

## CRAFTSBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### DRAFT POSITION STATEMENT

#### LOWELL MOUNTAIN WIND PROJECT

The Craftsbury Conservation Commission is concerned about wind projects of the scale proposed by Green Mountain Power for Lowell. The significant and long-term effects of this project on wildlife habitat, forest ecology, property values, health, and the aesthetic quality and economic interests of our region need our careful consideration. We believe it is important for the State of Vermont to develop guidelines for the siting of land-based turbines before we move forward with large scale wind projects such as this ridgeline proposal. Siting guidelines would allow Vermont to make the most of wind power's potential while protecting important landscape features.

It is difficult to find agreement about benefits versus costs of wind power. On many of our questions about wind power—Does wind power work? Will our property values be affected? Will we hear the turbines? Do turbines cause health effects? Will the lights from the turbines be intrusive? Can wind power replace other conventional sources of power?—there are no easy answers. The Conservation Commission urges everyone to review the growing body of research and opinions available from the U.S. and other countries.

We believe it is important to ask questions--allow a fact-finding process where all parties can be equally represented--and not rush to judgment. The economic benefits may be significant to some but even well-intentioned actions can have unforeseen consequences and costs. It is difficult to measure the possible changes that this project may bring to our quality of life and economic viability of our region. If the Lowell Mountain project is approved—and built--it will be permanent. Even if the project is fully decommissioned, the mountains/ridge/site will never recover to their natural state.

.For more information about the Craftsbury Conservation Commission, visit us on Facebook and at <http://www.townofcraftsbury.com/>.

