SISK MOUNTAIN HEARING

March 17, 2010

My name is Adrienne Rollo and I am highly opposed to this proposal. I have been a permanent resident of New Vineyard since 2000 and a camp owner in Phillips since 1987. I have been visiting the Rangeley Lakes region of Maine since I was a child. It's that lifelong love of the mountains that has brought me here today.

I grew up in Massachusetts, moved to nearby Rhode Island and made my living there for the next 30 years. My family and I witnessed uncontrolled development year after year from developers who made promises to residents that their projects would have little impact on their day to day lives. They delivered a quality of life that was so congested and so stressful that the only saving grace was that we could periodically escape to Maine to enjoy its beauty.

Rhode Island is only symbolic of all heavily populated areas whether it be Massachusetts, New York or Connecticut where day to day life is pressure packed. For the last 40 years, my family traveled to Maine at least five or six times a year to swim in her crystal clear lakes, hike her mountains and drink in her majestic scenery. The incredible beauty of this region is what beckons tourists just as it beckoned to us. Once it's gone, it's gone forever. Tourists will continue to seek out the quiet places but they won't be coming to this area to look at a blighted landscape. They will spend precious tourist dollars elsewhere.

It has become increasingly clear in recent months that electricity generated from wind power in Maine is only serving southern New England. So what's in it for Maine? Why are we destroying the beauty of the western mountains to feed other states? The governor's proposal to develop 350 miles of ridgelines with wind turbines will only supply 4% of the total power supply needed. Again, what's in it for Maine? A huge puzzle piece is missing. One thing I do know – developers don't do anything unless there is a huge profit at the end of the day. Anyone can see that billions of dollars in federal subsidies are a huge boon to the wind power developers. We should be stressing conservation and modernizing our individual homes to be as green as possible and reducing our carbon footprints. So while I'm changing light bulbs to try and make a difference, I pray I will not watch the wholesale destruction of our way of life to satisfy corporate greed.

Sisk Mountain is one of the last wild places, so remote - so beautiful. It is home to the Bicknell Thrush, a threatened species of song bird. It is home to the Roaring Brook Mayfly which is on the Dept. of Inland Fish & Wildlife Endangered Species List. It is home to several significant vernal pools which supports a variety of threatened or endangered species. The state of Maine requires that vernal pools be protected. It is home to the fir heart-leaved birch which is ranked as a rare type of forest. This area is also home to some of the most incredible fishing in the world.

What are we thinking as we destroy these last wild places? Please stand up for our planet, our state, be counted. You can make a difference. VOTE NO!

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