

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the senate inquiry into the social and economic impact of rural wind farms. I myself am employed in the wind industry and have been remotely based at many wind farms during the construction phase of the projects. As such I have seen the positive impact on the local community with the injection of funds into local business both during the construction and operational phases of these wind farms. In addition to local spending there are both short and long term employment opportunities and ongoing support to community groups with many of the companies offering community funds supporting local social, leisure and sporting groups.

On the whole in the last six years of working in this field I have had a very positive response from all of the local communities in which I have worked with overwhelming support for what we are doing. I have also seen many people who were apprehensive and unsure of what the development of a wind farm in their community become some of the biggest supporters once they better understood what a positive impact it had locally. On every project I have been involved in we have opened the gates to the local community towards completion to allow everyone to get up close and personal with the wind farm with continual comment that the turbines are in fact not noisy and have very little impact on the farming land.

Regards Angus Smith