

LATE

gabbard1 - Carlton

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 12:51 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: tasiponder1@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2526 on 2/18/2010 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for ENE/WTL 2/18/2010 2:45:00 PM SB2526

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Aliitasi Ponder
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: tasiponder1@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/18/2010

Comments:

I live in Kahuku where I teach the importance of renewable energy and other sustainable practices. My grandfather worked at the Kahuku Sugar Mill. My mom was born in Laie. I worked for years developing educational curriculum for corporations and think tanks and feel well versed in the ways of the corporate and western world.

I and others in my community were alarmed to discover the location of a proposed wind farm on Cross Hill. We have over 100 signatures of those living in Kahuku who are against it and receive more each day. Many still don't know what is in process or the effects of that process. Those of us who do, realize the wind farm location, at 1000-1200 ft of our community, can impact health, wellbeing and peace of mind...not to mention property values and safety.

Also, we are concerned about the way in which approval of such a wind farm is taking place--without our awareness, or provision of a proper process for our input. We ask that you slow down this process, by deferring any action on SB2526. And additionally require a study on impact to environment, human health and safety that would be shared with us.

We are a blue-collar community--your work force. People return late, too tired to do more than eat and fall into bed. A good night's sleep is essential--soon to be disrupted by unacceptable noise interference, vibrations and worry. A lack of sleep affects livelihoods and on-the-job safety. As a blue-collar group we recognize we are vulnerable to corporations, and even individuals, bent on serving personal agendas for financial and positional gain. It is easy for situations and people of this nature to sneak up without noticing--we are too busy working and trying to survive with limited resources. But eventually, once we hear excavation and see things being built we figure it out. And when we realize we have not been taken into consideration we know our rights as citizens have been impinged upon.

The alarm has been sounded. We are waking up.

We ask you protect us and our rights from these conditions. We know there are laws that protect us and we ask you uphold and add strength to these laws.

As residents we're prepared to have a voice in this process, and at minimum, be assured a good night's sleep. To know we sleep safe from the dangers of this technology. A technology we know has caused great suffering in others living this close. There is a term in the

industry called, "Turbine Syndrome." Before you make a decision on an appropriate set back zone distance, I suggest everyone involved research and talk with the many people already suffering these effects in other parts of the mainland, and Europe. And if necessary we will bring a class action suit to this process to protect our right to safety, health and a good night's sleep.

Last week I went on a group tour of an existing wind farm on Maui owned by another company called, "First Wind." Thus far they've proceeded in a transparent/inclusive way with our community to establish another wind farm about 1 mile or so from us in Kahuku. Being a renewable energy enthusiast I went with an open mind. I experienced what it would be like to live close to large turbines. At various intervals between 1000 and 4000 ft we sampled the look, sound and feel. It was important I be accurate to share with my neighbors, who may not get this chance. I situated myself where wind direction and position would best simulate conditions of Cross Hill, and closed my eyes to isolate and identify the sounds. My heart sank.

Imagine listening to a washing machine and a dryer with something tumbling around, and a whirling shrill whistle 24 hours a day. Then, open your eyes and imagine large sweeping shadows as turbine blades sweep across all your windows and streets from mid afternoon until sunset. Could you live with that? Only at 1/2 a mile away did the conditions lessen to where we were still aware but the effects were more acceptable as to lessen continual distraction.

Simply, 1000 feet is not reasonable. Anything less than 1/2 a mile away should not be considered a reasonable request. And depending on number of turbines considered in the future to ones proposed, the distance may need to be greater should noise and effects increase proportionate to size and number of turbines.

As a community we support renewable energy introduced and governed in a responsible way. This doesn't qualify. A simple recording we made in Maui emphasizes this point. To be exposed to sounds and swooping disorienting shadows every afternoon by turbines that tower above on a hill, upsetting everyone's equilibriums and mental health, is a recipe for disaster. Additionally, evidence shows 100 ft blades, the length and width of a semi truck, can dislodge and be sent airborne a great distance in storm conditions. Do we not have a right to feel safe in our own homes?

While I understand the importance of real world costs in building roads to turbines set further back, it isn't reasonable or fair to require those costs instead be shouldered by the neighboring community members in the form of lowered property values, re-location costs and higher medical costs to treat effects of an untenable set of conditions.

I am not a politician, yet, I understand politics play a role so I ask whatever politics involved they serve the health and wellness of our community. How this is handled will either help or hinder people in embracing renewable energy.

After all, what good are these "improvements" if we sacrifice the very people served? How will we shift our collective framework toward these advanced technologies in time to slow down depletion of limited natural resources if initial efforts alienate and harm the community of "first, second and third generation" adaptors"

We ask for your conscious consideration in this matter. Mahalo for your time.

Aliitasi Ponder

gabbard1 - Carlton

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 3:21 PM
To: ENETestimony
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Subject: Testimony for SB2526 on 2/18/2010 2:45:00 PM

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Conference room: 225
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
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Comments: