

A big hello from France,

I am the Chairman of an Association called "The wind blowing through the mountains" ("Le vent qui souffle à travers la montagne") and I am taking the liberty of writing this letter to warn you about the consequences of allowing wind farm industry representatives to set up forests of these windmills in your country.

We are located in a magnificent region with middle range mountains of up to 1300m in altitude and numerous rivers and forests. We have very beautiful churches from the "Romane" period (11th-12th Century), one of which is the church located in my village, Châtel-Montagne, which dates back to the 11th Century and is listed in the European Monuments register.

Our small region is part of the 'Massif Central' mountain range. It is crossed by the GR3 track, a hiking trail 1000 km in length. This trail was the first one to be listed back in 1947, and has been acknowledged in the UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1997, along with the Saint Vincent rocks that overhang it. It is also listed among those trails that lead to Saint Jacques de Compostelle in Spain, which many pilgrims travel on foot, having come from all over Europe to do so.

This trail curves along the mountain crests at 100m of altitude, dominating the valleys within; since September 2010, 8 x 150m windmills have been installed; these can be seen from over 50 kilometres away.

In order to install such gigantic equipment, the experts of the wind farm industry undertake studies in the most secretive and opaque of manners, without any consultation with the people living alongside these future wind farms. They tell us that this renewable energy is good for the planet and that within a few years, it will replace all other electricity generating means.

Most of the politicians in our country are in cahoots with these experts and impose the destruction of our magnificent countryside upon us along with the harmful effects that it entails.

The people living alongside these wind farms are assailed by the constant noise of the blades, both day and night when in operation, and this noise may be heard over 2 kilometres away depending on atmospheric conditions. In our country, thousands of neighbouring inhabitants suffer this nuisance and the permanent stress it creates because they can no longer sleep without sleeping tablets even after fitting the double glazed windows that are supposed to eliminate the noise. This means that in the middle of summer, they are not able to wander around outside or sleep with their windows open. All over France, there are currently over 1500 associations fighting this type of energy production that is liable to cost tens of millions of Euros that will fall into the pockets of the industrial experts and will be funded by the tax payers. To provide you with a tangible example: our 8 windmills cost 16 Million Euros to install. With various tax credits and miscellaneous subsidies, before they even begin to operate - by the end of this month of January 2011 - the promoters will have pocketed 32 Million Euros. Over a period of 3 years, this wind farm has been resold 4 times, generating all the attendant capital gains.

I cannot go into all the negative aspects of this technology here, but the FED (Fédération Environnement Durable) is able to do so better than I could - I would like to refer you to: <http://environnementdurable.net>

It is for this reason that I am writing to you now, so that you do not allow industrial bodies and international financiers to do the same in your country. All they are interested in are short term profits to the detriment of our citizens.

You will shortly have to take a decision that will be historic for your country. If you refuse to be taken advantage of in this manner, you could provide an example that would be followed by the rest of our planet which is already in such a sorry state.

As the great humanist Albert EINSTEIN used to say:

***“THE EARTH BELONGS TO OUR CHILDREN,
WE ARE MERELY ITS CARETAKERS”***

I would like to convey to you our most sincere greetings from France.

“Le vent qui souffle à travers la montagne”

Claude REBOUL Chairman

*Translated from the French by Sabine Bouladon, NAATI Accredited Professional
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