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541-568-4585

**Sample Letters** to use when writing to the Energy Facility Siting Council, our County Commissioners, Governor, state 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.*

## Sample Letter #1

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

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."

Bats play an important part in the balance of nature by eating up to 600 insects an hour. At one east coast wind complex, it was reported that 2,000 bats were killed during a six week period. Bats are long-lived mammals and have one offspring each year. The loss of large numbers of bats adds to the yearly cost of spraying for mosquitoes and other unwanted insects. Isn't it "greener" to have more bats and less Vector Control spraying?

Wind turbines produce heat, which attracts the bugs, and the bats follow their food supply into the blades. Researchers also have noted that "the bats don't even need to be hit by the blades." Barotraumas is a condition that occurs when there is a change in air pressure at the end of the rotating turbine blades causing the blood vessels in bats to rupture, killing the animal. Bats literally drop from the sky. One report found that 90% of bat fatalities at wind energy facilities involved death consistent with barotraumas.

I don't believe the destruction of a species and our ecosystem have been adequately considered by those that represent us.

I say NO TO WIND POWER!

*Your signature*

*Print: Your name and address*

## Sample Letter #2

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

As a resident of Union County, my wife (or husband, family, loved ones, etc.) and I have chosen to live in Union County because we value the solitude, serenity, and pristine environment. We will lose all of this along with our health and well-being due to the effects of EMF (Electro Magnetic Field) and LFN (Low Frequency Noise), the flickering of beacons, or echoing noise of "whommp, whommp" of the blades generated by wind turbines.

Researchers suggest no human should live within five miles of wind turbines because of possible negative health effects. The City of Union is within one and a half miles of the 164 turbines of the proposed Antelope Ridge Wind Farm. This proposed wind industrial complex plans to surround our community on three sides.

In response to Dr. Nina Pierpont's book, "Wind Turbine Syndrome" recording a five year study on the physical effects of wind turbines, Dr. McMurtry stated "...there is accumulating evidence of adverse health effects from Japan, New Zealand, the UK, USA, and Canada. There are also 357 organizations from 19 European countries demanding enquiry by the European Union about health and many other adverse effects of wind farms."

This issue is not an OAR Standard in which our fate is decided; however, it is extremely critical that a moratorium be considered. Extensive monitoring and long term studies on the effects of EMP and LFN desperately need to be done so that my family, friends and I do not become guinea pigs.

Renewable energy is all about being good for our environment. How about the health of its inhabitants?

*Your signature*

*Print: Your name and address*

### Sample Letter #3

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

It is with a heavy heart that I (we) write to you about the proposed Antelope Ridge Wind Farm here in Union County. The decisions you make, will effect the residents for decades to come.

What happens when technology advances rapidly, like computers and cell phones? We will be 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 concrete pad will be removed. What can grow in three to 17 feet of concrete?

In the **OAR 345-027-0020** Mandatory Conditions in Site Certificates 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 as has been the case with thousands left spinning, producing nothing but bird and bat kills.

Our destiny is in your hands. Please decide wisely.

*Your signature*

*Print: Your name and address*

### Sample Letter #4

Dear (*US Senators and Representatives*):

Here in Eastern Oregon we are being inundated with wind farms that are destroying our way of life and environment in the name of renewable energy when in fact that is not the case.

Because the wind does not always blow, additional back up sources have to be built and run 24/7, making the wind farm electricity solution an increase in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.

Additionally, wind only generates 1% of our electricity while destroying thousands of acres of Oregon's fragile ecosystem.

Wind energy by itself will not improve the quality of our air, but it is destroying Oregon's greatest assets, its beautiful landscape and wildlife.

Vote NO on anymore wind farm subsidies.

*Your signature*

*Print: Your name and address*

**Let your concerns be heard by the law-makers that are making decisions for us. . write them.**

### Sample Letter #5

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

The earth is a living planet and everything we do affects all living things. The impact that the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm will have to the greater sage grouse species will be devastating.

Recent research has found noise from wind turbines travels further than audible noise, it is ground borne and felt through vibrations. A 10 decibel increase in noise within a few 100 meters of a wind farm reduces listening area by 90%.

The male sage grouse uses low pitched hooting sounds in mating displays. Turbine noise will reduce the range in which female and male sage grouse can communicate and substantially reduce the radius of the display ground. This was recently reported in research conducted by Barber, Crooks and Fristrup, National Park Service and Colorado State Scientists.

A potential new "lek," sage grouse breeding ground, was found in 2009 between the proposed Antelope Ridge Wind Farm boundary and the Elkhorn wind project. Sage grouse leks are designated Category 1 habitat, irreplaceable and essential.

Please reconsider the Antelope Ridge Wind Farm project and say "no" to their application. For the production of 1% of the energy that will go to another state, please do not put our wildlife at risk.

*Your signature*

*Print: Your name and address*

### The Friends of the Grande Ronde Valley

**We are a grassroots organization that educates the public about the impacts of wind power. Please donate to help us stop this project.**

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

## Sample Letter #6

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

When we learned that 164, 40 story-wind turbines were coming into our beautiful county, 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 wagon 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.

*Your signature*

*Print: Your name and address*

**It is a proven fact that letters have a significant impact on our elected officials. It shows that people are alarmed enough to take the time to write a letter to voice their concerns. A good, well written letter lets them know how you feel and what you want them to do about it.**

**The Friends of Seven Mile Hill wrote 100's of letters and were able to stop the wind farm from coming into their community. It works!**

## Sample Letter #7

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

Scenic Union County is beautifully unique with its irreplaceable ecology and magnificent mountains. The residents of Union County have the particular privilege of enjoying the many facets of the mountains, hillsides, flora and fauna of this unique treasure. Every year numerous articles appear in local and state publications beautified by photos of the pristine mountains of the Blue Mountains, Wallowa Mountains and the Elkhorn's. We may be taking this for granted.

Horizon Wind has discovered the winds of Eastern Oregon. If the next year or two proves favorable for them, 164 wind towers that stand 40 stories high will begin to change the picturesque scenery of Craig Mountain and Ramo Flat. There are other considerations that need to be brought forth on determining the fate of our valley.

There are endangered plants in the site boundary area of the Antelope Ridge project, three to be specific.

- One is Douglas's Clover, a federal species of concern that could be impacted by the roads.
- The next is Ribseed Desert Parsley, though it carries no federal or state status, is a newly described species, found only on uncommon clay soil and is considered rare.
- The third and rarest is the Oregon Semaphore grass which is listed as a state species of concern.

Dr. Karen Antell, Botany professor at EOU said "This is obviously an important botanical area with so many rare species occurring with a limited geographic range. Oregon semaphore grass is extremely rare, with only two known sites in the world."

Do we need to take our photos now? I'm sure future generations will value them. Maybe they will be seen in public buildings alongside the photos of Celilo Falls. I personally believe the irreplaceable scenic value and natural resources of this unique ecosystem are immeasurably worth preserving, and that this value far outweighs temporary economic gain for a few.

Please say "No to wind power."

*Your signature*

*Print: Your name and address*

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

# Contact List

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