

Dear Sir/Madam,

As residents of Robertstown, where a proposed wind farm is to be built we welcome the enquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms.

Both my husband and i are in our 40's and both have medical problems that would be exacerbated by the erection of these towers. My husband suffers numerous medical problems and most nights is lucky if he gets 4-5 hours sleep because of them. I dread what will happen if these turbines are built and he is subjected to the irritational noise that may bring him even less sleep.

We do not feel we should have to put up with this. We chose to live where we live because of the peace, quite and magnificent views of the hills where the wind farm is proposed.

Our home is owned by my mother who plans to retire here in a few years and enjoy the view and the lifestyle that we have enjoyed here for the last 4 years.....That may never happen if the wind farms are built here.

We also have 6 children aged between 8 - 19 and as parents are concerned on the impact on their sleep/concentration and wellbeing living as close as 1-2km's from the proposed wind farm.

Everyone in our family is aware of potential risks to health, flora/fauna and the effects on how our quality of life may be effected by these wind farms. Our children have actively been involved in researching the effects on wind farms on rural communities both at home and at school. We have also encouraged them to accompany us to many wind farm related meetings so that they can see first hand and participate by asking questions that quite often adults do not even think of.

We like many other people who live in our community are looked at like you are a leper if you broach the subject as it brings such animosity in the community from the people who are for the wind farms. You are subjected to ridicule by people who you thought were friends, your children feel alienated whether this be by their beliefs or their parents. As with many rural communities, a lot of our community is made up of many extended families where the farm has been handed down from father to son, to grandson and so on. This is where the problem lies, many families are at breaking point as the younger members of these families are opposed to the building of these turbines, where as the older members of the family see it as a good way to provide for their impending or ongoing retirement.

I dont think that rural communities have really thought long and hard about the consequences of wind farms in their communities. Our town consists of a general store, Pub, petrol station/mechanic, post office, Primary school/Kindy, 2 x churches & a community tele centre. If the wind farms were to be built in a small community such as hours the effect on the business's here would not be good. The problem is so many of the older people in the town beleive that the benefit of the builders being in the town while the towers are being built will outweigh that. Great, so the pub will be full every night for 3 weeks, just what the doctor ordered right? WRONG!! They have not thought about the aftermath when the contractors are gone, and the towers are up and running..... If people leave the town there will not be enough enrolments to keep the school going, therefore they will close the school and jobs will be lost. Sporting groups will not have the numbers to continue. Small business's in the area will suffer and will end up closing. Government funding for our tele centre will be deemed not viable if they do not have

enough community support for it.

And then there are the many, many people whose health will be affected. Whose lives will be ruined either by their health problems being worsened or by financial reasons. The families that simply cannot afford to move somewhere else, who cannot stay because of the irritation of the wind farms, who cannot do anything to fight the multi national companies who are backed by politicians such as Rann.

We may very well end up being one of these families.

We hope that your enquiry rightfully finds in favour of the many, many people who like us are dreading the onslaught of these wind factories invading our right to live in peace and quiet in our homes.

Amanda & Rick Coe