

Commerce Commission Wind Energy Opinion
5/18/2011

The Commerce Commission has had several discussions regarding the viability of wind energy as a substitute to standard power generation for Tribal properties and enterprises over the past few months and the following is the opinion generated from those discussions.

During the open session of the Commerce Commission meeting on 11/5/10, Dan Shepard brought forward an opportunity for Commission members to attend a wind energy conference in Portland, Oregon taking place in December of 2010. Commissioners Lewis and Vriesman subsequently attended the conference. They returned with valuable information regarding wind energy. Since their return, wind energy has been a recurring topic of conversation during Commission meetings. Listed below are the concerns generated during those discussions.

- Native American Tribes do not qualify for available tax credits.
- A large number of turbines would be necessary to meet the casinos energy needs.
- Height restrictions exist due to the proximity to the airport.
- A large expenditure would be required to construct the necessary turbines with no guarantee of overall cost savings.
- Large wind turbines have a 6-10 year life span in addition to required maintenance.
- There is a possibility of wildlife habitat disturbance or destruction.
- The turbines could create negative public relations with the surrounding community.
- Possible vibration and/or noise.

As a result of the above concerns, the Commerce Commission cannot at this time support further action regarding large wind energy production. The Commission however does support and fully intends, in keeping with our cultural traditions, to move forward with some form of clean energy. Therefore, further investigation of small wind energy projects such as those being considered for the Aki Maadiziwin area are supported by the Commerce Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

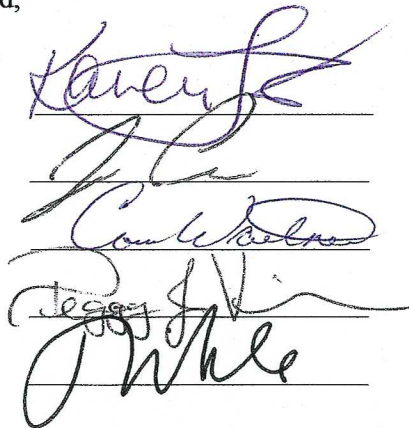
Kareen Lewis (Chair)

Jason Cross

Connie Waitner

Peggy Vriesman

Denis Miekke

The block contains five handwritten signatures, each written over a horizontal line. From top to bottom, the signatures correspond to Kareen Lewis, Jason Cross, Connie Waitner, Peggy Vriesman, and Denis Miekke. The signatures are written in dark ink and vary in style, with some being more cursive and others more legible.