

## Testimony of Neil Andersen in favor of House Bill 2928, The Wind Energy Relief Act, 9/24/19

Good afternoon. My name is Neil Andersen, and with my wife Elizabeth are here to speak in favor of House Bill 2928, The Wind Energy Relief Act. We want to thank Representative David Vieira for his understanding and compassion in sponsoring this legislation.

We live in Falmouth. In 1990, in search of seclusion and privacy, we purchased 2 acres of land in the woods of West Falmouth. When we purchased our property, we were well aware of the Town owned municipal property to the north, across the street.

Over the next 20 years, we built and improved our home, creating not only a private sanctuary for our family, but also a natural habitat for wildlife. We dealt with occasional disruptions, loud noises and foul smells from the municipal use of the property.

In the spring of 2010, a 400' tall wind turbine became operational. Due to an unusual combination of the proximity of the turbine (1320 feet), the direction of the prevailing winds, the topography, and the orientation of our house, we very soon realized that we were at ground zero for the negative effects from the turbine- namely a harmful and extremely intrusive, never ending, heart pounding low frequency pulse. The extremely distressing noise was like torture. Pound-Pound-Pound. Day and night.

Our only relief was to get away, which we were forced to do very often.

We filed complaints with the Falmouth Board of Health, the Building Commissioner, the Zoning Department, the State Dept. of Environmental Protection, the State Dept. of Public Health, and finally to the Court System, in search of any kind of relief.

Today, almost 10 years later, in violation of DEP noise standards, denied a special permit and ruled a nuisance by the Superior Court, the wind turbine stands motionless.

In 2010, my homebuilding business was very productive. But soon after the turbine became operational, everything changed. Unable to work effectively, safely and continuously, my business suffered greatly. Income was down 90%. In the following years we became involved in 3 different turbine related lawsuits. The legal fees were almost insurmountable. We were forced to surrender the value of several stock certificates and dipped into our retirement account very often. Our credit rating sank considerably, and were very close to losing our home altogether, but were able to restructure our mortgage at the last moment. We were in dire straits, fighting for our constitutional right to clean air.

We were tired and sick- both from the effects from the turbine, and from the legal fight itself.

Today, we have our beautiful home back again. The turbine is dead. Our retirement funds are down 90%- our last legal fees that we paid out- we were not only forced to pay taxes on our withdraws, but were also assessed a \$4000 penalty for early withdraw. We are both tired and extremely bitter. We would like to put this nightmare behind us but we are stuck. Over 40 years of strenuous carpentry work has taken its toll on my body, which makes it very difficult to work for income to pay our bills. Other than a couple of rare overnight stays, we have not had a real vacation in over a decade.

Please approve this bill and get us back some of the money that we were forced to spend defending our home.