

Schleswig-Holstein, Germany February 8, 2011

To: The Senate, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra
Re: Inquiry into the Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today there are some 22.000 wind turbines in Germany and the number is increasing all the time. Many lie on the coast but more and more are being built inland too, where they are also being set up in forests, on hills and mountains. In addition we soon will experience the plague of thousands of offshore wind turbines in the North Sea and the Baltic.

We come from Schleswig-Holstein, the most northern region of Germany, where have been erected 2,800 wind turbines, the nearest to my house being only 320 metres away. This is only one of 115 turbines which we can see from our property!

For 16 years we have experienced what it is to exchange nature and landscape for noisy, swinging, rotating industrial machines.

We have had to see how biodiversity of wild animals were decimated – birds, bats and insects, how they lost their homes, their flight paths and their lives.

Please pay attention to the attached photos, which show how landscape and nature have been destroyed by thousands of wind turbines around our property, in many parts of Schleswig-Holstein and other German federal lands.

All of this has been no problem at all for politicians, administrators and the media in Germany. They were also completely disinterested that many of us, including my husband and myself, became ill thanks to the noise, the shadow flicker cast by the machines and, above all, by the infra and low frequency sound waves, which envelop us. Officially in Germany there are neither lower nor infrasound waves caused by wind turbines! Also not, after Robert Koch Institute has pointed out in 2007 already to the dangers for the health by infrasound caused by wind power plants, and has demanded long-term studies.

But in Germany there is only good, clean and green energy obtained by wind. Every German loves wind energy and is proud that the world will be saved thanks to it...

Don't believe those who tell you such lies!!

These are wind energy fairy tales which could better be described as nightmares.

We have been fighting on all fronts for five years against the destruction of people and nature through wind turbines. For the last three years I have been advising those affected from around 120 German and European communities. 63 German anti-windturbine groups belong to the EuropeanPlatformAgainstWindfarms out of 458 in all.

Many people don't dare to say openly "I'm against wind energy" because they will be laughed at, abused, insulted and provoked by officialdom and the media. They are even threatened and attacked by those who feel themselves restricted in their attempts to introduce more and more wind energy turbines in the region. I am not talking theory. I speak from painful, personal experience.

Many people, not only in Germany - but in other lands too - are too frightened to speak openly for their civil rights. They are desperate because they receive neither help nor support.

As an example I should like to quote from a letter written by hand from a family from East Frisia in Lower Saxony which reached us in May at an Anti-Wind rally in Berlin and expresses what confronts us overall in Europe. Here the letter about a trip to hell:

“Since the enormous wind turbines have been set up here on the North Sea Coast, I and other members of my family suffer from various symptoms such as high blood pressure, dizziness, headache and insomnia or total lack of sleep. Some of us experience this violently since we can hear the infrasound which blows through our bodies. One hears various loud bass tones all day and night. They cannot be shut out or eradicated. The whole body swings with them as if one was blown back and forward on a boat on a stormy sea. - We can only exist in the hope that the authorities recognize our plight and help us. We should have liked to have taken part in this protest event but our present state of health, caused by the wind turbines, prevents us from doing so.”

Signed: An inhabitant of the North Sea Coast – writing from hell on earth.

My husband and I know those and other symptoms very well, after 16 years of experience. If you have become ill as a result of emissions or if you are endangered by their installation, then read the study, undertaken over five years by Dr. Nina Pierpont from USA on the subject of “Windturbinesyndrome”. Dr. Pierpont has done us a great service in exposing the appalling effects on the health on those forced to live near wind turbines.

Please prevent such a letter ever being written in Australia!

Don't let it happen that the next generations have to look on while their countryside, their nature with its enormous biodiversity, their health and quality of life, their monuments and culture and their accumulated values will be destroyed by wind turbines. Hold on to your country, its nature, villages, and towns and prevent their transformation into slums, at your cost but to their profit, of course. Those who can afford it will leave, only the poor, the ill and the weak, will remain unable to fight. Support those which defend themselves against those who want to profit even more from wind energy, against thoughtless ideologists and those who claim to want to rescue the planet – at the cost of people and nature - otherwise the most Australians like us in Northern Germany will lose everything which is important to them.

Thank you for your attention!

Yours faithfully

Jutta Reichardt
Spokeswoman of EPAW for Germany – European platform against windfarms
Co-Founder of Gegenwind Schleswig-Holstein, Landesverband der Windkraftgegner

Marco Bernardi
Founder of Gegenwind Schleswig-Holstein, Landesverband der Windkraftgegner

Neuendorf-Sachsenbande 2011



Neuendorf-Sachsenbande 1990



Nissenhörn 2010, Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein



Kronprinzenkoog 2010, Dithmarschen, Schleswig-Holstein

