

**STATE OF MAINE**  
**LAND USE REGULATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of )  
Development Permit DP 4889 )  
Champlain Wind LLC )  
Bowers Mountain Project )  
Carroll Plantation, Penobscot County )  
Kossuth Township, Washington County )

PREFILED TESTIMONY OF LINDSAY WHEATON

ON BEHALF OF INTERVENOR, PARTNERSHIP FOR

THE PRESERVATION OF THE DOWNEAST LAKES WATERSHED

**Lindsay Wheaton**

**Grand Lake Lodge**

**Testimony before LURC June 28, 2011**

**Opposition to Bowers Mountain Project**

My husband and I own and run Grand Lake Lodge, one of only three Lodges on West Grand Lake in Grand Lake Stream. This is our eighth season running a sporting camp that is open for three seasons of the year. The reason we even contemplated making such an investment is the regular clientele that come to Grand Lake Lodge. We must have close to a couple of thousand guests each season in order to pay the bills. Luckily most of our guests return the same time each year.

Our guests return year after year to enjoy the access to recreational opportunities we provide to the lakes and woods. We have some guests who have been coming over 54 years. They come to Grand Lake Lodge– to fish for landlocked salmon on West Grand Lake, to flyfish the world renowned stream, to explore the many connected lakes and rivers, to hunt birds, bear, or deer, to swim in the crystal clear water, or to enjoy the miles of undeveloped shorelines and the quiet. They come to appreciate the rich cultural history of the guides and sporting camps and in today's fast paced, ever changing world; they value that life in Grand Lake Stream stays the same.

We feel so privileged to own our business on West Grand Lake and provide our guests with such unobstructed access. In the midst of a recession and in the era of the internet where people can easily find a new vacation spot, we are trying to make a living. It is this lifestyle we have chosen to raise our daughter and this is how we feed our family. The natural resources are everything to us. We are trying hard to maintain our way of life and the culture here.

Like everyone else in Washington County, we piece together a living. My husband, Chris, is also a guide and a canoe builder. His grandfather was a guide and so was his father. His grandmother was a chore girl at local sporting camps including the Pines, currently owned by the Norris's. His family ran the Pine Tree Store for 45 years.

As the other guides have mentioned, they provide people with a real experience and fishing or hunting is only a part of it. They provide them the experience of being in the undeveloped wilderness. It is truly unique to travel around the lakes in a handmade canoe and only be able to see the trees, water and wildlife around you. Just to name a few examples, you may come upon a moose on the shore, see the fish in the water before you catch it, and have bald eagles soaring above you.

Chris maintains the tradition of going into the woods, choosing a cedar tree, and creating a beautiful grand lake canoe. Boat building is a skill his father learned after returning from World War II and he needed to find a trade to support his family. Chris worked along side his father for years and he continues today in the same shop by the stream. I am a fifth generation visitor to the area; my family has had a camp here since the early 1900's.

Our Lodge is in a direct view line of the proposed Bowers Mountain project. We will look at the turbines and the red lights perpetually. Please consider the tremendous negative impact the turbines will have on our area and what they will take away from what people come to the area to experience.

We are trying to keep our small family businesses afloat in very hard economic times. We strongly oppose the Bowers Mountain project. Please do not allow First Wind to go forward with this project that will make such an impact on our community and the rich traditions we value and on which we rely on completely.

First Wind told the residents of Grand Lake Stream that they are only required to consider the impact of their projects to communities within 8 miles. We got the message loud and clear that they are not interested in the impact their project will make on us. We hope LURC cares and we hope the State of Maine cares.

The positive benefits from the proposed wind turbines are nonexistent compared to what will be taken away from our community. We, in Grand Lake Stream, have spent a tremendous amount of time, effort and money to protect our natural resources and to preserve our community and the area. We have done so to support our economy and way of life. Please do not let First Wind take it away from us.

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*Lindsay Wilcocks*

*Joanne Tobey*

JOANNE TOBEY  
Notary Public, Maine  
My Commission Expires September 18, 2017

