

Mauri Johansson, MD, MHH

On behalf of the "National Association of Neighbors to Giant Land Wind Turbines in Denmark"

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To

Senate Community Affairs Committee

Department of the Senate

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Australia

Comments on adverse health effects for people living in close proximity to wind turbines and –farms

Denmark has for now several decades produced and exported wind turbines. The sizes of these have been ever growing, measured in total height and/or electrical effect. In 2007 the Danish Government decided to start a huge project to establish 1 111 land based wind turbines, several of them in parks/farms, in open land. About 15 projects have already been completed, with turbines of total height of 130 – 150 meter and effects from 2 MW up to 3-4 MW. Even much bigger versions are under way.

Few days after the new giant windmills were started, and based on experiences of the small older mills, symptoms and adverse reactions appeared for people living in close proximity (up to 1 900 meters). As a consequence in the autumn of 2009 "The National Association of Neighbors to Giant Land Wind Turbines in Denmark" was established. It has been rapidly growing since, and now has 86 local groups, 1 – 2 new appearing weekly in these days, when several new project are started.

Unfortunately only one small scale research project was finished in 1994 in this country, but its recommendations were rejected in favor of proposals from the wind turbine producers (?) and owners. The rules still in function only requires a distance to neighbor of 4 times the height total of the turbine and the noise maximum requirements are modest, lower than those for industrial and traffic noise, especially in night time and in silent areas, even if we know that turbine noise is much more irritating and present continuously. The control procedures are far from reliable.

For the moment being the National Association is planning meetings with Parliament committees, ministers, environment authorities and the local groups are active in the communities that are responsible for the projects.

We very much hope that the Australian Senate Committee takes the opportunity to create laws that requires distances and noise limitations, for low frequency and infrasound too that are totally safe for human beings, not at least children and old people, and animals, to be examples for other countries worldwide.

Mauri Johansson, MD, MHH