
18 vacation will be gone. How much money
19 are you going to lose that way?

20 How much are you going to lose from
21 property taxes when the cost of our homes
22 goes to pittance because we won't be able to
23 sell? We won't be able to live there
24 because the wells in our, you know, our area

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1 will be destroyed. Have you put that into
2 the package?

3 You really need to look at what are
4 the good points and what are the bad points,
5 okay? So, we have increased use of fossil
6 fuel, which we don't want if you are for
7 climate change and for a good environment.
8 We have destruction of forest. We have
9 destruction of rivers. We have destruction
10 of an aquifer. We have destruction of
11 lakes, okay, and we have the health costs,
12 as I said.

13 So, please, put those into the
14 consideration and get people back in, not
15 just people who get a few jobs for a couple
16 of months or maybe a couple of years but
17 people whose lives will be damaged.

18 MR. O'BRYAN: You have 30 seconds
19 left.

20 MS. McKIERNAN: Thank you very
21 much.

22 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

23 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next is Matt
24 Centofante. I asked him to unmute himself.

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1 Are you here?

2 MR. CENTOFANTE: Yes, I'm here.

3 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next after Matt
4 will be Adam Flint.

5 So, go ahead, Matt.

6 MR. CENTOFANTE: Hey. My name is
7 Matt Centofante. I'm a member of Local 158
8 Operating Engineers.

9 I just know a lot of guys are
10 depending on this work right now. Winter's
11 coming. It's hard for a lot of people, and
12 this is going bring a lot of jobs to the
13 area but -- and well-needed jobs to the
14 area, well-needed, good-paying jobs. And,
15 yeah, I'm just -- I -- a lot of guys are for
16 it. A lot of people are for it, and it
17 would be a real good thing if we got
18 approved.

19 Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Matt.

21 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have Adam
22 Flint followed by Tom McMahon, Jr.

23 So, go ahead, Adam.

24 MR. FLINT: It's Brandon, and

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1 thanks to the IDA and the Agency for the
2 opportunity to say a few words today.

3 I think the case has already been
4 made in this hearing and the last for the
5 positive impacts of this project. I want to
6 focus on setting the record straight about a
7 couple of impacts that I think have been
8 either taken out of context or simply not
9 gotten right. Those two are the question of
10 subsidies when compared to traditional
11 energy forms and the question of impact on
12 the part of winds versus other things.

13 In a study done by Ben Healey and
14 Nancy Pfund called, What Would Jefferson Do,
15 The Historical Role of Federal Subsidies
16 in Shaping America's Energy Future,
17 researchers found that looking at the first
18 15 years of operation of nuclear versus oil
19 and gas versus renewables that nuclear
20 subsidies were 10 times greater than
21 renewables. Oil and gas were five times
22 greater. Further, nuclear and oil and gas
23 continue to receive heavy subsidies both
24 direct and indirect, even if you don't count

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1 the oft-ignored impacts on climate. If you
2 include those, the question is undeniable.

3 So, those who are making the
4 argument that this is bad deal because of
5 subsidies don't have a leg to stand on
6 because the subsidies have continued for
7 these other forms of energy for in one case
8 about half a century and the other more than
9 a century.

10 Second question in terms of
11 impacts. There is no such thing as energy
12 production without impacts. The question is
13 not, you know, which -- well, should we just
14 not have wind as opposed to conventional
15 stuff. It's you have to have ways of
16 generating power.

17 And I would say that the
18 communities that have borne the brunt of the
19 existing conventional power systems have
20 already done their share to say the least.
21 Let's look at what the impacts are that are
22 uncontroversial because the previous speaker
23 stated some impacts that simply are not
24 borne out by evidence.

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1 Uncontroversially we know this has
2 impact on the eagles and birds. We know you
3 see these turbines. We know construction
4 has impact. Tree clearing has impact. The
5 mining and manufacturing that goes into
6 these machines has impact. But if you
7 compare that to the impacts of other forms
8 of energy production, there's no question
9 which is least impactful. And further the
10 way that -- the direction in which
11 renewables are going and research is going
12 is to try to get away from the use of rare
13 earths, to try to get away from the use of
14 lithium, to try to get away from the use of
15 anything that really is -- is negatively
16 impactful.

17 If you look at the nuclear
18 industry, on the other hand, or if you look
19 at the conventional industry, let's -- take
20 two examples. In terms of the conventional
21 gas industry, there are what are called
22 peaker power plants on the shores of various
23 boroughs in New York City that have been
24 operating for decades. This has created

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1 what has been called Asthma Alley, and
2 thousands of people have died prematurely or
3 have suffered from asthma as a result of
4 these plants operating there.

5 One of the largest operators of
6 plants is also actually shutting down
7 several of their plants in favor of energy
8 storage. Energy storage in this case is
9 based on lithium, and lithium has an impact.
10 There's no question. So, the impact is
11 lesser, but the impact still exists.

12 Looking at the nuclear industry,
13 the uranium mining that has taken place
14 mostly on indigenous lands has killed
15 thousands and continues to make thousands
16 more ill or die prematurely. If we look at
17 the impacts of this wind farm, it hardly
18 compares.

19 I will also say that representing
20 the Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow we're
21 not in favor of every single project that
22 has to do with renewable or green energy
23 that comes down the pike, and the example
24 here is the Sungeel plant --

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1 MR. O'BRYAN: Brandon, you have 30
2 seconds.

3 MR. FLINT: -- that's proposed in
4 Endicott. When we saw how much truck
5 traffic that would cause, and truck traffic
6 creates a lot of, you know, contaminants
7 that make people sick, when we saw a
8 questionable business model, we decided
9 after asking experts about this that we
10 would oppose that project.

11 This project does our share for
12 addressing the climate and brings all the
13 benefits that have been mentioned. And I've
14 been asked this before and I'll say it
15 again. Yes, I would have this project in my
16 backyard.

17 Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
19 Brandon.

20 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have Tom
21 McMahon, Jr., and following him will be Gay
22 Hunter.

23 Go ahead, Tom.

24 MR. McMAHON: My name is Tom

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1 McMahon, Jr. I'm a member of Laborers Local
2 785 and lifelong resident of Broome County.

3 The Bluestone wind farm is a
4 project that will both be beneficial to our
5 county and local construction workers like
6 myself. Having the opportunity to work and
7 provide for our families locally is
8 something I hope the board will take in
9 consideration during their decision-making
10 process.

11 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Okay. Up next we
13 have Gay Hunter.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Hunter?

15 MR. O'BRYAN: Mr. Hunter, are you
16 available?

17 (Whereupon there was no response)

18 HEARING OFFICER: We can come
19 back, Brendan.

20 MR. O'BRYAN: Yep. Following him
21 will be LaShawn Burnett.

22 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Burnett?

23 (Whereupon there was no response)

24 MR. O'BRYAN: I believe you're on

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1 the phone. So, if you're on the phone, you
2 need to unmute yourself.

3 I think I found his phone. So,
4 give me one minute to see if we can get him
5 to unmute himself.

6 MR. BURNETT: Can you hear me now?

7 HEARING OFFICER: Yeah. We can
8 hear you, LaShawn. Go ahead.

9 MR. BURNETT: So, can you hear me?

10 MR. O'BRYAN: Yeah, LaShawn. We
11 can hear you. Go ahead.

12 MR. BURNETT: Okay. My name is
13 LaShawn Burnett. I'm a member of the
14 Laborers Local 785 and a long lifetime
15 resident of Broome County, Binghamton, New
16 York.

17 The Bluestone wind farm is a
18 project that will be both -- will be both
19 beneficial to our community and our county
20 and the local construction workers like
21 myself have an opportunity to work and
22 provide for our families locally.

23 It's something I hope the board
24 will take in consideration during their

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1 decision-making process.

2 And thank you for allowing me to
3 speak. Have a happy New Year.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
5 Mr. Burnett.

6 MR. O'BRYAN: And I believe it's
7 Gary Hunter, not Gay Hunter, and I think he
8 might be in the waiting room. So, let me
9 put him in.

10 Gary Hunter, are you there?

11 (Whereupon there was no response)

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Mr. Hunter?

13 (Whereupon there was no response)

14 MR. O'BRYAN: Okay.

15 MR, HUNTER: Hello.

16 MR. O'BRYAN: I've got -- this is
17 Gary?

18 MR. HUNTER: Yes.

19 MR. O'BRYAN: All right. Gary,
20 you are up to speak if you are inclined.

21 MR. HUNTER: Yes, I am.

22 MR. O'BRYAN: All right. Go
23 ahead.

24 MR. HUNTER: Yeah. My name is

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1 Gary Hunter. I worked on a windmill. I'm a
2 member of the Operating Engineers Local 158.
3 They create a lot of good jobs, and I've
4 been up and -- up north working on some of
5 these projects and I'll tell you I haven't
6 seen any dead birds up there. I was up in
7 Louisville, New York, for over two months
8 working, and this needs to go forward.

9 People are hurting like crazy in
10 Broome County. I live in Port Crane and
11 most of the time I wind up having to travel
12 for work because Broome County has no work
13 to speak of. There's a lot of local people
14 that would put a lot of jobs, operators on
15 there, say, 150 of them, laborers, and it's
16 a good project, and this needs to move
17 forward. We can't keep kick -- kicking
18 these -- this can down the road on these
19 projects. People are hurting here. They
20 need the work. They need the jobs. It's
21 about time we got things going around Broome
22 County.

23 I mean, I worked -- I built the
24 roads up there and stuff. The impact on

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1 these jobs isn't that bad, and once they're
2 in people are usually happy. They were up
3 in Louisville, New York.

4 So, people, we -- we've got to do
5 something around Broome County. This is --
6 can't keep going on like this, but I'm in
7 favor of this project moving forward and the
8 sooner the better.

9 Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Gary.

11 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next would be Dan
12 Norton, I've asked you to unmute yourself,
13 followed by Logan Gorman.

14 MR. NORTON: Hi. My name is Dan
15 Norton. I'm a member of Laborers Local 785
16 and I've lived in Broome County my whole
17 life.

18 The Bluestone wind farm is a
19 project that is going to be beneficial for
20 not only our county but all my brothers and
21 sisters. Having the opportunity to work and
22 provide for our families locally is
23 something that I hope the board will take
24 into consideration during this

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1 decision-making process.

2 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Dan.

4 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next will be
5 Logan Gorman followed by Bert Jones.

6 MR. GORMAN: Hi. My name is Logan
7 Gorman. I am a member of Laborers Local
8 785. I've lived in Broome County my whole
9 life, spent most of my time in Windsor,
10 Kirkwood and everything else growing up.

11 And I support this windmills going
12 through and I appreciate the board members
13 taking their time to let me speak. Hope you
14 guys have a happy New Year.

15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Next is Bert
17 Jones.

18 MR. O'BRYAN: Yeah. Next would be
19 Bert Jones followed by Julie and Robert
20 Beyer, but first would be Bert Jones.

21 (Whereupon there was no response)

22 MR. O'BRYAN: Not responding.

23 Why don't we move on to Julie and
24 Robert Beyer.

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1 MS. BEYER: Yes. Hello?

2 HEARING OFFICER: Hello.

3 MR. O'BRYAN: Is this Julie?

4 MS. BEYER: Julie Beyer.

5 MR. O'BRYAN: Go ahead.

6 MS. BEYER: Okay. I have to get
7 away from my computer so there's no echo.

8 It's unfortunate this meeting is
9 being held so close to holidays and during
10 hours a lot of people are working which
11 makes it impossible for many members of our
12 community to attend.

13 Even more disturbing is that we are
14 here again looking at the same project with
15 incomplete plans, redacted hidden data,
16 insufficient protection for our residents in
17 regards to the environment and our health.
18 The same unresolved issues are still
19 present, our water sources, aquifers,
20 streams, runoff from tree clearing,
21 protection from blasting to our wells,
22 effects of infrasound on our health, which
23 are very significant, our eagles. It's all
24 been said before.

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1 This proposed project has no
2 positive long-term outcome for our
3 communities. This project does not comply
4 with our local laws, the sound ordinance,
5 the distance effects. These laws were put
6 in place to protect the residents of
7 Sanford. It is very disappointing that the
8 town supervisors are willing to overlook
9 this. They seem to see only the immediate
10 windfall for some projects or a grader or a
11 new garage but are not looking or listening
12 to the majority of the community residents.
13 They're not looking at the lasting impact on
14 our communities long term, the impacts for
15 our residents five years, ten years, twenty
16 years from now, the impact on our children
17 and grandchildren.

18 Before you vote I would hope that
19 you would come out here to see what will be
20 destroyed. This project if allowed to go
21 through will be the nail in our coffin. No
22 one, no company, no tourism, no one will
23 want to live here.

24 The facts are this project is not

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1 green or efficient. Calpine or Bluestone or
2 the next owner doesn't care about us or our
3 communities. They only want the subsidy
4 money from New York State and savings
5 through this PILOT program at the expense of
6 the residents that will be forced to live
7 here. There are no long-term positive
8 economic benefits for our community. Our
9 property values will plummet. Electric
10 bills will go up. Our tourism will be
11 destroyed, our health put at risk, no
12 medevac helicopter allowed in the area, our
13 environment forever gone all for what? A
14 few permanent jobs, which originally
15 Bluestone had said would be five to seven
16 jobs. My understanding is now that it's
17 reduced down to two. This project simply
18 does not meet our local laws. It is meant
19 to be -- it is not meant to be in
20 residential communities.

21 Now, I've heard people say they
22 need jobs, they want local jobs. I
23 understand the need for a job, but I also
24 understand that you don't want jobs at the

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1 expense of ruining the community, ruining
2 people's health. I drive an hour every day
3 to work and back. That's my choice. So,
4 when you're in a union, you understand that
5 you're going to -- you're going to have to
6 travel for jobs. It's nice to have them
7 local but not at the expense of other
8 people's livelihood and community's
9 devastation.

10 Thank you for letting me talk.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have
13 Kermit Mott followed by Alex Madison.

14 MR. MOTT: Good evening. This is
15 Kermit Mott and hopefully you can hear me.

16 And I reviewed some of the past
17 meetings and if I pronounce your name wrong,
18 I apologize in advance, but Mr. Peduto, I
19 believe is the last name, there was a
20 discussion on September 16th concerning the
21 final turbine models, and it was established
22 that -- at that meeting that the final
23 models had not been chosen. And, therefore,
24 the total number of megawatts produced for

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1 the project was also not known, and that's
2 also true today based on comments that I've
3 heard.

4 Furthermore, there was a question,
5 a hypothetical, asked what was the low end
6 of the project, and Mr. Stanton came back
7 with a response that it would be possible to
8 go to 100- to a 105-megawatt project.

9 And the reason why I'm raising this
10 concern is that when you look at the total
11 number of dollars that are being asked for
12 in relief, it represents a percentage of the
13 total cost of the project. So, my question
14 to the board is if the total cost of the
15 project is less than what is currently the
16 estimate for the total cost, will the dollar
17 amount of relief also be adjusted so that it
18 represents the same percentage of the cost
19 the project? In other words, I'm suggesting
20 that instead of having a solid figure in
21 your resolution you may want to -- to change
22 the wording to something to the effect of up
23 to. So, that would give you the ability and
24 the flexibility to adjust that percentage so

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1 that you're not putting more money into the
2 project than was originally asked for based
3 on the cost of the project.

4 And then there was some discussion
5 about the power grid and where the power
6 would go to, and I believe it was
7 Mr. Mirabito under his discussion
8 established that the I -- there's ISO Region
9 C versus E and that E was more towards the
10 down -- downstate area, and, basically, we
11 would be exporting the energy created
12 downstate because most of Broome County is
13 in Region C.

14 And then -- then there was some
15 other discussion, and at the end of the day
16 it was established that, perhaps, the
17 eastern part of Broome County is in Zone
18 E -- Zone -- yes, excuse me, Zone E, not D,
19 Zone E, and, therefore, most of Broome
20 County would not be served by the energy
21 being generated by this project.

22 And then at another meeting
23 Mr. Bucci talked about the aesthetics of the
24 area and he also quoted Robert K. Kennedy,

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1 Jr., in that some places are off limit, and
2 I won't finish the quote.

3 Then there was some discussion
4 about job creation had been downsized
5 significantly especially in the construction
6 area from 100 -- 150 jobs originally to, I
7 believe it was, 75 and then from seven
8 full-time jobs to two full-time jobs, which
9 is still true.

10 And then there was a discussion
11 about, and this is all under Mr. Bucci's
12 time, about the amount of money being kicked
13 in by the state and federal governments, and
14 that represents, approximately, 40 percent
15 of the cost of the project. So, again, if
16 the total cost of the project decreases,
17 then, obviously, if the dollar amount
18 remains the same, then the amount of money
19 being given to this project by the state and
20 federal governments is a greater percentage
21 of the project.

22 In my opinion, what we're looking
23 at is -- is corporate welfare because we're
24 coming back to the same taxpayers who are

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1 paying state and federal taxes and asking
2 them again to subsidize this project.

3 And my question for the board --
4 another question for the board is what's
5 changed since the last vote? Those are all
6 the things that you talked about at one
7 point in time in the past. So, what has
8 changed since the last vote? And I think
9 that's a question that each board member is
10 going to have to ask --

11 MR. O'BRYAN: Thirty seconds left,
12 Mr. Mott.

13 MR. MOTT: -- ask themselves.
14 And, also, my other -- my other question is
15 if -- if this project is not approved, will
16 the project still be built? I have not
17 heard that the project will not be built if
18 the PILOT is not approved; and, therefore,
19 this whole discussion about should we
20 approve it, should we not approve it may or
21 may not affect the -- the end decision,
22 which is to build the project.

23 Thank you for my time and your
24 consideration of my comments.

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1 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
2 Mr. Mott.

3 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next is Mr. Alex
4 Madison followed by Tom McMahon, Sr.

5 MR. MADISON: Hello. Can you hear
6 me?

7 MR. O'BRYAN: Hello, Alex. Yes,
8 we can. Go ahead.

9 MR. MADISON: Okay. Hi. I'm a
10 member of Local 785 and I need to voice my
11 opinion as to how much I support this. A
12 lot of my brothers and sisters are out there
13 working real hard every day and looking for
14 work, and, you know, this wind farm is
15 something that this -- that Broome County
16 really needs.

17 It's going to be very beneficial to
18 everybody that I work with and all the
19 families and households in the area.
20 Bluestone wind farm, I believe, really needs
21 to go through. It's going to provide a lot
22 of income and a lot of jobs in the area that
23 this area really needs, in my opinion.

24 I think that turning this down

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1 a foolish decision for Broome County. We
2 need this. Families need it. A lot of
3 people are depending on this work. And I've
4 lived here my entire life in Broome County,
5 and to see this go through would be amazing
6 for me.

7 I -- I thank you for allowing me to
8 speak and have a great New Year's.

9 Thank you very much.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
11 Mr. Madison.

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have --

13 MR. MADISON: Thank you.

14 MR. O'BRYAN: -- Mr. Tom McMahon,
15 Sr., followed by Jen Caci. We're going to
16 try here again.

17 Mr. McMahon, Sr., if you're on
18 the -- on the phone, please, unmute
19 yourself.

20 (Whereupon there was no response)

21 MR. O'BRYAN: I'm not hearing any
22 response.

23 I guess we'll move on to Ms. Jen
24 Caci, C-A-C-I.

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1 MS. KELLY: Kelly.

2 MR. O'BRYAN: What? How's that?

3 MS. KELLY: Kelly.

4 MR. O'BRYAN: Well, it says

5 C-A-C-I.

6 MS. KELLY: No. Kelly, Genevieve
7 Kelly.

8 MS. CACI: I'm -- this is
9 Jennifer. I'm -- I'm here.

10 MR. O'BRYAN: Yes.

11 MS. CACI: Can you hear me?

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Yes. Go ahead,
13 Ms. -- Ms. Caci.

14 MS. CACI: Okay. Yes. It's Caci,
15 but it's --

16 MR. O'BRYAN: Caci.

17 MS. CACI: That's fine.

18 MR. O'BRYAN: Yep. Go ahead.

19 MS. CACI: No problem.

20 Okay. So, I am actually a resident
21 in Guilford. So, I don't really have a dog
22 in the fight with regards to your project.
23 I'm just --

24 So, my name is Jennifer Casi. I am

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1 a retired Army colonel with 29 years of
2 service, the last 17 of which I was an
3 environmental science officer, and my job
4 was, basically, to assess the risk of
5 environmental exposures for our soldiers.
6 So, that was really what I started focussing
7 on when I became one of the co-leads for the
8 Guilford Coalition of Nonparticipating
9 Residents, and, full transparency, I --
10 that's a group of folks who are against the
11 High Bridge project in Guilford.

12 A suggestion that I made to a lot
13 of the folks who were for the project is
14 that if you haven't ever stood within a mile
15 of one of these industrial wind turbines
16 that you take a ride and you do that, and
17 then you have to remember that the turbines
18 they're proposing for both your project and
19 ours are upwards of 300 feet taller than
20 that.

21 Now, the reason the size is
22 important and these folks who are bringing
23 up that it -- that the size of the turbines
24 hasn't been identified yet, that's a

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1 critical piece of information because the
2 impact of those turbines on the people
3 living in the vicinity of them, especially
4 as it pertains to infrasound, is very, very
5 important. There are significantly negative
6 effects from infrasound that are very well
7 scientifically supported now. And, in fact,
8 I'm very surprised to hear any dairy farmer
9 in support of industrial-sized wind turbines
10 because infrasound has significantly
11 negative impacts on -- on diary cattle
12 production.

13 The other couple of things I wanted
14 to bring up is that we have found in our
15 research of the High Bridge project that the
16 numbers of jobs that will be created have
17 also decreased and that they are,
18 unfortunately, short term in nature and that
19 the turbine companies really have no qualms
20 about bringing people from the -- from
21 outside the area to fill those positions,
22 unfortunately. Please, don't take that as
23 me diminishing the importance of the jobs.
24 I think that would be very beneficial, but

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1 if you are going to approve a project like
2 this, a lot more consideration needs to be
3 taken with regard to the proximity to where
4 people are living and working because so far
5 the impact of infrasound on all of the
6 projects in New York have pretty much been
7 hand waving, and there are people who are
8 really suffering and not in small numbers
9 anymore.

10 So, I think an important question
11 is how -- benefitting -- are we benefitting
12 the many for the good of the few. And
13 it's -- that's not to say that wind turbines
14 are all bad, but there are so many
15 questions, many of which have been well
16 articulated this evening, that really need
17 to be taken into much greater consideration.

18 And I -- I personally think the
19 impacts on the health of people is -- is one
20 of the most important.

21 These are -- they should not be
22 cookie-cutter projects. Every community is
23 different, and there are different concerns
24 that really across the board in New York I

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1 think a lot of hand waving is being done and
2 I just suggest to the IDA and I'm hoping our
3 IDA in Chenango will -- will take those
4 other things into consideration that really,
5 I think, have been largely ignored.

6 So, I appreciate the opportunity to
7 share some information with you and I wish
8 you guys a happy New Year and good luck to
9 the IDA.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

12 MR. O'BRYAN: So, up next we have
13 Al Landi followed by Michael Dundon.

14 Al, are you on the phone?

15 (Whereupon there was no response)

16 MR. O'BRYAN: All right. I think
17 we'll go to Michael Dundon and we'll try to
18 come back to Al.

19 MR. DUNDON: Hello. Can everybody
20 hear me?

21 HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

22 MR. DUNDON: I'd like to begin by
23 introducing myself. My name is Michael
24 Dundon, and I am a lifelong resident of

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1 Broome County, New York.

2 I'm speaking today in support of
3 the Bluestone wind farm. This project will
4 consist of building, approximately, 27 wind
5 turbines in the Towns of Windsor and
6 Sanford, both located in Broome County, New
7 York. The wind farm is anticipated to
8 provide, approximately, 124 megawatts of
9 wind energy. In the building of a
10 124-megawatt wind farm it will require at
11 least 100 construction jobs including those
12 for tree clearing, surveys and site grading,
13 drilling foundations, pouring concrete,
14 building temporary access roads, the
15 collection system and the structure
16 erection, just to name a few.

17 Now, in speaking of the jobs, as
18 the president, field rep and apprenticeship
19 coordinator of Laborers Local 785 and also
20 the recording secretary for the
21 Binghamton-Oneonta Building Construction
22 Trade Council, there are, approximately, 175
23 members of Laborers Local 785 that currently
24 reside in Broome County. Now, besides --

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1 besides residing in Broome County, these
2 members also hunt, fish, snowmobile, members
3 of your community, coach youth sports,
4 active in their churches and in many other
5 volunteer organizations. Projects like the
6 Bluestone wind farm enable these members of
7 Laborers Local 785 to provide for their
8 families not only in the form of a paycheck
9 by also in the form of health, dental,
10 vision and retirement benefits.

11 Local people spend their money
12 locally, plain and simple, whether it's on a
13 big-ticket item like a house or a vehicle or
14 something as small as just eating in your
15 local restaurants or shopping in local
16 stores.

17 The Laborers Local 758 JATC
18 Apprenticeship Program has young members
19 that also are Broome County residents. Two
20 of our apprentices have actually called in
21 and spoke today. These apprentices are part
22 of an earn while you learn program where on
23 top of classroom instruction these young
24 members receive on-the-job training as part

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1 of becoming a journey worker construction
2 craft laborer. Local 785 apprentices are
3 learning a trade in hopes of having a career
4 and building a family in the county that
5 they grew up in.

6 It's projects like the Bluestone
7 wind farm that will help retain young people
8 to Broome County while offering them
9 good-paying middle class jobs. This project
10 will boost jobs and the overall economy of
11 the Southern Tier.

12 The approval of the Bluestone wind
13 farm project in the end will not only be
14 good for local construction workers but is
15 also the only construction project of this
16 size where the developer has come in wanting
17 to build with local labor. The only other
18 projects comparable in size in Broome County
19 over the last few years were the
20 Binghamton-Johnson-City sewage treatment
21 plant and the Prospect Mountain highway
22 project. Neither of those projects'
23 developers or general contractors were
24 willing to make the commitment at first

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1 Calpine and now Northland has made to local
2 trades work.

3 This project would be a huge win
4 for the Southern Tier all the way around.
5 So, please, let us have the rare opportunity
6 to build a large-scale renewable energy
7 project right here in our backyard.

8 I'd like to thank you for your
9 time. I know this has been countless
10 meetings for all of us. I wish you all a
11 happy New Year.

12 Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

14 MR. O'BRYAN: I'm trying again with
15 Mr. Al Landi and then following by Kelvin
16 Herrala.

17 Al, are you available? I'm trying
18 to ask you to unmute.

19 (Whereupon there was no response)

20 MR. O'BRYAN: I'm not hearing Al.
21 Kelvin, are you on and available?

22 MR. HERRALA: Yep. Kelvin is
23 here.

24 MR. O'BRYAN: All right. Go

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1 ahead, Kelvin.

2 MR. HERRALA: I'm Kelvin Herrala,
3 business manager of IBEW Local 325 located
4 in Broome County. We do work in Broome
5 County, Tioga, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego
6 County.

7 I'm speaking on behalf of our
8 members and jobs that this would create and
9 I hope the IDA votes in favor of this.

10 And I'd like to, I guess, back up a
11 few speakers ahead of me what Mr. Mott said
12 that no matter what the IDA votes on that
13 this project could move forward. So, if
14 that is the case the project moves forward,
15 then, basically, all the naysayers and
16 everyone against and the studies are done
17 and it's approved, I think it's a windfall.
18 We need the jobs. That's what the IDA is
19 there for to help create jobs, help the
20 economy.

21 It's a -- this job is going to
22 be -- take 60 electricians for a period of
23 weeks. There will be a lot of electricians
24 at the startup, at the ramp-up, and the peak

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1 My house was built in 1976. It's all
2 electric heat. Now I have 44 inches of snow
3 and no heat. We're in Northern New York.
4 Everyone ask yourself, what is your heat
5 source? Is it fuel or is it electric? We
6 don't make enough electric now, but why?

7 So, if we're going to green and all
8 that fuel is shut off and we're not burning
9 any more fuel, then we need to put up
10 electric. We need wind turbines. We need
11 solar farms and we need systems to
12 distribute it but --

13 So, I am for the jobs. I urge the
14 IDA vote what you should vote based on
15 supporting jobs and work and not scare
16 tactics and fear and question marks what
17 could go wrong.

18 Again, I heard it all through the
19 gas. I live a mile and a half from
20 Pennsylvania. Everybody was going to be
21 dead, their drinking water. Their kids were
22 all going to be dead. They're going to have
23 sick people, and I see none of that. I see
24 farms that are still in business. Their

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1 houses are painted and they're able to buy
2 tractors and equipment to continue farming.

3 Thank you for letting me speak.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
5 Mr. Herrala.

6 MR. LANDI: Can you hear me? This
7 is Al Landi.

8 MR. O'BRYAN: Yeah. Go ahead, Al.
9 After Al, we'll have James Thomas,
10 but go ahead, Al.

11 MR. LANDI: Yeah. Hi. My name is
12 Al Landi. I bought my property in 1989.
13 I've been there a long time. I've made a
14 lot of friends, you know, and you drive
15 through the Town of Deposit you want to cry.
16 It's just going downhill, and it's a shame
17 because there are no jobs.

18 I called a good friend of mine that
19 lives about a mile away from me. You know,
20 I said, hey, how are you doing? You know,
21 how are your children doing? Oh, they're
22 doing great. They bought a house. They've
23 got a good job. I said, wow, that's great.
24 Where are they, in Deposit, Binghamton? He

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1 said, what, are you kidding me? There's
2 nothing here for them. They're in North
3 Carolina. All the younger generation,
4 they're moving out. There's nothing there
5 for them.

6 I mean, you've got -- we've got to
7 do something to bring the economy back to
8 that area and I don't see anything wrong
9 with the windmills. I didn't see anything
10 wrong with the fracking. If you look at the
11 fracking, Pennsylvania is doing great. We
12 could have been doing the same, but, no,
13 we've got people always going against
14 something. Well, if you knock it down,
15 we're only going to go downhill. We're only
16 going to go downhill.

17 So, that's all I have to say.
18 Thank you very much.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
20 Mr. Landi.

21 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have
22 James Thomas followed by Chris Stanton.

23 MR. THOMAS: Good evening,
24 everyone. My name is James Thomas, and I'm

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1 a member of Laborers Local 785 and a
2 lifelong resident of Broome County.

3 The Bluestone wind farm is a
4 project that will be both beneficial to our
5 county and local construction workers like
6 myself. Having the opportunity to work and
7 provide for our families locally is
8 something I hope the board will take into
9 consideration during the decision-making
10 process.

11 I thank you very much for your time
12 and for allowing me to speak and I hope you
13 have a happy and safe New Year.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
15 Mr. Thomas.

16 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next is Chris
17 Stanton followed by David Lawrence.

18 MR. STANTON: Good evening,
19 everybody. This is Chris Stanton, developer
20 for Bluestone Wind. I just want to, you
21 know, take this opportunity to wish you all,
22 you know, a happy New Year. Thank you so
23 much for taking the time at this -- at this
24 time of year to again meet and hear

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1 everybody's comments and concerns on this
2 project. I know these issues are very
3 complex and I know that, you know, there are
4 strong feelings on both sides and so I -- I
5 appreciate that it puts the board as
6 decision-makers in a difficult spot. So,
7 thank you very much for taking this time.

8 I just would like to speak for a
9 few seconds to correct what I think were a
10 couple of errors made in the record by other
11 comments that were made today. One comment
12 early on suggested somehow that the
13 Bluestone wind project would be exporting
14 power to NY pool to the New England -- to
15 the New England system. That's totally
16 false. We do have a contract for renewable
17 credits for the project from NYSERDA and we
18 fully expect and have built the entire
19 business model around this project of
20 injecting this energy into the New York
21 State power grid to serve New York State
22 customers.

23 There was another kind -- statement
24 made about different NYISO zones,

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1 specifically characterizing Zone E as a
2 downstate area. That's also incorrect.
3 Zone E does include Eastern Broome County,
4 and then it extends northward into Central
5 New York State up into Mohawk Valley and on
6 to the shore of the Great Lakes.

7 Generally, though, I think, you
8 know, I wouldn't -- encourage everyone not
9 to get too hung up on this concept of zones.
10 The system is not -- it's not individual
11 power grids. It's one power grid.
12 Electricity flows across the high-voltage
13 system to wherever it's being demanded that
14 exact moment in time.

15 So, if, as was pointed out earlier,
16 if the City of Binghamton is requiring
17 energy at any given moment, that energy will
18 flow to the City of Binghamton and to the
19 surrounding area. If it's like the middle
20 of night and there's no energy being
21 consumed at Binghamton, it will flow to
22 elsewhere in New York State to where it's
23 being demanded.

24 As with any commodity market, if

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1 you add additional supplies to a commodity
2 market, you will have a suppression --
3 suppressive effect on pricing. And the way
4 electricity pricing works is the effect is
5 felt closer to where the resource is.
6 That -- that explains why, for example,
7 electricity prices in New York State are
8 frequently at their lowest adjacent to the
9 great hydroelectric dams and nuclear power
10 plants and wind facilities in Upstate New
11 York and are at their highest, typically, in
12 load centers downstate. And so, you would
13 expect the same trend to continue here. If
14 you add a significant size
15 electricity-generating resource to Broome
16 County, you would expect there to be some
17 suppressive effect on prices both
18 immediately within Zone E but in adjacent
19 load zones, as well, including the City of
20 Binghamton in Zone C.

21 A comment was made about eagles.
22 Actually, a couple comments were made about
23 eagles. I really want to correct the record
24 here. There's really two ways. When we

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1 went through the Article 10 permitting
2 process, there was two ways of measuring
3 risk to eagles. The New York State DEC had
4 one method, and the federal government
5 through the US Fish & Wildlife has a method
6 that they apply to the entire United States
7 that's called the Bayesian method. We --
8 this was a litigated issue in Article 10.
9 The Audubon Society was present in that
10 proceeding as was BCCR. There was a great
11 deal of testimony made and comments made,
12 but the upshot is really this. You know, we
13 feel and the same with -- New York State
14 feels that that Bayesian model vastly
15 overestimates the risk to eagles, but you
16 don't really have to take our word for it.
17 The number of eagles put at risk is spelled
18 out in our permit. Over 30 years --

19 (Whereupon there was an outside
20 interruption)

21 MR. STANTON: Over 30 years that
22 permit holds us to a risk of six bald
23 eagles -- risks putting six bald eagles and
24 three golden eagles at risk, right. That's

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1 what's in our permit, and New York State
2 will hold us to those limits as per the
3 conditions in our permit, and the
4 consequences can be quite severe.

5 And so, you know, I just want to
6 encourage the board not to get too caught up
7 into issues that were really contentious
8 issues for many years. And evidence was
9 supplied by both sides, and, ultimately, the
10 administrative law judge in the proceeding
11 and the siting board itself, you know,
12 got -- came to a finding on this issue and
13 spelled out issues -- these issues in our
14 certificate. None of these materials were
15 kept secret. The materials that --
16 referenced were part of --

17 MR. O'BRYAN: Chris, you have
18 30 seconds left.

19 MR. STANTON: Sure. Yeah.

20 So, the materials referenced were
21 part of our application. All we did in the
22 application was spell out an annual risk to
23 eagles, and all that the folks on the other
24 did was multiple that number by the number

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1 of years the wind farm will be in operation
2 and conclude the amount of eagles at risk,
3 but this is part of our application, and it
4 was never intended to be made confidential
5 and was not held confidential.

6 So, I want to encourage you guys
7 not to get distracted by that and I thank
8 you very much for turning out this evening
9 to hear these comments from the public.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
12 Chris.

13 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have
14 David Lawrence and then followed by Logan
15 Gorman.

16 So, go ahead, David.

17 MR. LAWRENCE: Hi. My name is
18 Dave Lawrence. I own property on Farmham
19 Road inside the -- kind of in the heart of
20 the area they're planning to put these
21 turbines.

22 I have a lot to say. I'd like to
23 say a lot about what the previous speaker
24 just spoke to. I believe it to be riddled

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1 with half truths, but like a lot of things
2 coming of this developer they're offering a
3 lot of promises.

4 They've offered promises to
5 laborers, operators. I think about half of
6 the people who would be even potentially
7 available to get a job from unions commented
8 tonight already. The long-term promises are
9 for 70 jobs, but what I really wanted to get
10 to was the widespread property value
11 degradation that's going to borne on the
12 backs of the local landowners.

13 The only local landowners who
14 commented on this call are those who stand
15 to benefit from direct payments by Calpine.
16 In fact, most of the people on this call who
17 are in favor of the project are benefitting
18 by payments from Calpine or by Bluestone or
19 Northland, but the fact of the matter is
20 that even though the Town of Sanford says
21 they may get \$500,000 in their first year,
22 if this project is developed, my property
23 values will be degraded by at least 100,000
24 in the first year. And I -- I've listened

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1 to the developers say that that's not true,
2 studies say, no, that's not going to happen,
3 and yet they will offer no property
4 guarantees. And it should be easy to obtain
5 a property guarantee if, in fact, the risks
6 of such a devaluation were so minimal. I
7 just find so much about this developer to be
8 dishonest and I've been to many, many
9 meetings.

10 So, I really just don't know what
11 to say as far as -- I mean, leaseholders,
12 most of the people who will be getting money
13 except for a few are absentee landowners.
14 That's not going to wind up in the -- in the
15 local economy.

16 The taxes that will be generated
17 from local properties will -- our losses
18 will exceed anything that this project is
19 going to pay. 100,000 a year in a -- in a
20 township in New York is -- is nothing.

21 So, I just really look at it as,
22 you know, they're looking to build this and
23 fund the subsidies and not pay the locals
24 for the losses that we're going to incur.

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1 These are real losses, and we're not rich
2 people up here. We're poor people.

3 We live in Upstate New York. My
4 family's lived in Upstate New York for 350
5 years, and, you know, we don't have anywhere
6 else to go, and these things are sprouting
7 up like mushrooms all over the state.

8 And I just think that more should
9 be looked as to how it's actually going to
10 affect the finances of the people who live
11 in those areas who do not have a turbine or
12 a concrete farm on their area.

13 Thank you very much.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
15 Mr. Lawrence.

16 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next we have Al
17 Szablak followed by Heather DeHaan.

18 Mr. Szablak, are you on the phone?
19 Are you muted? Please, unmute yourself.

20 (Whereupon there was no response)

21 MR. O'BRYAN: Not getting a
22 response. We'll go to Heather DeHaan.

23 Oh, is that you Al?

24 MR. SZABLAK: Yes.

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1 MR. O'BRYAN: All right. Go
2 ahead.

3 MR. SZABLAK: Hi. My name is Al
4 Szablak. I'm -- I live near the -- New York
5 State's first wind farm, which is in Fenner,
6 New York, and for years I didn't mind the
7 turbines. I live about a mile away from
8 them. And the lights at night were -- they
9 would come on softly. They weren't that
10 bright. They would go out. Each individual
11 wind turbine would not come on at the same
12 time as the other one.

13 And now in 2020 they changed things
14 around. They have new high intensity strobe
15 lights, and they're synchronized. All 21 of
16 them come on at the same time. They go off
17 at the same time. They -- they're so
18 annoying people in Fenner are up in arms
19 over this.

20 The same thing happened up in
21 Fairfield, New York, in Herkimer County. A
22 group of 50 people went to court to sue the
23 company because it was that distracting.

24 I sent the IDA a -- a photograph.

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1 I did it on Radio Mobile. It shows the
2 entire Town of Sanford, it's going to be
3 light up at night like a Christmas tree.
4 And I know some people in not only Fenner
5 but up in Lowville and -- well, a town near
6 Lowville that has wind turbines, and they
7 said there hasn't been any new home
8 construction in that town since those lights
9 went on. And they talked to a Realtor who
10 said they can't give land away up there
11 anymore.

12 So, you could go ahead with this
13 project, but if you -- you -- the IDA has a
14 stipulation that says they will not use the
15 new lighting and instead go with the old
16 lighting, the conventional incandescent
17 lights that aren't synchronized, you know,
18 that would -- people -- people wouldn't
19 mind.

20 I -- I'm opposed to wind turbines
21 for a variety of reasons, but I live near
22 them. I didn't mind. I promise you people
23 will mind if you go with ahead with this
24 project and only -- and allow the strobe

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1 lights.

2 One comment regarding with -- I'm
3 a -- I used to be a Teamster member. So,
4 I'm pro-union and I would love to see all
5 these guys get jobs, but that's a joke.
6 These companies do not hire local. I was up
7 in -- in Fenner when they redid did all the
8 towers. It's been there for 15 years, and
9 every single license plate was -- well, not
10 every one, but the majority of the license
11 plates were out of state.

12 And I just think -- one last thing.
13 I think that one of the speakers that spoke
14 in the beginning made a lot of sense to me,
15 which is why not postpone this and see if
16 you can't work out a deal.

17 Some of the turbines are supposed
18 to be 1,000 feet from people's homes. Why
19 can't you get the community together and
20 talk it out, see what the other options are
21 and then go ahead. If there's no compromise
22 available, then do what you will, but it
23 seems stupid not to -- not to, you know, try
24 to appease the locals and just go with

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1 whatever these companies want.

2 That's all I have. Thanks.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,

4 Mr. Szablak.

5 MR. O'BRYAN: Up next will be
6 Heather DeHaan followed by Kenney Gardner.

7 MS. DeHAAN: Okay. I'm Heather
8 DeHaan. I'm a resident of Broome County and
9 also of the Town of Deposit. I'm a
10 professor at Binghamton University and I was
11 also a participant in the review process as
12 an independent party for the Bluestone
13 project.

14 And I recognize you, you, the IDA,
15 you have a very difficult choice and I
16 appreciate the time you're giving to each
17 and every one of us to speak. Emotions
18 run -- run strong, and many people stand to
19 benefit monetarily in an area with much
20 need, but I do wish to emphasize that we
21 don't really know what the costs will be.
22 We don't have a proper evaluation of this,
23 and, also, from my review, I would say this
24 project is -- is poorly sited, and this is

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1 not a question of wind or no wind.

2 I'm not opposed to wind energy and
3 I don't see a zero sum game here, but the
4 siting for this project was not determined
5 by a scientific study of whether or not it
6 was appropriate for this area or for the
7 particular locations where the turbines were
8 set. A lot of the siting is determined by
9 wind need and then by the accident of
10 contracts, which neighbors sign a contract
11 and which neighbors do not.

12 And I -- nobody has mentioned it
13 yet, but the way in which the developers for
14 wind companies enter these communities is
15 highly divisive. You know, they come in.
16 These are secret negotiations. Those who
17 sign up for a contract sign up to a good
18 neighbor agreement and it really is
19 something that pits neighbor against
20 neighbor. And I -- I really think that on
21 principal we as communities should begin
22 rejecting this form of introduction to wind
23 energy and allow it time for discussion
24 where needs, concerns and most, in my case

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1 for my concern, environmental issues can be
2 brought to the fore before these contracts
3 are locked in and we end up with projects
4 that are poorly sited and could be so much
5 better if the beginning processes were
6 better arranged.

7 In terms of the problems that
8 resulted in terms of siting, the science
9 done for eagles and other aspects of the
10 project, it's not neutral. It's not done
11 with an eye to ask whether or not this
12 project should be in this area. Really, the
13 modus operandi is to make the case for the
14 project. That -- that is the driving
15 structure of this, and for me I saw this
16 with regard to -- to the eagles.

17 It -- it's actually very clear that
18 this project poses -- poses a problem for
19 golden eagles, which are endangered. And
20 Chris Stanton, the spokesman for Bluestone
21 Wind, is very well spoken, and he mentioned
22 rightly that there are -- there are two
23 models. One is the Bayesian from the US
24 Fish & Wildlife Service, and the other was

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1 something called weight of evidence model,
2 and the numbers projected by those two
3 models are very different. One has eagle
4 deaths in the hundreds or over a hundred,
5 sorry, but the other has only a handful,
6 right, four golden eagle deaths. And,
7 frankly, I thought that the evidence put
8 into that model was completely unacceptable.
9 It's -- it's based on looking at regional
10 wind wildlife collisions, and the data
11 simply isn't there. We don't have data on
12 eagle kill from wind farms because they're
13 not required to report it, and, frankly, any
14 kill would be illegal. The US Fish &
15 Wildlife Service had not issued any permits
16 for eagle take at the time that these
17 studies were conducted. That means that if
18 any golden eagle died at a wind facility
19 that the facility would be poorly advised to
20 make this public.

21 And so, this is -- this is really a
22 deep concern that I have with this project.
23 It's -- it's not well sited. It's well
24 sited for business purposes and it's really

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1 making money that drives the studies and the
2 project itself. It's not about green. It's
3 not about the environment, and it could be
4 better in being a win-win for the community
5 and the environment if it had been properly
6 sited, if the beginning process had been
7 different.

8 I also worry deeply about the lack
9 of accountability built into the project,
10 the lack of accountability for eagle take.
11 Will it be reported and who's going to
12 actually look for it?

13 MR. O'BRYAN: Heather, you have
14 30 seconds.

15 MS. DeHAAN: Oh, okay. I also
16 wish to -- well, let me just say that I
17 don't know that we have the energy as a
18 community to fight this wind agency to
19 insist on accountability when this is done.
20 We have to step in now and we don't have the
21 mechanisms. And demanding full pay and full
22 accountability does not mean anti-wind. It
23 doesn't mean Broome County is closed for
24 business. I really think it's about

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1 self-respect and that we can be creative in
2 finding better proposals for green energy
3 jobs.

4 Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
6 Ms. DeHaan.

7 MR. O'BRYAN: Kenney Gardner,
8 you're up next followed by Adrian Miller.

9 (Whereupon there was no response)

10 MR. O'BRYAN: Kenney, we can see
11 you, and you were unmuted. So, if you want
12 to unmute yourself, you're up.

13 (Whereupon there was no response)

14 MR. O'BRYAN: Yeah. We can't hear
15 you. Why don't -- if you want to try to log
16 out and log back in, we'll get to you when
17 you come back in.

18 If Adrian Miller is available?

19 (Whereupon there was no response)

20 MR. O'BRYAN: Adrian?

21 (Whereupon there was no response)

22 MR. O'BRYAN: Adrian, I have asked
23 you to unmuted yourself. If you can unmute
24 yourself and start talking.

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1 (Whereupon there was no response)

2 MR. O'BRYAN: Without hearing
3 anything from Adrian, moving on to Mr. Dan
4 Spitzer.

5 MR. SPITZER: Thank you very much.
6 Members of the board, staff, thank you very
7 much for presenting this opportunity.

8 I want to thank you for your
9 service to the community. I want to address
10 a few of the things that were said, correct
11 some of the record. In regard to the FAA
12 lights, the FAA sets the lighting rules, not
13 the company, not the state. The FAA sets
14 the lighting rules.

15 And I would respectfully suggest
16 that this is not the proper place to
17 relitigate the environmental review that
18 went on for multiple years and is very well
19 documented. The fact that you disagree with
20 a review or agree with a review doesn't make
21 it right or wrong, but it was absolutely
22 litigated again and again.

23 And among the things, for example,
24 that the DEC pointed out on eagles is

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1 there's been one fatality at one wind farm
2 in a state with multiple wind farms. People
3 aren't hiding bird carcasses. They aren't
4 hiding these things. The permits limit the
5 take. The company's comply with it. There
6 simply hasn't been evidence as the professor
7 pointed out because there simply haven't
8 been fatalities.

9 In regard to the issue that keeps
10 coming up about the labor, oh, they're not
11 going to hire local jobs, they're not going
12 to hire local jobs, I want to point out
13 something. There -- this is not just that
14 the company has said they will comply with
15 your labor policy. These people are not
16 insulting Northland. Northland has never
17 built a project in this state, so they can't
18 say that Northland hasn't complied. They
19 claim that, well, some other project didn't
20 hire locally. If Northland doesn't follow
21 your labor policy, they don't get the
22 financial benefits. These people are
23 insulting your staff and telling you that
24 Joe and Stacey are not going to enforce your

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1 rules.

2 Northland is required to follow
3 your labor policy and has lined up the local
4 unions to do the work. That is real jobs,
5 jobs which are worth protecting, jobs which
6 are worth voting for, jobs which are worth
7 standing up for. Maybe somebody wants to
8 come in and say, well, those jobs aren't
9 important because they're not long-term.
10 Well, you know what, the other IDAs that
11 we've referenced, most of the IDAs in this
12 state are doing solar projects. Solar
13 projects don't create long-term jobs. They
14 create the jobs in terms of the short term.
15 They create construction jobs. I've never
16 heard except at wind projects and solar
17 project public hearings people say that jobs
18 aren't worth creating. And by the way,
19 construction jobs, yes, are what the IDAs
20 were created to do, and, yes, these are
21 legal and these are absolutely allowed under
22 the General Municipal Law. There's no
23 question that renewable energy projects are
24 eligible for benefits and provide benefits.

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1 Let me, also, noticing something
2 about -- that was said about what happens if
3 the project size goes down. If the project
4 size goes down, the financial benefits go
5 down because the benefits are all based on
6 the project size. They're based on sales
7 tax, property exemptions and mortgage tax.
8 If you pay -- if you do less, you get less
9 benefits. So, the answer to that question
10 is, yes, but the host agreement and the
11 PILOT do not go down. The host agreement
12 locks in that benefit for your local
13 communities. Nobody wants to point that out
14 and say, well, it's this or that.

15 These communities -- I represent a
16 lot of municipalities. These municipalities
17 are hurting financially, and the State of
18 New York is withholding funds from
19 communities and schools across the board.
20 And what has happened in these communities
21 where there are wind farms? Their taxes
22 have gone down. Look at the wind farms in
23 Clinton County where the communities have
24 virtually no town tax. One town has county

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1 tax. The town pays it using wind farm
2 money.

3 Look in Wyoming County. There has
4 been a very significant benefit in terms of
5 tax reduction, tax impact to taxpayers.
6 There has not been any evidence of
7 population decreases. There has not been
8 any evidence of property value losses, and
9 the record stands based on what's there.
10 All of this, oh, these horrors are going to
11 happen, wind farms are not new in New York.
12 Wind farms are not new in the United States.
13 Cows do very well with wind farms, by the
14 way. That was also mentioned.

15 MR. O'BRYAN: Mr. Spitzer, you
16 have 30 seconds.

17 MR. SPITZER: So, I want to thank
18 you for taking this time to look at these
19 things. I want to thank you for taking a
20 look at the benefits, the costs, which
21 were -- there is a cost-benefit analysis
22 that your staff put together and I want to
23 thank you for your public service.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Dan.

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1 MR. O'BRYAN: Kenney, why don't we
2 try you again and see if you can get your
3 mic to work.

4 MR. GARDNER: Can you hear me now?

5 MR. O'BRYAN: Yes, we can. Go
6 ahead, Kenney.

7 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Can you hear
8 me clearly?

9 MR. O'BRYAN: Yep. Kenney, you're
10 going to be up, and then Tim Lewis will be
11 next.

12 MR. GARDNER: Hello. My name is
13 Kenney Gardner. I'm a member of IBEW Local
14 325. I'm a 33-year member of the
15 International Brotherhood of Electrical
16 Workers.

17 The first thing I'd like to say is
18 construction jobs are not short-term jobs.
19 We work on a job and we complete it and go
20 on to a next one. I've worked on many jobs
21 around the Triple Cities, Broome County,
22 Windsor School District over the years and
23 things like that.

24 Projects like this are once in a

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1 lifetime. They're really unique things to
2 work on. A lot of people will disagree with
3 me, but I see the windmills, I think -- see
4 them as a huge mechanical thing. And I was
5 on a ship when I was in the Navy and I just
6 think that they're really impressive.

7 They provide a lot of opportunities
8 for our -- our members to work on these
9 projects, not only the electricians for
10 Local 325 but members of 1249, the
11 utility -- utility local. They'll be
12 building the structures and many -- many of
13 the other union members.

14 Northland has signed an agreement
15 with our local unions that they will use
16 labor sourced from the local communities. I
17 know there's a lot of question on that, but
18 we've been in contact with Calpine and
19 Northland for several years now.

20 There's a lot of people who preach
21 gloom and doom. I would be considered an
22 environmentalist. I was a Boy Scout. I
23 camped in the Windsor area when I was
24 younger. I've hunted and fished out there.

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1 Fifty years ago there were no
2 eagles around here. I know the eagles have
3 made a big impact on people's emotions and
4 stuff like that. I've been around the
5 windmills up north and out west and, like
6 one of the guys said before, I've never seen
7 a pile of dead birds below them.

8 I would like to thank the IDA for
9 giving us local people and the workers of
10 this community an opportunity to voice our
11 opinions.

12 These jobs are important. Again, I
13 would like to say construction jobs are not
14 short-term jobs. We work on projects. We
15 complete projects and then we go and build
16 something else.

17 Thank you very much and have a
18 happy New Year, everyone.

19 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,
20 Kenney.

21 MR. O'BRYAN: Tim Lewis, you're up
22 next and followed by Joanne McGibney.

23 MR. LEWIS: Good evening, IDA
24 board members, and thank you for this

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1 opportunity to comment.

2 There's been a lot said tonight.

3 It's kind of hard to -- it's kind of hard to
4 figure out what might be new and interesting
5 to you, but the fact of the PILOT still
6 remains. It hasn't changed very much. It's
7 only been shortened by 10 years, and Broome
8 County is still being asked to give up 8.8
9 million in sales tax in the form of an
10 exception and only tax the approximate
11 \$250 million wind project at, roughly,
12 10 percent of what the rest of the property
13 taxpayers pay in the Town of Sanford. This
14 isn't fair or equitable, and it's a
15 disservice to the residents of the Town of
16 Sanford that pay taxes.

17 I -- I must address Dan, the one --
18 your speaker before last. He says that cows
19 do fine under the wind turbines. I -- I
20 think he -- he must know something about the
21 turbine sizes that no one else knows.

22 As we've already determined, this
23 project is still ill defined. There are no
24 turbine sizes, and the infrasound that comes

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1 out of these off-shore turbines travels up
2 to five miles. It's more of a concussion.
3 So, unless he's actually been near offshore
4 wind turbines that are going -- that are
5 proposed for here, there's no way he can say
6 that the cows and the people around those
7 turbines won't be affected.

8 I also want to -- I do appreciate
9 the fact that the community is hurting due
10 to the COVID and other economic factors, but
11 hurry up and approving this PILOT and this
12 project isn't going to -- isn't going to
13 improve the short-term COVID situation.

14 And I appreciate the desire of
15 local unions to -- to build wind turbines in
16 literally their neighbor's backyard, but
17 health impacts on the residents must be
18 considered first.

19 I can't imagine putting these
20 offshore turbines in within 1,000 feet of
21 people's property. It's -- it's really ill
22 conceived, but I support Kermit Mott. I
23 support Jennifer Caci, who did clarify from
24 her recent military experience that these

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1 wind turbines are so large and the sound --
2 the infrasound they emit is a threat and a
3 risk to our residents and -- and population.

4 Let's see. So -- oh, I also
5 appreciate all the many landowners who spoke
6 up that are collecting rent. I mean, that's
7 great. You guys are leasing. You guys are
8 making money. Most of the money, as I read
9 through the list of the people that hold the
10 land, the leases, it's going downstate.
11 It's going to New York City. It's going to
12 New Jersey. It isn't local. Just like the
13 electricity is not going to be local.
14 The -- the rent collections aren't really
15 going to stay in the local economy except
16 for maybe Mr. Donowick. He's a big
17 proponent. I think he's got a couple of
18 those turbines right there on his property.

19 So, we do appreciate everybody
20 looking out for themselves and not so much
21 their neighbors, but we -- we think it's a
22 travesty that the local laws that were
23 passed were not enforced by the town boards.

24 Let's come back to those town

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1 boards for a minute. They had an
2 opportunity to help protect their citizens
3 and residents and they've absolutely failed.
4 The zoning -- the zoning laws were not
5 honored or respected, and they dragged their
6 feet getting those implemented. Those --
7 those local laws need to be honored and --
8 and enforced.

9 So, I would encourage the invest --
10 the IDA to not be hasty on this. I'm for
11 wind, but we -- I think we -- there's some
12 facts that we really need to get nailed
13 down, and that is what is the turbine size?
14 How many turbines are there going to be?
15 Then, without -- without complete
16 information, you should not be obligated to
17 commit to a contract that only charge --
18 that will only collect \$4.6 million in total
19 tax revenue over a 20-year period when you
20 should be entitled to at least 8.8 million
21 in the sales taxes and 45 million or 42
22 million in property taxes.

23 MR. O'BRYAN: Thirty seconds left.

24 MR. LEWIS: We're just -- you're

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1 said, nothing really has changed since this
2 last meeting except Calpine is now asking
3 because you, the IDA, had the good sense to
4 turn them down to say, no, to say that this
5 project isn't good for the Town of Sanford.

6 I've been a resident of the Town of
7 Sanford for more than 42 years. I moved up
8 here from Long Island. One of the reasons
9 we did move up here was for the quiet and
10 the peaceful lifestyle this area has to
11 offer. That was, I say was, until
12 unbeknownst to us our town board under the
13 auspices of Dewey Decker went behind our
14 back and changed our zoning laws to
15 industrial residential without proper public
16 hearing. Everything was hush hush. They
17 say that isn't so, but they are lying.

18 Before we were able to object to
19 this project, they never gave us an
20 opportunity to have a referendum to see if
21 the entire town -- because this is not just
22 for one person. This is -- there's 2,500
23 people that live in the Town of Sanford, and
24 that will be -- will have these wind

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1 turbines for a long time.

2 I've been a real estate broker in
3 this area for more than 40 years, and I can
4 tell you from my experience that this whole
5 wind turbine issue will totally destroy
6 everything that is good about the area, and
7 people who tell you that land values will
8 not decline is not true. It's not true.

9 Bluestone is asking the people of
10 this lot -- this town to have our lives, our
11 health and our livelihoods destroyed so that
12 they can send electricity to others. None
13 of it is out there to help us.

14 We aren't even a windy area, okay.
15 Why us? Why should we be the guinea pigs?
16 Once you put these monstrosities up on
17 the -- on this land, we're -- we're doomed,
18 and I'm not being dramatic.

19 These people lied about so many
20 things about this project they cannot and
21 should not be trusted. They have money to
22 fight this. We don't.

23 Last year alone, this past year, I
24 lost three sales. I know of others, which

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1 doesn't sound like a lot, but because I am a
2 Realtor in this area and I know all about
3 the turbines and what could come from them,
4 I have to inform people about what may or
5 may not come to this area. So, when I do
6 that, I lost two \$300,000 sales. As the
7 seller's agent, I just inform people. I let
8 them do their own due diligence. When they
9 do their due -- when they do their due
10 diligence, they will realize that there are
11 too many variables on this.

12 Nobody has ever, ever put a
13 675-foot wind turbine on property on --
14 on -- they belong in the ocean. That's
15 where they need to go.

16 When and if this project goes
17 through, the people in the Town of Sanford
18 will be left here. When this first started,
19 I went to Dewey Decker because I've known
20 him for more -- for 40-some-odd years. Our
21 children went to school together. I said,
22 Dewey, do you realize what is the size of
23 these? These are monstrosities. The
24 infrasound is -- it is a problem. He asked

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1 me, I want to go ahead and I want you to
2 start from a neutral position and go from
3 there. And I said, Dewey, I would do that.
4 I went from a neutral position and I did my
5 due diligence. I've done that for many
6 years.

7 MR. O'BRYAN: Joanne, you have 30
8 seconds left.

9 MS. MCGIBNEY: They're wrong.
10 They will not -- our taxes will go up. I
11 assure you people will leave, and the people
12 in the Town of Sanford will be left with the
13 horrors that this will -- will bring.

14 Stand by and do the right thing,
15 please. You do not have to make a decision
16 tonight. There are a lot of variables with
17 this, and I -- I beg you, please, do not
18 make any decision. Do not give them this --
19 do not approve this for Calpine.

20 Thank you so much.

21 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

22 MR. O'BRYAN: We have two final
23 speakers coming up. Our next one is Chuck
24 Hendrickson followed by Gen Kelly.

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1 Chuck.

2 (Whereupon there was no response)

3 MR. O'BRYAN: If you're muted,
4 please, unmute yourself, Chuck.

5 (Whereupon there was no response)

6 MS. DUNCAN: Why don't we go to
7 Gen Kelly and then we'll go back to Chuck.

8 MR. O'BRYAN: All right. Gen
9 Kelly, if you're available, unmute yourself
10 and start speaking.

11 (Whereupon there was no response)

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Gen Kelly?

13 (Whereupon there was no response)

14 MR. O'BRYAN: What about Adrian
15 Miller? If you're available, Adrian Miller,
16 please, unmute yourself.

17 (Whereupon there was no response)

18 MR. O'BRYAN: Charles H, go ahead
19 and speak if you just unmute yourself.

20 MR. HOLLISTER: Hello. Hi. This
21 is Charles Hollister. I'm a member of
22 Laborers Local 785 and I absolutely support
23 the Bluestone Wind farm project, as you can
24 imagine. I just think it would be a great

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1 boon for our local economy. For Laborers
2 Local 785 it would be a fantastic job
3 opportunity for quite some time.

4 While all our jobs eventually come
5 to an end, this one would be great for
6 everyone living in the county and nearby. I
7 just couldn't say enough good stuff about
8 it.

9 I fully support it. I -- I won't
10 take up any more of your time. Just thank
11 you for hearing me out. Hopefully it
12 passes.

13 Have a great New Year, everyone.

14 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

15 Do we have anyone else, Brendan?

16 MR. O'BRYAN: Gen Kelly unmuted or
17 Adrian Miller, one of the two?

18 (Whereupon there was no response)

19 MR. O'BRYAN: Gen Kelly or Adrian
20 Miller.

21 MS. ANGSTROM: One more speaker?

22 MS. DUNCAN: Gen Kelly, are you
23 with us? There she is. I see her video.

24 MR. O'BRYAN: Gen Kelly? Is she

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1 not --

2 MS. DUNCAN: Are we on mute or are
3 we unable to?

4 MR. O'BRYAN: What's that?

5 MS. DUNCAN: Are we on mute or are
6 we unable to?

7 MR. O'BRYAN: We just couldn't ask
8 to unmute.

9 MS. ANGSTROM: Is there a
10 possibility to get in line to speak?

11 MR. O'BRYAN: What's your name?

12 MS. ANGSTROM: Karen.

13 MR. O'BRYAN: Introduce yourself.

14 MS. ANGSTROM: Karen Angstrom,
15 Chautauqua County, Chautauqua Updates,
16 documentary filmmakers.

17 HEARING OFFICER: Proceed.

18 MS. ANGSTROM: I'm speaking on
19 behalf of the people of Chautauqua County
20 who have several wind projects and want to
21 remind the IDA in Broome County that there
22 are six counties in Western New York that
23 have passed no PILOT resolutions, and the
24 resolution that they passed includes this

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1 segment, and I quote from the no PILOT
2 resolution of Chautauqua County, Jefferson
3 County, Cattaraugus County, Oswego County,
4 Niagara County and Erie County. This is a
5 partial portion of that resolution.

6 Whereas, it has been demonstrated that the
7 environmental, economic and community
8 impacts of large wind energy projects of 5
9 megawatts or more have a significant and --
10 and substantial net negative effect on the
11 county depending on the location of the
12 project; and, whereas, providing a tax
13 abatement subsidy through a PILOT agreement
14 to encourage the siting of large wind energy
15 projects may not be appropriate given the
16 potential negative impact of such large wind
17 projects.

18 This has been adopted because of
19 the experience we've had in our county. We
20 want to point out that the people of
21 Arkwright are suffering under a wind project
22 that's been there for two years, and 150 of
23 them have filed a lawsuit against the wind
24 companies and including some of the

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1 officials in their communities.

2 This has also happened in Wyoming
3 County, and everyone filing a lawsuit is
4 sworn to secrecy, so you don't hear about it
5 in the news. It's very minimal and it's
6 based on destruction of quality of life,
7 reduction of property values, impacts on the
8 environment and most of all the negative
9 health impacts that are being documented by
10 the people who live too close to these giant
11 wind projects. We're talking about only
12 470-foot turbines.

13 The local health department and
14 board of health has recommended a one-mile
15 setback for health reasons. That document
16 is -- has been gone worldwide now.
17 Chautauqua County has recognized the
18 terrible health impacts that result from
19 living near wind turbines through
20 infrasound.

21 The people who recognize that the
22 environment is a concern must also recognize
23 that turbines are not just coming to us from
24 fairy dust. They have been built in other

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1 countries, and building just one wind
2 turbine of 470 feet requires 900 tons of
3 steel, 2,500 tons of concrete, and 45 tons
4 of non-recyclable plastic. These are the
5 smaller wind turbines. The mining and
6 fabrication required, a tremendous
7 consumption of hydrocarbons, the building of
8 wind turbines to supply the world's
9 electricity and the extent to which New York
10 is demanding it would require billions of
11 tons of coal to produce the steel. Steel is
12 made of iron and coal fabricated at very
13 high temperatures, which, of course, is
14 necessary -- necessary to forge steel, and
15 that can only be done using coal as the
16 energy producer in that case. The other
17 aspect is concrete. Concrete is
18 tremendously energy -- energy demanding.

19 So, concrete and steel are the
20 things that must be measured prior to
21 deeming this a green element of producing
22 energy. 900 tons of steel per small
23 turbine, 2,500 tons of concrete and
24 4,500 tons of non-recyclable plastic, all of

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1 which come from billions of barrels of
2 coal -- I mean, oil.

3 So, oil is the main ingredient in
4 these turbine blades, and people forget that
5 there is an element -- an environmental
6 impact in other countries. We can't just
7 measure it once it's put up in our
8 backwards. And there are east of the
9 Mississippi many, many, many communities
10 that have filed suit after the turbines have
11 been erected. This --

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Thirty seconds left.

13 MS. ANGSTROM: This impacts all
14 the elected officials. They became
15 embroiled in wasting their time in these
16 horrible lawsuits that go on for years,
17 decades. Just warning from people who
18 already live with them. It -- it needs to
19 be considered very seriously.

20 Thank you for your time. I'm glad
21 you are --

22 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

23 MS. ANGSTROM: -- taking such
24 pains.

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1 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

2 MR. MILLER: You're welcome.

3 MR. O'BRYAN: I'll give one last
4 chance to Adrian Miller.

5 MR. MILLER: Hello. Hello.
6 Adrian Miller here.

7 MR. O'BRYAN: Hello, Adrian. Go
8 ahead.

9 MR. MILLER: Yeah. I listened to
10 most of the things people are saying here,
11 but I'm -- I live in the Town of Sanford.
12 I've seen over the past 50 years this town
13 go from a very prosperous farming community
14 down to almost nothing. And every time we
15 get a project like this, somebody finds
16 something wrong with this that they don't
17 want it, okay.

18 The one guy spoke about the golden
19 eagles. I've lived here for almost
20 60 years, and the golden eagle, I never
21 heard of a golden eagle being in this area
22 until two years ago. All of a sudden we've
23 have got golden eagles. Did DEC pull one of
24 their sneaky things and give us some golden

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1 eagles in exchange for something else, or
2 what's going on, okay?

3 You know, they've got all these
4 eagles and everything that they say are
5 going to fly into these turbines. How come
6 an eagle can fly at 5,000 feet and see a
7 fish in the water, fly down to catch it --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?

9 MR. MILLER: -- and have it for
10 it's meal?

11 Hello? Who's this.

12 MR. O'BRYAN: Just some feedback.
13 Continue. Go ahead.

14 MR. MILLER: What -- if this
15 project does not go through, I can tell you
16 one thing that will happen that is going to
17 be positive. It's going to positively shut
18 down the last active dairy farm in the Town
19 of Sanford. That will happen. I can
20 guarantee it.

21 What does this town want, not New
22 York State, not California, not Germany, not
23 any other place? What does the Town of
24 Sanford need? We need jobs for people to

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1 keep our young people in this community.
2 The young people leave, the community will
3 die.

4 And I want to thank you for
5 allowing me to speak. I believe this
6 project would be a good asset to our
7 community. I'm not going to get a big break
8 on taxes. The only break I'm going to get
9 is what Upland Power -- Northland Power is
10 going to provide. That's it. I gain
11 nothing.

12 Thank you for your time and have a
13 good end of the year and a better one next
14 year.

15 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, sir.

16 And Brendan, if that's our last
17 speaker, I'm going to call this hearing to a
18 conclusion.

19 I would ask at this time that the
20 following items be spread upon the
21 proceedings: The notice of hearing,
22 affidavit of publication, letter to the
23 taxing authorities, affidavit of mailing and
24 affidavit of posting.

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1 And, Kevin Callahan, I will provide
2 you with those documents tomorrow, okay.

3 All right. If there's nothing
4 further, I will call this matter to a
5 conclusion. Thank you.

6 (Whereupon the public hearing
7 concluded at 7:51 PM)

8 (Whereupon Exhibits 1 through 5
9 were marked for identification)

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I N D E X

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1 STATE OF NEW YORK :

2 COUNTY OF BROOME :

3
4 I, KEVIN CALLAHAN, Shorthand Reporter, do
5 certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate
6 transcript of the proceedings in the matter of the
7 application by Bluestone Wind, LLC, for financial
8 assistance, held virtually on December 29, 2020.

9
10
11 

12 KEVIN CALLAHAN

13 Shorthand Reporter

14 Notary Public

15 CZERENDA COURT REPORTING, INC

16 71 State Street

17 Binghamton, New York 13901-3318

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