



www.FGRV.org 541-568-4585

Sample Letters to use when writing to the Energy Facility Siting Council, our County Commissioners, Governor, Oregon and US senators and representatives asking them to stop *wind power*.

When writing your letters, make them personal, but also address the specific "OAR Standards" as referenced in the following letters.

To insure that all letters become part of the public record, please:

- ◆ Include the following in your correspondence: **"I respectfully request that this letter be included as part of the public record for the siting process of the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project."**
- ◆ Sign your letter and include your printed name, address, and telephone number and/or email address.
- ◆ Send a signed copy to the *Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley*, PO Box 520, La Grande, OR 97850. This will ensure your letter is submitted to the Oregon Department of Energy during the Public Hearing period and made part of the record.

These Sample Letters are available on our website www.FGRV.org. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at **541-568-4585**.

Thank you in helping us save our beautiful valley. ~ *The Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley*

Sample Letter A

Dear (*Energy Facility Siting Council, County Commissioners, Governor, State of Oregon and US Senators and Representatives*):

RE: OAR 345-012-0010 (Organizational Expertise)

The application from Antelope Ridge Wind Power Project LLC for a wind farm did not do a thorough job of statute evaluation as required by OAR 345-022-0010, which means their application is not complete and should be denied. Ladd Marsh, a federal mitigation project, is mandated under the Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, as well as the Northwest Power Act, Section 4(H)(1) (A). This designation needs to be addressed as the proposed wind farm will have an impact upon the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Refuge, which is not allowable.

Additionally, the application fails to inform the Oregon Department of Energy and the Energy Facility Siting Council that the proposed project's impact area lies within lands that have been categorized as either "High Sensitive" or "Sensitive" by the Western Governor's Wildlife Council.

Antelope Ridge Wind Power Project LLC has shown an ongoing failure in their application to identify issues that need to be addressed which are available to any lay person. I believe this shows a failure to show expertise as required under OAR 345-021-0010. A failure to complete written requirements in a thorough and complete manner does not bode well for the applicant's future performance in implementing the proposed plan. This is especially alarming as many of the requirements are not stated with specificity, but rely upon the Siting Committee believing that the applicant will implement them in a legal and appropriate way. It is especially distressing in light of the fact that virtually all of the avoidance of critical habitat and wildlife is supposed to occur after a siting committee decision is made.

I do not believe Antelope Ridge Wind Power Project LLC has demonstrated that they will be able to do appropriate mitigation and absent an application that shows with specificity the locations of all structures, this application should be denied.

I respectfully request that this letter be included as part of the public record for the siting process of the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print: Your name, address & phone/email

Sample Letter B

Dear (*Energy Facility Siting Council, County Commissioners, Governor, State of Oregon and US Senators and Representatives*):

RE: OAR 345-022-0022 (Soil Protection) and OAR 345-022-0060 (Fish and Wildlife Habitat)

As a resident of Union County, I urge you to not allow any more wind turbines to come into our beautiful valley. We see the destruction and devastation that Elkhorn Wind Farm has created with the loss of the fragile ecosystem and wildlife. The destruction caused by wind industrial complexes is just beginning to be properly monitored and studied. Recent reports are a huge blow to the myth of wind power being "green."

I do not support the building of Antelope Ridge Wind Farm. The setbacks from Jimmy Creek Reservoir will not protect from soil erosion polluting the water. One half of a mile is not enough given the fact that we get substantial snow and rain during the winter and the land and soil in the area is not stable. Disrupting the landscape with construction and the ongoing effects of this wind farm will produce unacceptable levels of erosion which will end up in the water and streams which currently are filled with fish and other water dwelling animals.

Do not approve this application as it is not good for the fish and other wild animals in this valley.

I respectfully request that this letter be included as part of the public record for the siting process of the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project.

Sincerely,

Your signature

Sample Letter C

Dear (*Energy Facility Siting Council, County Commissioners, Governor, State of Oregon and US Senators and Representatives*):

RE: OAR 345-027-0020 (Structural Standard)

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you about the proposed Antelope Ridge Wind Farm here in Union County. The decisions made regarding this facility will affect the residents of Union County for decades to come.

What happens when technology is outdated and we are left with 164 rusting hulks of steel that will be filled with 140,000 gallons of contaminated oil? What will we do with the 492 fiberglass propellers that weigh 9.6 tons each that are not biodegradable? Only the top three feet of the 80 foot by 80 foot by 10-20 foot deep concrete pad will be removed. What can grow in three to seventeen feet of concrete?

OAR 345-027-0027 is supposed to deal with decommissioning. However, there are no specifications or requirements for determining when a project becomes dysfunctional or does not provide minimal power. A wind factory can be left standing and rusting away for decades and this has indeed happened in other areas. Please do not allow this to happen in the beautiful Grande Ronde Valley!

I respectfully request that this letter be included as part of the public record for the siting process of the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project.

Sincerely,

Your signature

Print: Your name, address & phone/email

Sample Letter D

Dear (*Energy Facility Siting Council, County Commissioners, Governor, State of Oregon and US Senators and Representatives*):

OAR: 345-022-0040 (Protected Areas)

The Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project should be denied. This project will have adverse impacts on wildlife, recreation, scenic value and a host of other factors related to the Ladd Marsh Wildlife area. Short-term mitigation strategies, like designating other areas as a mitigation strategy, will not be appropriate because: This area has been under development since 1948, and has been intensively developed since 1998. To provide equal habitat would take years, and given the special and unique characteristics of the wetland and transition area, it would be impossible to provide a mitigation location that in any way was comparable.

In addition, this is a federally mandated mitigation project. A decision by a state to allow damage to this unique environment that has a federally mandated protected status could only be determined by the federal courts as it becomes an issue of federal vs. state jurisdiction. If this project could be mitigated, then logic would say that any federally designated protected area could become the site of a wind farm and the state could simply approve of a mitigation plan.

I strongly encourage you to deny this project for the above reason. I respectfully request that this letter be included as part of the public record for the siting process of the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project.

Sincerely,

Your signature

Print: Your name, address & phone/email

Sample Letter J

Dear (*Energy Facility Siting Council, County Commissioners, Governor, State of Oregon and US Senators and Representatives*):

RE: OAR 345-022-0110 (Public Services)

The Antelope Ridge Wind Farm states they have stated they confirmed that there were facilities prepared to handle their woody debris. They did not provide documentation that they have confirmed that they have facilities prepared to deal with the amount of concrete and other solid waste from the construction. There is no quantification of exactly how much waste they are talking about.

When they say things like, the amount of waste created from a “large apartment building”, that probably means a great deal different in La Grande than in Los Angeles. Just who’s definition of “large” are they using?

The city of La Grande has had difficulty disposing of our own solid waste. Are we talking about having to build an additional transfer station? I find it hard to imagine that our little transfer station will be able to handle the large amounts of concrete alone that will be created. My concern is that the concrete will stay up on the land and not be abated, or the community will have to address how to dispose of more waste than was intended to be handle, or that the hazardous waste materials will be transported to our local waste site and become the responsibility and the liability of the city.

I encourage you to deny the application for this wind farm. Our community is not adequately prepared to handle the amounts of waste that such a facility will create.

Please include this letter in the public comments for the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm. Please deny the application for this wind farm.

Sincerely,

Your signature

Print: Your name, address & phone/email

Sample Letter K

Dear (*Energy Facility Siting Council, County Commissioners, Governor, State of Oregon and US Senators and Representatives*):

RE: OAR 345-022-0090 (Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources)

When we learned that 164, 40 story-wind turbines were coming into out beautiful valley, we first were in shock, then in despair knowing that our way of life, our health and our environment will be sacrificed. Unfortunately, the Oregon Trail ruts are on the chopping block too.

The wagon ruts are in jeopardy from being lost to the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm at the steepest decline in the trail on Craig Mountain. This particular site has Class 1 ruts and is identified on the NPS’s 1981 and 1999 Comprehensive Management and Use Plan as a “High Potential Route Segment” and on the NPS Oregon Trail pamphlet. It is identified on every map of the Oregon Trail. It is highly visible to more than three and one-half million travelers on Interstate 84 every year. The site is a High Potential Route Segment in accordance with the provision of the National Trails System Act of 1968.

Did you know that Horizon Wind was notified in June 2009 of the significance of this historical landmark?

Please take into careful consideration what will be lost to our heritage should the wind farm project be approved. Once removed, the Oregon Trail ruts will be gone forever. Their fate is in your hands.

Please include this letter in the public comments for the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm. Please deny the application for this wind farm.

Sincerely,

Your signature

Print: Your name, address & phone/email

THE FRIENDS OF THE GRANDE RONDE VALLEY

We are a grassroots non-profit organization that educates the public about the impacts of wind power. Your generous donations help us spread the truth. Please send your donations to:

**PO Box 520
La Grande, OR 97850
541-568-4585
www.FGRV.org**

**CONTACT US AT 541-568-4585 TO REQUEST
LETTER SAMPLES TO BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO YOU.**

Contact List

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Department of Energy Wind Power Siting Officer

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**STRONG REASONS MAKE
STRONG ACTIONS.**

 **William Shakespeare**
