

Wind Power...It really blows!

A novella about the fight between good

And the tax farms invading Middle America

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By Michael P. Winkler

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**“It does not require a majority to prevail,
but rather an irate, tireless minority keen
to set brush fires in people's minds.”**

- Samuel Adams

This above all: to thine ownself be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.”

- William Shakespeare

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the free thinkers, who aren't beholden to anything. You are the only ones who will speak your mind. The rest of you are just whores for the money. Whores.

To my Father and my Step-Father- thank you for the sage advice. Life is indeed not a popularity contest.

I wish you didn't have to leave us as soon as you did.

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Foreword

Having been through a wind factory fight, I jumped at the chance to offer my insight and unfortunate experiences when asked. I hope you can take the contents of this book with a grain of salt. If not, take an antacid; you'll probably need it. If nobody *reads* the book, at least a few might read the foreword paragraph. You might then end up *understanding* what the fight really was about in the first place.

If you are upset before you read it, you should be calm when you finish it. If you are calm when you begin reading it, my hope is that you are truly pissed off when you finish.

Chapter 1

Wind Power Is Really Tax Power!

If you are fairly new to the debate about wind energy and the love that the Green Genes pour onto it, you need to check your “Save the Planet” at the door. The reason I say that is you’ll be offended if you don’t. Before you burn this book in the Opernplatz, just stop and think about this statement. Have you ever driven a hybrid car and found it to be far superior to any other automobile? Save your answer for now. Go back to the ride in that strange conveyance and recall what you liked about it. It was new, different, and unique. Other than that, it was sub par. The same is true for solar energy vs. coal and nuclear power plants. The latter are indeed the best in class and by far the most productive and cleanest power sources we’ll know in the next two generations. You can argue against that if you subscribe to the belief that alternative energy is so

viable we are going to eliminate the need for coal plants and end our dependence on nuclear energy. But apply some common sense to it; do you think that we'll ever get any alternative energy cheap enough to compete?

Do you know how cheap and clean coal is? It is so cheap, available, and necessary to keep the world running, we simply could not maintain our way of life without it. Can you believe it'll be gone soon? If you do, what will we do then? Why don't we expend all of it now and simply mandate that we invert our energy sources to 10 percent conventional and 90 percent alternative (oxymoronic)?

Instead, I think we'll figure out a way to make shale, coal, or whatever we need from available materials. If not, once it is gone, it is gone. So at least then we won't be burning any more of that nasty coal and lighting our homes for a fraction of what it costs to own the home. Fast forward 50 years-the cost to light your home will be equal to the mortgage! Why? Because the cost of energy will have grown to a level at which all the extra costs of generation are passed on to the consumer, thanks to those alternative energy schemes.

You, as the consumer, were just doubly screwed, because you paid for the wind power and solar energy projects through subsidies all along. If you aren't depressed yet, think of it this way - your money is going to build structures that raise the price of goods and services, increase your energy bills, and allow the energy services sector to pass the costs along, so they get green credits for doing so. I'm not sure how many ways you as a taxpayer get to pay for the alternative energy, but I am pretty sure you could do more good by ensuring all the appliances in your home are less than seven or eight years old. If you haven't done that, you are a hypocrite of the highest order!But wait, you say that conservation is part of the key to this problem. We need to talk about that in depth later on. Conservation is tied directly to peak load capacity. Peak load capacity is basically the top of the bell curve for demand. See Chapter Six to learn what alternative energy means in regard to peak load capacity.

Anyway, back to the point, your taxes. You as the taxpayer are going to pay for every measure that your local energy provider can pass along, thanks to their lobby in Washington. Don't get me wrong, coal and nuclear have strong lobbies in Washington, too. However, the subsidies paid for those energy sources is greatly outweighed by the energy provided percentage-

wise. If you think wind energy will ever lower the cost of your utility bill, I wish you'd reconsider the facts. I am sometimes guilty of lumping the alternatives together as one. However, for purposes of the content of this book, wind power is solar energy synonymously. Convection is the source - creating wind, so you should be able to simply see the connection there. We'll have a discussion of wind and solar in an upcoming chapter. I hope that will help to dispel some rumors, or at least stir your thoughts as to what you think about the information Big Wind is spewing in your direction. If you find nothing of value in the pages of this book, I hope you find the opposing viewpoint and represent that belief when you interact with others. Read what they are telling you, see what they are showing you, calculate the power generated, etc. At least you will have formulated your own hypothesis at that point.

As unscientific as it sounds, you won't ever get enough facts to prove or disprove the value of wind. Unless you are independently wealthy and can monitor wind speeds and intermittence all over the country, repeatedly and continuously, you have to believe the figures that are placed in front of you. If you don't subscribe to them, well, then join my camp and become a conscientious objector. You might be unpopular, but you've been warned. Try thinking about it for yourself,

like how you'd decide how to vote. Don't listen to Al Gore or any other Green Genes. Listen not to the voice in the back of your head that doesn't want to pay more for energy for the rest of your life. Just listen to what you think makes sense. Whatever that is, just think about it. I have some examples of what I've found out along the way in the past four years that might tip your mental scale. Now, your tax dollars are at work here. Don't think that those smart Europeans are saving their micro-Continent by keeping that technology to themselves. Your tax dollars will fund a great deal of manufacturing here and abroad. I will provide some data later to dispute the fact that Europe has pioneered wind development. They did get a jump on it, but they want to sell their wares to us, and your Government is paying the bill. The reason is because their governments subsidized them, and they need to manufacture something! However, the point of order is not to discuss the less salient side of European manufacturing, but that their success equals a failure in North America. If you have a market for used tires as lawn ornaments, that is a viable need you are fulfilling. However, if you have obligated material, labor and capital to that effort when a need for a value added product goes unmet, you've performed an economic disservice. There is no free lunch, as we all know from Econ 101.

Good winds coincide with neither the heating nor air-conditioning season. Wind is a willy-nilly source of electricity, and as such is not very useful.

— Richard C. Hill, Bangor (Me.) *Daily News*, Dec. 24, 2005

The above quote simply says something about what wind energy is in reality. It captures the essence of what most people fail to crystallize in their minds. Wind energy is a diversionary tactic that diverts our energy (no pun intended) towards a shiny object that has no more chance of fixing our dependence upon global warming causing (sic) fossil fuels than the Concorde revolutionized air travel. The Concorde looked different and exciting, but it was so expensive to maintain and the utility of what it provided was marginal. The truth of the matter is that a 747-300 can make a transatlantic trip quicker than it does now; it just is not a good utility value to burn the extra fuel to save some time in the air. A nice idea the Concorde was, and it is now a part of aviation history along with the Howard Hughes' Green Goose.

The intent of this book is to simply provide an outlet for me to capture some of the experiences encountered when filing a lawsuit against a wind energy developer and a town in a little-noticed county in Middle America. If you are embarking on such an adventure, good luck

to you, good luck to your psyche. You need to remember what you'll find bits of interspersed throughout the pages of this book.

Think it through again and again. There is no free lunch! The “funny math” and the potential energy as stated are really the crux of this sham. You have to figure it out for yourself first; then, it is your job to say what you believe. If you believe in wind energy, you have to discredit the first law of economics. Even Keynes is stirring in his grave, since this isn't a good idea, even in Keynesian thinking. But he did subscribe to the government teat. That I will readily admit. The government teat is offered to anyone willing to break the premise that we all should be guardians of public money, not consumers of it.

Chapter 2

Fight a Good Fight, If Possible

I grew up on a small family farm in the middle of Wisconsin (Fondue Lake County). Absolutely nothing remarkable in that- it was a pretty normal upbringing. The farm, which was one my parents bought in 1962, was a nice place to raise a family. Somewhere along the way, around 1980, my parents bought a neighboring property. The total land area was around 250 acres.

The passing of my Father in 1988 resulted in the land being divvied up and sold off, for the most part. I kept a small parcel, and my brother also had a small parcel on which he had built a house. That set the stage for the legal battle that we were about to embark upon. A wind developer (the president of which was later charged with mail fraud and falsifying loan collateral data on a previous project) named South Wind had secretly signed agreements with landowners in the area; to secure leases and proceed with a project that was to be one 44 tower project and also another equal

project in a neighboring town. The secrecy behind the leases helped to keep the truth about when the leases were actually signed, and I would imagine that the penalties for divulging the agreement terms are severe and painful. I am also fairly sure the liquidated damages of the contract value are for the loss or possible loss of revenue for the energy company and not the cost of the lease, or yearly stipend. It is sort of like entering into a drug deal. Sometimes drug deals go bad, which seems to be the case here. But quite honestly, if you sell someone on a bad idea, and they do not have any reprisal, that is generally a good deal for the drug dealer.

The gag order function of the contract really seems to make it quite watertight for the developer. Enough on the leases, which are “rumored” to be worth about \$5,000 or \$6,000 a year per tower - seems like a small price tag to put on someone’s self respect (but nobody said we were talking about the sharpest hoes in the tool shed here). I guess that whoring your livelihood and family’s home out is akin to turning out your sister. But, as has been said before, honor among thieves is more common than among pimps and whores. You might find this portion of the text somewhat jaded, but sometimes it is indeed better to color with primary colors than pastels. I am a bit jaded, so please bear that in mind as you read on.

The people who signed these leases were, by and large, my friends and neighbors. As a matter of fact, I rented my land to some of them until I became involved in the lawsuit to try

to block the development. Of course, it was by mutual agreement that contact among all parties ceased after the court action. In retrospect, I am quite glad that something of this nature happened along the way; it refocused my belief in human nature. I don't think any of the people involved are patently "bad" (okay, maybe one monosyllabic elected official or two along the way fits that category), and I'd consider them good, just, God-fearing folks. Ignorant, lemming-like, and gullible, yes, yes, and yes indeed.

In contractual law, a contract does not exist without offer and consideration, with understanding of the terms. The last portion of that statement has ramifications. If one enters into an agreement to do something larger and more massive than you've ever seen before, is there really an understanding? I think coercion and simple ignorance played into the agreements. I would like to think that people who've raised families and vote regularly in every election are somehow capable of making sound decisions and are not swayed by an offer that sounds almost too lucrative without thinking through the ramifications and effect. But, for the sake of brevity, let's forget that notion. I can tell you in unequivocal terms, people are just not too doggone smart. Look how many can be led down a road to complacency that will be borderline contemptibly stupid. A few examples are ARMs (adjustable rate mortgages), interest only mortgages, and buying Scamway. But let's stay focused

instead, on the idea that bad ideas taking root in fertile soil. (The bad idea of wind towers in the middle of homes and farms in the middle of Americana. Seems like a really good idea in that you are Chuck Assley and you live on pork alone.)(Sorry to digress...)

Let's get back to the terra firma; we're really getting off point here. A bad idea is, well, simply not knowing much about what the effects are or not understanding an action is followed by a reaction. Let's keep the physics of wind power as the central issue when we debate the economic worth of wind. (This is a learning point for those of you battling developments in a few years.)

To paraphrase the words of one of the local farmhands (I cannot give this guy Green Gene status, in good conscience) ".....I cannot grow a better legal crop." That was a statement made to a regional newspaper and featured on the byline with a caption and picture. That is, in a nutshell, the type of people we were dealing with. So, after spending a few thousand dollars on a lawsuit, having it thrown out, I'm all the better for the experience. As least I don't associate with the likes of people who think "town folk" are jealous of the "farm folk." I had someone tell me that just recently - a landowner who had his dream

dashed of a tax farm operating on his family spread. (Aside)HE said this to me, not knowing exactly who I was (he didn't ask, and I wasn't sharing). All this whilst I purveyed his home spread, replete with a Quonset hut and a mobile home. The yard, with smatterings of defunct autos and farm equipment everywhere, was nothing short of spectacular modern day Ma and Pa Kitten movie backdrop. Ah, yes, to be JEALOUS (oh sweet jealousy). I am not usually petty enough to ridicule Northern rednecks, but I could not avoid taking a few jabs at these brainiacs.

If you should encounter such people in your life journey, take heart knowing that you can recognize them for what they are. At least, in recognizing that, you can appreciate the fact that you've gained by knowing an ignoramus or white trashoid up close and personal. You've learned something valuable about human nature. Stupidity is not an excuse, and it is a crutch that supports a lifetime of ignorance.

Back to the lawsuit, straightaway. Our little group called the Citizens Concerned was a group of silent partners, my brother and another family. For ease of discussion, I'll refer to them hereto as Bob and Tammy. So the battle lines were drawn, Citizens Concerned v Peatfield, enjoined by South Wind Energy was the

court action. Perhaps, in retrospect, it was a cause never to be won. In case law, the landmark case *State of Wisconsin (not Fondue Lake County) v Quality Egg* was referenced. I think it really might have been erroneous, since the case law importance of *Egg* was that the State pursued an action of behalf of the residents. The reference by the sitting judge was that an action cannot be taken to prevent a nuisance, instead that the nuisance must exist before such action can be taken. Yes, I realize how muddled that thinking might appear to you.

Nonetheless, it is important to understand that the towers were not built within (and are not standing as of this writing) and the delay may have been caused by assertions made regarding the original development company. This might appear to be wishful thinking, but one can only hope that a good dose of bad PR did injure the push to development. The purchasing utility, hitherto known as Big Brother, seemed to display some general concern. The Philadelphia lawyer I met with to discuss the development was noncommittal at best. However, after meeting with this barrister, I was sent a notice threatening action based upon “tortuous interference.” Luckily, I can weave this factious tale without fear. Writing fiction is a great thing as long as someone doesn’t try to make a leap of inference that

the topic is about a real situation. Fiction is truly better than the truth.

This is another learning point for the NIMROCs out there: if you are going to make some noise, you should be loud and not necessarily discriminating. If you have a chance to go after your municipality, your developer, your neighbors, do it. The caveat therein is that you might find yourself fighting a slap action. When you have to spend money to defend yourself and not pursue actions against other parties and spend your money on your legal defense, you detract from the offense. Stay focused, not too focused, but don't call any dogs off the porch unless you have the "pork chops" to feed them. (While you turn and run!)

An important step in deciding to make your voice heard is to decide whether you are going to go "all in." Basically, this means will you be willing to have your name quoted in the newspapers and be the one who might have signs posted on your yard, or maybe the one who pickets in front of your Big Brothers' headquarters, etc. This might give you some local and regional notoriety. However, this also means that the Green Genes will target you in their own publicity campaigns, citing your revulsion of Ecolove. Soon you'll be the father of global warming, in the same way

Al Gore is the father of the Internet. We'll cover tactics and techniques in a later chapter. You might want to skip ahead to it now if you are looking for an avenue of approach. Be warned, if you aren't prepared for the burning effigies in your front yard and getting flipped off on in the church parking lot on the way out, you might want to think twice.

In an attempt not to be overly negative, I have to give you the reality of the situation. You are going up against an industry hell-bent upon making sure the truth never gets out. They don't want anyone to figure out that wind factories, wind energy, wind power, whatever, are simply a farce and you need to close your pie hole. So they will attack you with lawyers and politicians kissing babies while promising a greener world, even citing apple pie and Mom. They also might get downright nasty. If you aren't willing to get into the snake pit, then stay out. My advice to you is to drink heavily and often if you decide not to fight. That will be the only way you can stay in your own house- in an induced state of constant inebriation. Failing that, move far, far away.

If you are not yet checking into the cost of a U-Haul rental one way into the nearest urban center, then read on. I can't continue writing without throwing in a dose

of realism. You are going to be fighting big money and your neighbors and friends. You might even encounter a little Hatfield-McCoy situation.

Worse yet, you might be the cause of racial, ethnic, or sexual harassment. Before you think badly of me for saying so, let me finish. A young lady who sided with us on our fight was accosted on several occasions by a neighbor and verbally assaulted each time. Oddly, she was a go-meekly type person and the adversarial actions of her neighborhood caused her to try to move away. That was the intended goal of the actions - to either scare or silence her. I never said that this idea of doing what you believe in was romantic or idealistic OR without downfalls. For those of you with thick skin, a love for the countryside, and an iron constitution, this book is for you. If you're not part of the aforementioned unlucky minority, read this book for enjoyment's sake. A short story to explain why I put this disclaimer into these pages;

I was a member of the local fire department. Being a volunteer was less like Petticoat Junction than being on a regular fire department, but everyone has this idea that volunteers are little more than 'basement savers'. A veteran of seven years, belonging there was taken for granted. However, once the wind farm fight began, the

whispers and the shunning began when I entered a room. Now, to stick with it would probably have placed others and me in grave danger, because of the derisive nature of the battle. I have to chuckle a bit to think that people thought I was being paid to create a stink or that I wanted to seek some of the gold for my own. Oddly, that couldn't have been further from the truth. I picked my fight and I stayed with it, even though I knew I would have to leave that local department because of it. Some people say it was my choice; I must not have wanted to stay and that is why I fought. That is the same logic that said I was jealous of the guy living in a trailer house. Lastly, a funny thing happened along the way. I realized the same people who treated me with such disdain probably shouldn't expect me to put out the fire on their property. I wouldn't have pissed on most of those ignoramuses if they were burning from spontaneous combustion. That sort of felt good to get out of my system. Maybe that is why I am sitting here plunking on the keyboard. If this is really cathartic in nature, maybe when I get to the last page I will cry like a baby, much in the same way a man does when he gets a good Rolf massage. Somehow, I don't think I will shed any tears, but maybe you will.

I have to remember the fact that I wasn't driven out; I followed the path of least resistance. I moved away. You'd do the same if you lived in an Ebola or TB colony and hadn't caught the Black Death yet. Getting out while you had the chance really was a choice of self-preservation. If you want to stop the spread of the monkey virus before it ruins more families, communities, and life as you know it, fight a good fight, if possible.

Chapter 3

Your Adversaries, aka the Axis of Evil

If you are much of a Mel Brookes fan, you know that he never missed a chance to make fun of the Third Reich or the short guy with the bad mustache and the rest of the Bayern bad eggs. When you think about it, what better

place for a revolution? Imagine it, the drunken brauhaus with hundreds of people pledging allegiance to someone or something that was as dangerous as RSVPing to a BBQ at Jeffrey Dahmer's house. I had to throw that one in for the state of Wisconsin (Fondue Lake County). We have a history of progressive politics and wickedly awful serial killers. (Wait a minute - back to the S.S.)

Journey with me to Munich with the smell of green beer and cigarettes (grunbier und zigaretten), and the din of voices. Anecdotal tales woven together in the background, none more believable than the next, create a saucophony. Suddenly, a strong voice arose over the smattering of many. Now the room fell silent, and all those able craned their necks to catch a glimpse of the figure who spewed forth the words of direction. At that moment, the people in that facility believed what was being said, without question. They fell into the idyllic trance that we imagine the lemming brood.

What control did the short guy with the bad mustache have over people, and how did he exert that control? He mentally castrated them by thinking for them before they could think for themselves. That is what we are facing with the battle we approach in this book. Will people think for themselves or will they listen because Big Brother puts up fallacious signs, pretend wind towers are

feasible, and sponsors the Meat Cutters football game on Sunday? The little short guy with the bad-mustache voice in your head says, “Nein, Nein!”

My point in this is that we have to assume that the idea that preying on the ignorance of people is pure evil. I personally think it is. Quite often it is cloaked in a thick layer of Noblesse Oblige. Since this is my first book, I knew I had to get Noblesse Oblige in here somewhere. Don't worry about it, it is in the glossary. Suffices to say that you can define it as the belief that people are just so stupid someone needs to take the sharp objects and hide them because people will hurt themselves if they are given the least bit of free will. The Axis of Evil is assuming that Noblesse Oblige will be their guiding philosophy to build wind towers in your hometown. Someone (whom you don't know from Adam) says that wind towers are good. That is where the genius of Mel Brooks comes in again, that someone has the mental capacity of Alex Karras' Bongo on Blazing Saddles. “Wind towers good, Bongo say!” “Coal power no good!” Are you a Bongo?

--As the file of lemmings jumps of the cliff, each one advances to take the place of the one in front of it. Until, at some fateful moment, the vermin each take a plunge off that jutting cliff. The odd thing about lemmings, they don't really commit hara-kiri the way we always say they

do. What we dreamed up about the lemmings is really like a cartoon artist making a rabbit or mouse walk on his hind legs and be a sarcastic or caring soul. The lemming suicide is akin to the failing of lambs to bleat as they are herded to the paddock the final time. WE are the lemmings, we are the jungen herren and frauleins sitting at the festplatz. Do you see where this is leading? Those who have read the local newspapers or listened to the local political blowhard are the lambs approaching the paddock. To coin a phrase, the silent majority who fail to ask realistic questions are the “bleatless sheep.”

Let me apologize before you send me your hate mail. The idea here is not to trivialize people failing to think for themselves, but to emphasize that people are going to have to choose to think. Until you are able to get people to think for themselves, you might as well be fighting the Axis of Evil. As a matter of fact, you are fighting the evil of disinformation. If you take offense to the references to the Third Reich, bear in mind that it is the mother of all affronts to common sense and the basic notion that good conquers evil and not vice versa. When people believe what they are told with no basis of logic or a shred of evidence to affirm those claims, bad things can and will happen.

Read on and see if you feel insulted by the assumption that we'd never check with our Nordic friends

Is not ice, ice, by any other name?

At one time in our battle, we brought up the lack of data regarding ice accretion on wind tower blades during freezing weather. The response that we received via the local newspaper was that this was simply a “rural legend” and that it was not a concern nor did it ever cause ice throws. Perhaps the claims of ice throws are undocumented by and large, but ice accretion does exist. If you want to see the pictures for yourself, simply go to your favorite search engine and type in Babel fish and have it translate ice accretion or ice throws wind tower, and see what images you can find on the Internet. Surely as Al Gore claims credit for the Internet, will you find a great deal of information regarding ice throws. Furthermore, I personally have been a “member” of a consortium in Europe that studies wind tower noise in cold weather and also meets on a yearly basis to discuss the problems of wind noise and mechanical noise. I find it rather odd that a consortium of European academics meets annually to discuss things that don't even exist. The point is, this misinformation made its way into print and it was readily digested by those who failed to think that it might possibly be untrue. It doesn't really matter if

it was untrue or not; the troubling issue is that the people didn't even bother to question it. If that doesn't strike a chord with you, set the book down and step away from it - you obviously picked up the wrong reading material. Reading further might cause irreparable damage to the logic you use as your moral compass. If that happens, well, don't try to hold me liable if you suddenly don't know what you stand for anymore. That is your parents' fault, not mine. I think it might be a Freudian issue with not being able to admit to your Oedipus complex or simply hating your father. Hey, but don't ask me, I'm too sane to be a psycho-analyst. It is, at this point, apropos to explain my modus operandi. I think an equal number of people who disagree with the beliefs within this book will be reading it. So it is with great pleasure that I soil the pages with heretic nonsense and blasphemous chatter. You just don't know how much I enjoy writing this stuff. I just cannot put it down.

I don't think any discussion about the opposition would be replete without a little detail about dealing with the media. First, be aware that you are a novelty. Anyone who is willing to talk to the local branch of NPR or the local press on a weekly basis is usually heavily medicated and rather close to being a ward of the state. But, no, you have to be willing to put yourself out there and take ANY opportunity to get yourself in print. As a matter of fact,

at one time I bum-rushed the Department of Thoroughfares (DoT) to challenge their compliance with the national Highway Beautification Action of 1970-something. The issue is that they had some wind towers erected by Big Brother that had writing on them. In most states I think these would be considered signs, but according to the data I received from the good Secretary's office, that was a (and I quote) "Not a big deal, get over it, eh?" I found it odd that decision came directly from someone in the Secretary's office, but maybe it had something to do with that barrister from Big Brother. Anyway, we need to put that one back into our collective hip pocket and think about broaching the subject in the chapter on TTPs. Our list of TTPs illustrates that in order to do something effectively, you might have to do some non-effective things first. If you are a fan of the movie Animal House, you might recall the lines of Otter (played by Tim Matheson).

"...I think that this situation absolutely requires a really futile and stupid gesture be done on somebody's part."

Read these words from that movie again. Do they sound vaguely familiar? Truthfully, the words are a secular version of Samuel Adams' quote you might recall from the beginning of this book. You have to do something; you have to effect an action to get a reaction. If you don't

have the constitution to check your package and decide you are going to verbalize your beliefs, toss this book on the virtual pile of books in the Opernplatz. Go ahead, save yourself the time of reading any more of what I peck onto my computer. Fortunately, if Earth gets hit by the asteroid Apophis in 2036, none of this will matter anyway. Life on this sphere might cease to exist as we know it because of a near pass of Apophis in 2029, so I would be betting on much quality of life during that seven year timeframe, at the very least.

That might be the best way to approach this. We should do something worthwhile like altering the orbit of Apophis to avoid global ending versus hand-wringing over global warming. Part of that train of thought could be our focus on energy should be on energy to alter the orbit of an asteroid to save Earth instead of futile attempts to stop something we don't even know is real. (Aside) This is between you and me. Don't use this as a tactic in your fight. You will get hate mail and probably a death threat from somebody named Joe Bob.

A perspective-altering fact is the Black Plague was believed by the commoners of the day to be caused by bad air, or the alignment of the planets. The aristocracy believed what they were told by the learned of the day, which was that the sickness emanated from cracks in the

earth or was caused by contact with Jewish people. The latter belief led to (by some accounts) 20,000 Jews being killed at Strasbourg in 1348. The correlation might make sense to you if I say this; the latter was a belief by people who believed they *knew* better than the commoners. Oddly, their ideas and beliefs were as wrong and (when it involved genocide) even worse than others. In short, are you ready to accept what I write versus what you are told by someone who is likely to profit greatly from the acceptance of wind energy subsidies (into the next generation) to solve global warming? (that was a serious run on thought) Do they have some scientific data or glossy sheet marketing data and a model wind tower to show you? The point is, I don't think you can readily accept any opinion or belief. Consider this volume to be (a weak attempt at) a modern day version of Common Sense (Paine, 1776). I don't fancy myself to be another Thomas Paine, but akin to his tactic, I will use plain talk and arguments to convey my ideas. Neither intellect nor scientist, my only possible gain in this dissertation is to either spread my beliefs or benchmark them for time to judge, at some date or point in the future.

Your foes are well financed, well represented by enough Philadelphia lawyers to free Charles Manson on a technicality or loophole, and they have something else you do not. They have the compliance of those that are

too timid, ignorant, or plain stupid to think about the reality of what they are being told. Your task is to remove their latent advantage. Perhaps if you think about it in those terms (the deck is stacked) you'll appreciate the gravity of fighting the Axis of Evil. I've appreciated it every day for the past several years.

Chapter 4

Your Allies, aka the Good Eggs

First, think about making alliances with people you might not have much to do with otherwise. Once you have envisioned that, imagine yourself leading a labor movement as a union president or a worker in a political campaign. Now, you have an idea of what your fight against Big Wind will be. You will have some of the best experiences in your adult life and some of the worst of your whole life. Now, you are ready to form your coalition. As I have said before, you'll need to think outside the box and look for all support from some of the strangest places. Any legislative, regulatory, economic entity in your town, county, or state might be a stalwart of support. Conversely, any of those entities might be quite beholden if there is some economic gain for anyone along the way. Your county zoning commissioner might lease hunting land from a farmer 10 or more counties away. Nonetheless, you might find his loyalty

rests with ensuring he can bag a deer with his uncle and brother cousins during gun season. So, you might not ever get a straight answer from him. The sad and really unfortunate part is that you'll never know the reason. You might try to check in with his counterparts in another county but do proceed with caution. Everyone talks with their peers, and you'll often find a network of cronyism and nepotism - you'd think it was a modern day version of Deliverance (movie, Warner Bros., 1972). That might be a bad example, but someone in the Axis of Evil will treat the truth and the constituency like Ned Beatty's character at some point. If you haven't watched Deliverance lately, you might want to catch it on a classics channel the next time it runs in the middle of the night. The graphic nature of the "Squeal, boy," scene will jolt you into a new appreciation of how the truth is being "violated" by the villains in the Axis. Here's a short little story for you to see if you think ignorant people were unwittingly duped by South Wind - the company took the town board on a little all expense paid day trip to go look at some towers in the Flatlands. The long and short of it was that they made sure to get the bus up close to the towers, and everyone who exited the bus said they didn't hear any shushing of the blades on the towers that day. We must simply be mistaken because they had a firsthand account of the fact that no noise pollution results from towers, and

the wind is noisier than the thumping and shushing. I think the Doppler Effect is covered by your fifth grade science teacher, but of course, the laws of physics cease to matter when you get near a windtower. The insidious deceit poured over those boobs was so incredibly obvious, it would make most people physically ill. But, these are people mostly sharing the belief that they were doing a good thing and getting paid for nothing. Hey, this sounds like Mark Knopfler singing the 1985 Dire Straits' hit "Money for Nothing." This all goes back to the basis of economics; there is just no free lunch. All we need now is a guy with a suit with dollar signs on it explaining that bilking the federal government of money is a good thing, and it'd be the biggest infomercial known to broadcast television. Nobody will get vertigo from watching the blades spin on TV, right? This seems like some digression, but part of what the Good Eggs will provide for you is the opportunity to sit on the fence. I suggest that if you aren't sure what side of the fight someone is on, you have someone in your camp do some inquiry. This is best when you have some silent contributors, those Good Eggs who want to help but not be heard. If you can motivate some of them to brush up on their acting skills, you might have a real asset. Oddly, if you get a chance to speak with businessmen and proprietors in the locale, they are often EXTREMELY wary of

speaking out. They have a great deal at stake in the community, so they humor the boobs and aspire to hang with the NIMROC crowd. Since they cannot do either without hurting their own business and reputation, you have to strike up a dialogue at the earliest possible juncture. You also can spread propaganda the same way, since the quickest way to spread a rumor is to breathe it out over a malted beverage in the local filling station. If you are lucky enough to have religious orders in the area, you have to make an attempt to reach out to them. The important part of their existence is, well, solitude and reflection. It is rather hard to reflect on the meaning of life when low frequency noise causes heart palpitations. The most emotional time of the day is dusk, believe it or not. The reason I mention that the day has one time more important for peace than any other is twofold. One, we are all getting ready to put on our comfy pants and chill out for a bit, and the density of air changes so dramatically when the sun sets. The change of the density of air, the barometric pressure, whatever the cause, makes anytime that people are awake and the sun is down as prime nuisance time. With all that said, think about walking in the woods or down a road in the dark. How far away can you hear a car coming in the distance? When you here a twig snap, it might be 25 feet away or 2,500 feet. You simply cannot tell the

difference. I liken it to the old days when certain television stations were so far away you could never turn your antenna to get them. But when the sun set and you tried it (your “rotor,” remember those?) you were able to watch the 10 p.m. news from 150 miles away? By the way, television, radio, cellular communications and other devices will all experience some level of interference from tax farm developments. That was another little detail that our friends from South Wind like to downplay, and most people believed them. Trust me; you have issues if you depend on traditional television broadcasts for information. However, developers will have a harder and harder time hiding the truth. Which brings me to another group of Good Eggs you might want to approach - ham radio enthusiasts. They would probably have as much of a beef with tax farms as the owners of private airports, commercial airports, etc.

Related but not related might be Uncle Sam himself, in that the DoD will usually have to study the effect of the developments if they have any radar facilities in the area, military bases, or training and exercises areas. You might get lucky and have a site nearby that can act as a buffer for you or at least shelter you from one direction or other. I unfortunately did not have the luxury of this, but there is a rather large (like one of the

ten largest migratory bird reserves in the US, at least in number of birds) which I'll call Horken for short - that is the noise a Canadian Goose makes when it is flying low over your rooftop. Anyway, Horken is not too far away from my location, and I understand a development of rather epic proportions will take place there very shortly. I think there are great many national organizations and the press that will lean forward when they learn and report more on this particular development. Although I'm obviously an anti-wind advocate, even if I were pro-wind, I'd have some very ambivalent feelings about this one. There really is no redeeming value in this development other than it stands to make some people some money. It will do more to hurt wind than I could ever wish to do in my earthly days. So my glass is half full. Unfortunately, the only way that this negativity will help anti-wind is by standing by and letting it be built.

So herein lays the rub. You have to be opposed to some developments and not opposed to others. You have to depend on the disgusting greed of a few to develop the wind resources in the perfectly wrong places in order that they don't end up in other right places. I think Wisconsin was just simply a piece of low-hanging fruit. Liberal beliefs in Madison without an understanding of physics, coupled with widespread

ignorance in the farm towns and hamlets, create a recipe for charlatans and hucksters to peddle their wares in virtual freedom. You have to let the market place take its course, even in a left-leaning state like Wisconsin. All the reasons for this go directly back to the Horken Marsh and the Falls Escarpment. Even though they are natural treasures and symbols of natural beauty, they are (in this fight) the vestal virgins.

If you aren't confused about what and how your real allies are, you should be. As I've said all along, use your ability to marry dissimilar beliefs in a common cause. I might actually politic for the development of wind towers in the middle of Lake Michigan, if it would give wind a black eye, or be a complete favor - as long as it did more harm than good. You will find that you have two types of adversaries, locals and universal ones. I recall one little chap who showed up at many of our meetings and spouted pro-wind speak. However, later on, this Al Borland of the wind industry said that the local towers going up were "monsters" compared to the smaller ones that he had near his home just west of Lake Michigan. So, within this small window of opportunity, I used his words against him in editorials in local and regional newspapers. It just doesn't get any better than that. I hoped that he would have kept on talking, but shortly thereafter I never saw that little

strange man again. I think he was working as a wind consultant for Big Wind. His words, although innocent enough, are laughable in the George W. way that they came out. You really have to be ready to snap the neck of the person next to you in order to use any and all opportunities.

Mother's little helpers

A great resource is the local press if they have a sympathetic ear or if they aren't a sister cousin (once removed) of Jimmy Bob. You'll know the difference in the question you are asked and how your interview comes out. A word of caution and interview has the possibility of going perfectly wrong. The other problem is that your statements can and will be taken out of context. If you thought a statement would not be folded, spindled, or mutilated, you're sadly mistaken. One of my favorite outlets is radio. The reason why radio is such a great asset is because you can do interviews over the phone at any time of the day. You traverse the miles of the distance from the barnyards and corn stubble right to the streets of the urban rustbelt by just answering the phone.

We can save the Internet for a later chapter because that really isn't an ally; it is a tool - very powerful one.

A final note of the Good Eggs is that regardless of how an event ends up for you, chances are that you can make a positive out of it. Case in point, if you lose a legal battle (like we did at one time) be sure to get yourself quoted in the local press as stating something like, "This is chapter one, tomorrow we start a new chapter and continue our fight on another avenue." You make people a little nervous when you aren't at a loss for words when something doesn't go your way. The thing I have to say about the local rag is that it is very, very selective. I have a hunch that coverage goes on quite nicely as long as someone in elected office doesn't ask the editor to stop covering the events. I am simply astounded that I see little or nothing about a tax farm development that is nearing completion and little about others in states of development. Whatever the case, the old adage "There is no such thing as bad press" rings true. If you can get a nugget or byline anywhere in the paper and it has a little dig in it about wind or some local blowhard (no pun intended) you've done yourself a great service. People don't really pay attention to many things, but they do pay attention to what they see over and over again. Don't be afraid to beat a dead horse.

The most direct and effective device you have to use is visual marketing tools. Things like a sign on a barn, a shed, political action signs in front yards, etc., are really great tools. A billboard along the highway costs a bunch, but a sign on an old shed costs only a gallon of paint.

The reason I decide to include some of the little inanimate objects into a chapter on the Good Eggs is that you may find it hard to find any good eggs right off the bat. You might have to endure some head-to-head meetings with the Axis of Evil before you find any of those strange bedfellows coming to your aid. Please don't lose hope, because the bigger stink you make, the better off you'll be afterwards. Heck, look at me, I was run out of town, gained permanent enemies, and took a lifetime of ridicule from people with the collective intellect of the infield at Talladega. But now I'm writing this book, and at least I can say I've got nothing to regret. The up tick is at least I can share

some of my misadventures with others. I was thinking that we could use the NIMROCs as Good Eggs, but that is a poison pill/scorched earth policy. I will share with you a discussion I had with an employee of a wind power developer. He asked me about the development I was battling, and oddly, he had one poignant and telling thing to say. He said, “At least they aren’t going up close to my house.” If that single statement doesn’t speak volumes about the Windspeak you’ll hear from the pundits and the farmer (a.k.a. hired mouthpieces), I don’t know what does. I consider this individual a friend and his genuine statement meant quite a bit more than what I’ve heard from people across the country regarding the subject. It was just a golden moment!

Chapter 5

Go for the carotid

“With the right subsidies, wind could become a viable energy source. And, with the right subsidies, gasoline could be made free, and 2-carat diamonds could be given away in cereal boxes. How is it that wind, with a 4000-year head start, is such a small player in the energy scene? Could it be — just possibly — that the answer has something to do with physics instead of economics and politics?”

Quote from Dr. Howard Hayden, Professor Emeritus of Physics, University of Connecticut

There is a nuclear plant near Lake Michigan that may have been owned by Big Brother in the past. If the output of that reactor is rated at say 1025 MW, and reactor 2 (same site) provides another 450 MW, your possible output at full capacity is 1425 MW +/-.

By my calculations, building this same facility today would cost in the neighborhood of \$1 to 1.3 billion dollars. That's 1,000,000,000. Ok, now we have a mess of zeros. A wind farm/wind power/ tax farm I have been keeping notes on will cost approximately \$450,000,000 simply to get into operation. For sake of simplicity, I won't talk about the cost of generation and upkeep here. However, the cost to maintain a tax farm is relatively exorbitant in comparison to the output, thus producing very little utility, no pun intended. This certain tax farm would have the potential of 88 MW. Knowing the slower level of winds that exist around the Falls Escarpment, which aren't even ideal for the type of towers (or any towers, in reality) we'll assume output to be a measly 25 percent of rated capacity potential. With a whopping 21 MW of power reaching

the grid, think about this - each tower have to be heated, cooled, lit, monitored, etc., etc. More on that later, back to the zeros for now.

I think the best way to figure the cost of generation now becomes dollar versus MW so let's give it a go-

$4,000,000,000/1200 \text{ MW}$ is \$ 3,333,333 per MW

(Cost to build nuclear/output)

$450,000,000/21 \text{ MW}$ is \$ 21,428,571 per MW

(Cost to build tax farm/output)

Ok, now these numbers look a bit skewed. If we figure that we have to have a source we can depend on, we have to have the nuclear plant to 'power the future.' However, if we could eliminate it, in theoretical terms, how could we do that with tax farms? Let's assume that the actual is what we seek, so each wind tower that we are looking at is producing an effective .25 MW

1200/.25 MW is 4800 such wind towers installed.

(Nuclear output/typical tax farm output

Equals number of towers needed)

450,000,000/88 is 5,113,636 USD per tower

(Cost of tax farm x/number of towers=equals cost of a tower)

So it'll cost \$5,113,636 to get a tower up and spinning, by my rough estimate. Now all we have left to calculate out is the amount it would cost to get 4800 such towers up and spinning to eliminate that nasty nuclear plant. Onward, I say-

\$5,113,636 x 4800 is \$24,545,452,800

(Tower cost x number to equal nuclear plant)

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So now my stubby pencil lead is broken, and I can cipher no more. I seem to come up with a ridiculous price for wind energy. It looks like providing the same energy at that Chernobyl-waiting-to-happen would cost \$24,545,452,800 dead presidents. In a word picture, it would cost twenty-eight times as much to replace that nuke with wind. But wait, it can never happen.

Why? You can't replace any power requirement with wind because you cannot depend on wind for any of the requirement for peak load demand. For sake of simplicity, I'll call peak load demand the highest the output meter will have to go (you can look up the actual definition in the glossary). Ok, why can't we use the output of wind into peak load demand? The wind might not blow, it might blow too hard, it might blow too softly, you just never know. For purposes of calculating requirements and planning the grid, I don't think anyone will ever make the assumption that wind power would be even calculated against requirement planning for the grid or for peak load demand. It just cannot be done because I don't see how anyone can predict the wind and what it will be blowing at each one of those towers. By the time they gather enough

empirical data to do that; these towers will long be decommissioned and sold off for Chinese steel.

But there is another thing that I have yet to even discuss, the fact that the cost of generation for nuclear is inherently low, while the cost for a wind tower goes up throughout the life of the tower and results in continuous repair and eventual replacement. But I am not going to calculate that since if you are scratching your head now, you'd be even worse off after all that.

I specifically chose to compare wind to nuclear for the simple reason of the economy of scale. This brings me to my last point on nuclear energy. The state of Wisconsin gets about 20 percent of its needed energy from nuclear, so even to have the same real output of it, (AND assuming the wind was a controllable and constant factor that we can turn on and turn off)

.20 x 4800 equals 24,000 towers in the state of WI.

(Percentage of state dependence on one plant x number of towers required to replace it results in number of

towers required to power the entire state in a perfect wind scenario.)

I think it goes without saying that you really cannot argue the virtues of nuclear against that of the tax farms. The idyllic idea that people have regarding the lovely aspects of wind energy are so convoluted, you simply cannot overcome them. It is a little like trying to change the mind of a bigot regarding racism. Even though the facts dispute their belief, they “know what they know,” and care for little else. The point herein is you cannot use the argument for nuclear since it will not help you in your fight, even though nuclear will be the solution to our energy needs in the future and will be as reliable and safe as any source could be. Nobody likes the idea of radiation sickness, but there hasn’t been an accident in the United States since Three Mile Island, and nuclear’s safety record just keeps on improving as time goes on. We have a much better chance of being killed on our daily commute (in statistical terms) than the chance a nuclear core meltdown occurring. However, let it be said that the truth should never get in the way of one’s opinion.

The entire issue about nuclear and the math behind it all is that we don’t have the option to show this data to the Green Genes. You won’t find any one of them

who is in line to get a few bucks willing to listen to reason. Their pupils are in the shape of a dollar sign, and that is the only thing they have behind their eyes. They are like children at Christmas with visions of dead presidents dancing in their heads. As unbelievable as it sounds, you have no chance of presenting the facts in support of your beliefs. Instead, Big Wind will make sure that each and every one of the landowners shows up in a sign of solidarity (sort of like *Animal Farm* in reverse). They use the gag restrictions within the contracts to make sure they allow the land owners to say things in favor of them and never the opposite. Luckily, one brave landowner approached me one day, shook my hand and said, “Keep up the good work...” It was odd, since most of the rest of the landowners would sneer and act like somehow, in some way, I was only pursuing my cause of action to prevent them from having towers. This single soul could see the forest despite the trees, and he was recalcitrant or remorseful, take your pick. I should have guessed this one individual was about the only person who was part of the work a day world and not living the idyllic fantasy of economy of scale that is the traditional family farm.

The truth of the matter is I didn't care about what happened to them personally. I just was demonstrating my concern for the rest of the people in the

community. Sadly, the ignorant aren't very discriminating. They are really only concerned with how they can improve their lot in life. You need to really accept this fact. Do not attempt your own Noblesse Oblige for *them*. They are simply too self centered and concerned about planning for some liquidity in their retirement (lay terms- cash) since they were not savvy enough to figure out that they needed to do something more than a "money for nothing" scheme like a tax farm.

At this point you might ask where the teeth of an attack on the tax farms are. Where is a description of a way to go for the carotid? Herein lies the rub; it depends. Let me explain. In Wisconsin, the only way to stop a tax farm is to present an adequate case that there is a concern of health and welfare. This is tied directly to the well-intentioned but poorly-thought-out Right to Farm Act of 1985. You have to realize in the eyes of the Green Genes, they have a right to do whatever they please on their land, be it spread waste indiscriminately or induce an epileptic seizure upon their neighbors with a tax farm. The unfarmers and nonparticipating landowners simply do not matter to these people. Remember that fact. You'll need to use that as a source of strength when the going gets rough.

Let's get back to the fight. How can you make your presence known? The next time you see a farmer hauling waste down a rural road and leaving more on the road than on the field, you need to make your stand. If a truck driver hauling industrial waste was spilling it out on the roadway yet quickly driving away, you'd make a call to the local constable, right? Why wouldn't you make sure that you address the issue when the waste is dung? The point is you have to become adversarial before anyone accepts the fact that they can just do as they wish. Now then, some people will try to tell you that you have to focus on the issues. I say anything becomes an issue. If someone is willing to risk your peace of mind and the welfare of your family on a get-rich scheme they know nothing more about than they do the Manhattan project-then you have to strike when and as often as you can. I am not simply sour grapes; I have thought about this process long and hard. If you want people to understand that you are willing to fight, you have to *show* them that you are willing to fight. The best way to do that is to make a stand, stand up for yourself. Are you sick of a farmer not being held responsible for the spillage of his load?

What truck driver is not held responsible when his load spills onto the road and causes a hazard on the right of way? The answer is none. Expect the farmers within

your locale to clean up after themselves, just like anybody else. Get very, very familiar with the non-emergency number of your local sheriff's department. You are going to need it and have it with you at all times. If I had it with me when that landowner threatened that young lady on our side of the fight, I'd have called immediately and reported his physical threat against her. You have to pick your fights and pick them often. The reason I am repeatedly going to beat this drum is because I started doing this too late and all the contracts were already signed. Remember, the modus operandi of Big Wind is deception and coercion. The least you should do is let it be known that nobody messes with you without a definite hassle. The whole discussion within this chapter is to illustrate the need for a shotgun effect. Regardless of the way you pursue your battle, there will be derision in the community. So as long as you are going to make enemies, you might as well make a statement by drawing the battle lines in broad strokes. If you are going to attack the tax farms on the basis of the false environmentalism, you need to become an environmentalist. Not Nobel Laureate (copyrighted) Al Gore, though, because you'll end up alienating the people with common sense (your base constituency). You need to be honest with yourself on the point of this contention; are you willing to change some of your

views to further another belief? Secondly, are you willing to pick a fight with your neighbors, friends, and bowling league buddies? If not, you are going to fight this one by yourself. As I said before, you have to paint with broad strokes, (Use a shotgun to fire for effect). Pinpointing your fight against the tax farms based upon the truth alone is rather difficult when Big Wind makes the truth what they want it to be. Make your truth your willingness to take the stand for cause.

Chapter 6

Its' all about the money

Someone once told me that the tax farms were really only about one thing and that was the money. The money the landowners would get (money for nothing, or so they thought), the money the towns would get, and the money that the County of Fondue Lake would get. I'm not sure if it'll ever come to pass that the Town of Taykwanda will get some towers all along the Falls Escarpment. I do think that there are enough people in suburban areas who are a little more concerned with their quality of life than a few grand a year. I have to give some of the people in nearby Peace Pipe County credit for putting the brakes on development of tax farms up the Falls escarpment. Even though that county is quite agrarian, there seems to be a great number of people who've seen through the Windspeak and are going to stop the developments with a moratorium. I think the real beauty of a moratorium is it makes Big Wind so damned nervous,

they threaten all kinds of hell and damnation to the ignorant and demonize the NIMROCs for being the humanizations of the next antichrist. Fortunately, the unHolyland area in Wisconsin is filled with just as many free thinkers as ignoramus (is that right?) Unfortunately, the probability of those intelligent enough to state the truth is almost mutually exclusive to their actually doing so.

With all that said, let's first follow the point of this chapter, the money. The reason I've never bought into something like the tales Big Wind is merchandising to these people is because I'd be very adamant about risking my children's health or well-being for such a gratuitous token (read petty and token). Sort of like visiting Spain and running with the bulls in Pamplona, or sightseeing in Mexico City and opening a nondescript door and pushing your kids into the path of a charging bull. Sounds very silly to even consider such a scenario, but one is closely akin to the others. The point of this is I can debunk the fact that it is all about the money as long as you are a person of normative values and some inclination towards common sense. So, yes, I am saying you are not quite right if you fall for the tall tales you read in the shiny sales material that Big Wind is leaving as their calling card.

I hold no inculcation towards believing that in desperation for some financial semblance of a secure future, these actions are justifiable. If get-rich-quick schemes and work-from-home scenarios are duly conjured in your mind, you're following my line of thinking. That is why I think such hostility exists when the landowners are called to task regarding their decision to capitulate their livelihood into the laps of Big Wind. It is a little bit like when someone gets taken in by a door-to-door salesman or a telemarketer. The first indication is that they become defensive and then hostile. Finally, complete belligerence and defiance of the plain truth set in. So if you get some flak from some of the local yokels, just remember that fact. You can look back at them smugly and simply glow on the inside knowing what is rattling around inside their heads. That is precisely why you'll find that this issue of the money becomes tantamount to the debate. When one has a problem with their conscience, it can be justified with the false belief that "at least the money makes it alright."

So now you know the secret of the money to the farmers and landowners. At first glance, you'll assume that it is simple greed, but upon further review, it is

slightly more complicated. So if you get accused of being complicit in some type of jealousy, take heart. Take heart in knowing that the issue is somewhat larger than just greed or avarice.

The silver lining in knowing the truth of the money is you can put that all into perspective in regard to the bigger picture. Most of the landowners have a chance to get a few towers and might benefit yearly to the tune of \$10k or so. What would \$10,000 a year mean to you? It might mean you can drive a slightly nicer car, afford a vacation, or perhaps spend more time doing a hobby. Beyond that, it doesn't really mean very much else. The point to take away is that you aren't really gaining much, and you have more to lose as a landowner. Sort of like giving a third cousin you never met a key to your home. They might come in at any given time; you simply don't know when. Oddly, you've given them the right and you should not be surprised when they show up at 3:00 a.m. You've given them the right just like you'd have given that brother in-law cousin to show up and pee all over your toilet seat. The only difference is that the boys from Big Brother's contractor will show up with power equipment and boom trucks. That cousin would have less mischievous intent, perhaps sleeping off a little drunken buzz or watching football on your big screen.

The difference is most people would not let a distant relative into their house. The landowners really won't have much of choice in the matter for the next twenty-some years. Oddly, this chapter's subject becomes quite crystal clear; it has to be about the money, no other explanation can even come close to understanding why these people did what they did and why people like them will continue to do the same. It is a sad commentary, so it is up to you to "be the difference" in making this a good fight. Maybe it isn't really about the money!

I recently had the chance to view the land that my family farmed the better part of a generation and a half. The roadmap of access roads and crane moving right of ways sliced the largest portion of it into a disproportionately sliced 'pie'. We have to discuss the vantage point of what is happening now against what happened in the past, but that is really a subject for the end of the book since it is something I want to close with and not discuss right now. But, in view of the fact that if you think greed drove some of the landowners to sign their lives away, you have to ask, "What is your price?" In earnest, I don't think I can really understand why some of the less desperate people did sign up. I can understand if you have nothing but some (odd numbered) chapter to file in the near future. If it was

the difference between the poorhouse, a cardboard house, or my own house, I'd take the latter. But for the people who had enough money, or perhaps weren't so needy, I don't understand. I mean, if you're a crack whore, you do what you have to do to get what you need. So you do one thing to get you the other. One can see the correlation between turning yourself out for the money, and well, turning the family out for a few bucks.

The point to be driven home from this whole chapter is that you are dealing with some very desperate, needy, and addicted mentalities. The mentality that any handout or "gubment cheese" is a good thing is really the subject. Now, if you're a student of Keynes, you might think that the New Deal is contained within such subsidies. I think (for the market) subsidies are good for ripple effect but hurt the mentality of the very people they are intended to help. A recurring lifecycle of dependence on the teat of Uncle Sam is an idea one generation passes to the next. Sadly, the market could see gains on the back of this scenario. But the people who have been dependent on the teat have no means to exist without the required suckling.

I hope you have an inkling of what I am trying to say in less than subtle terms; you have to be prepared to

challenge the very foundation belief that there is a God-given right to a handout. I think this might have been called “Entitlementism” by someone in the past. That is what I mean when I say it is all about the money. A long time ago a wise man told me that life is what you make of it. Not what happens to you in life but how you view the things that happen to you in your life determines what your life is, at its end. I postulate the same goes for the money. Some might have the idea that as long as they get what they are entitled, they’ve achieved their success. I’d opine that success is reaching for what you can and achieving that by soliciting as little help (vis-à-vis subsidies, handouts, suckling at the government nipple). But enough about money, this is about fighting against a life choice some people have made. Good luck to you fighting those closed minds. You might as well be preaching acceptance and understanding to room full of bigots. Your words make a sound, but they fall upon ears that have been trained not to listen.

Chapter 7

Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures

How could an insignificant power source have any more effect on air quality than it can on energy demand?

I think the best way for anyone trying to conduct a campaign against wind power, either locally or not, is to begin with an allegory. Slay the dragon; fight the monsters, whatever cliché you prefer is fine. But an allegory is a metaphor on a grand scale. My favorite of all time is the allegory of the Wizard of Oz (L. Frank Baum, 1900). Some hold that it is a ruse for political statements on economic policy of his day. Even the characters were believed to represent factions of the economy. The man of tin supposedly represented the

industrialized industries, while the scarecrow man embodied the farmers and cottage industries. Even the representation of the Yellow Brick Road was held to be symbolic of the gold standard. You really need to read up on it; you'd love to read all the ways that the conspiracy theorists have drawn conclusions about the way Baum weaved the tale to tell a story within a story. But that isn't the point I want to convey. Instead, I want you to focus on the premise that you have to categorically be resolute - that this is a fight between correct and incorrect beliefs. So, pick your own mental vehicle, but make sure that you clearly are ready to make the distinction. Good versus bad. Truth or mistruth. Just make all those robots from Big Wind into the flying monkey henchmen from the Wicked Witch. Just like in the grand allegory of the book, the monkeys are enslaved and beholden because of evil. You might as well have a little fun with it because you can't really do something well unless you're enjoying yourself. Let's be clear, though. Don't attempt to be vindictive. You might get accused of carrying out a vendetta against people who don't even know what the word means. Take some creative license, but don't get carried away. Trespassing, defamation, and others acts open you up to civil and lawful prosecution. Not only that, you aren't doing your cause any good. So think before you leap. You'll be one step ahead of the

landowners and the rest of Big Wind's minions. You might also avoid a slap lawsuit along the way. I wasn't smart enough to score well on the LSAT, so hiring a lawyer for a legal defense would have been costly. It was expensive enough paying legal fees to file a suit. Being the plaintiff is usually a better feeling than being the defendant in a civil action.

So we need a list of TTPs. Let's do this Ten Commandment style - it worked for Moses, right?

Here goes, (no drum roll, please):

1. Thou shall organize a consortium of like-minded people.
2. Thou shall not quit when pressured by your sister's cousin's brother in-law.
3. You will run your campaign like that of a political campaign.
4. You will not keep holy the Sabbath. Use whatever (wherever) connection you can, but keep it out of the place of worship and schools. Everything has to have some limits.
5. You will use the local radio, press, regional radio, etc. as assets and mouthpieces.

6. Ally yourself with regional organizations from around the country doing the same thing as you. (Good Eggs please apply.)
7. Use signs, handbills, bumper stickers, whatever printed material you can find, as much as you can.
8. Use the truth to your advantage, but don't try to educate the uninformed -they will never understand well enough.
9. Thou shall find a good lawyer (yes, yes, I know an oxymoronic phrase). Find a sympathetic lawyer. If you hear nothing but doubt, run right out.
10. Always, but always be serious and never flippant when speaking to anyone who might quote you.
11. Thou shall learn the laws of the local municipality, county, and state. Use any violation of laws or impropriety to your advantage. That means you'll have to blow the whistle.

Here is one more for good measure:

12. Make sure your job one task is to protect the environment. Be Al Gore. But use an iota of common sense.

So there it is. Do you think you can do those simple items and make sure to capture every opportunity possible? If so, you'll be well on your way. I should go into explaining every single item within the 12 commandments, but that could take years. Instead, it might be better to have a subchapter for each one of the 12 commandments. (Do I go to Hell for plagiarizing God?) So here goes, read on.

Commandment One

Find everyone on YOUR side. How? A Web site, meetings, and the press. It is really that simple. The next time you see a yard sign against tax farms, stop in and shake a hand. You'll be surprised how like-minded people will work together given the chance.

Commandment Two

It has been said you can pick your friends, not your relatives. Same thing here - pick your friends, forsake the relatives if needed. Chances are you'll have a fight or disagreement with some kin sooner or later. Just piss them off now and avoid the wait.

Commandment Three

Pretend you are John Kerry running for office, but try to have some personality. Stand for something or stand for nothing. Use all the normal media you would associate with a political campaign. Use the laws of elections, recalls, special meetings, village powers, anything. You need to be a prosecuting attorney in a murder trial. What does that mean? Study, read, know, and become the human encyclopedia that people have to fear. Win or lose, it is nice to make people worry about what you're up to. Heck, I caused enough problems in the Town of Peatfield that I had the De'Naturale Rezources (DNR) sending nasty grams to the town. IT was great. Simply magnificent. Of course, laws like open records make it hard to do things like that under the cloak of darkness. That is sort of a good thing; just get your name out there. I think it is a great thing to finally stop someone from breaking the law and screwing up my environ. What were they doing? Burning garbage in a big pile every week for years and years. Like I said, fight the good fight, regardless of what the overarching fight might be about. Ya, I know people say you should stay focused on the real issues. That has a chance to be effective and has an air of reasonableness about it. I say, fire for effect.

Commandment Four

This needs no explanation. You are a soldier in the tax farm fight; just don't turn yourself into a jihadist. You just don't need that.

Commandment Five

Like what has been said in so many places, use the media, use the media. Everybody loves a juicy story, so make it a juicy story.

Commandment Six

Just get out there on the information autobahn and start looking. My advice is to look to the plains, the coasts, and a tiny little country with lots of tea and few dentists. Ya, you know where I mean.

Commandment Seven

This is where your graphic artist nephew comes in handy. Enlist his help, and use the Internet before signing up to get materials printed locally. There is a great deal of difference. One small piece of advice - more than one color of ink on any printed material is

rarely worth it. It matters more about what you say than how you say it. Think of it this way - would you pay more attention to a resume if it has bona fide qualifications on it or if it is on a nice pastel piece of paper stock?

Commandment Eight

Yes, some people are just too uninformed to ever be of any use to you. You will also find some extremely close-minded people (read dogmatic, look it up if you have to). That means, yes you will find some people who are never going to be of any good to you. The great part of that is, you don't want them.

Commandment Nine

Get yourself a lawyer who has represented people in the same predicament as you. You have to like your lawyer, too. If you don't, you are just going to have a problem communicating what you want done. Your legal counsel is just that - they have an obligation to advise you of the best route. But if you have a good relationship with the legal team, you can sometimes take the route less traveled. And the barrister might actually get on board with it if it works. Even if they

say it is a good idea, lawyers usually aren't above being proven wrong. Hey, they are arguing with you as you pay them to talk to you. Think about it for a minute...

Commandment Ten

Use your discretion whenever discussing the issues of your legal battle, argument, etc. I say this because you will be misquoted and something you said will be used against you. Without a doubt, this will happen to you, but don't compound it by saying something sarcastic or joking. It'll kill you to have a bad interview go even worse when the truth gets edited out. I can write this book because my fight is over, and this book is fiction anyway.

Commandment Eleven

As has been said, know the laws, know your rules of order, attend all the meeting, access all the open records. Be a student of local government. You might be surprised how unlawful some local politicians really are. The reason for that is because they can do whatever they wish simply because nobody is watching.

That is, until now, and you are the person on watch. I was lucky enough to file an open records complaint with the DoJ and it was handed to the district attorney. The DA negotiated a petty fine against one particularly egregious individual. But that was a victory, because it was forfeiture, and it became a matter of public record. And I loved every second of it.

Commandment Twelve

You are being environmentally friendly; you are doing more by questioning wind power by possibly limiting them than all the wind towers in or on the whole globe are doing to help our planet. If you let the deceit spread rampant like AIDS via unprotected sex, you are just as guilty. Remember, this is the cold fusion of our age. Cold fusion. If that doesn't make you somewhat upset knowing people are being sucked in to this fallacious fable, it should.

Every fight will be different, every local municipality has different codes on zoning; every state has different

rules. With all these variables, I've tried to lay out some of the best tools you have at your disposal to fight against the tax farms invading your sector. Regardless of how you decide to fight, you have to decide to fight. The alternative will be a lifetime of regret and probably downright remorse.

I liken it to the team that makes it to the pinnacle of sport, only to lose. The team is disbanded the following year and no members of the team ever return to that level of competition. Some would say that it was sad for those players to have come so far, fought so hard, and to never have tasted the sweet success. I argue that they were better to have done all they could, regardless of the outcome. At least they can say that they tried and honestly failed. As a wise man once told me, "Stay on the porch if you don't want to fight, stand on the sidewalk if you are ready to take some lumps." I'd rather take the chance of the lumps than standing on the porch without any self-dignity left. Whatever you decide to fight, or not fight, make sure it has the right long-term ramifications for you. I purvey the land with the roads, equipment, cranes, and infidels on it, and I don't have anything to regret except not fighting even harder from the beginning. In hindsight, one realizes you should never be ashamed of your opinions OR

beliefs. You should be ashamed of not having the fortitude to make them known.

Chapter 8

Europe and the Rest of the World

I really don't want to spend too much time boring you with what goes on in Europe. This is mainly because Europe is the reason we are getting our dose of cold fusion (IE, wind developments) in the first place. What I really want to discuss is how we allowed ourselves to follow Europe's lead. First, does Europe ever lead in anything? Doesn't that just sound silly to say, follow Europe's lead? Sort of like learning how to swim from your older brother who doesn't know how to swim and can't teach any better than he can swim. Europe was drawn into wind development by the large sucking

sound (sort of like the noise of wind towers) to placate the liberality of the EU. That is it, plain and simple. The cost effectiveness of it is somewhat or like the productivity of British manufacturing. (Another oxymoronic phrase). It is the need to placate the left-leaning beliefs on the member states within the Union, their policies, and the overall fragmentation on a real energy policy in Western Europe that wrought this whole mess. So argue with your cousin Franz, not your cousin Claude. The French are at least one country of people who understand they will wither and die without King Nuclear. Unfortunately, the Germans are just so German, even a German engineer can't extrapolate the truth in terms the people can understand. It is the sort of enigmatic cultural issue that would have made Churchill bite a cigar in half. Some of my best friends are German, and they are really "umvelt freundliche" people. But therein lies the downfall in being earth friendly to the point that common sense doesn't enter into the equation. Being earth friendly has to make common sense first. To me, earth friendliness is the guardianship of matter. When common sense is not accounted for in the equation, it becomes a disregard for matter. That is the subject of this chapter; it just doesn't make sense and the Europeans *know* that to be true. They just hold some false belief that being earth friendly is going to

make the lives of Western Europeans somewhat better or more attractive. A common goal is always to better your own existence or perhaps better the existence for the next generation. It is that common denominator cloaked in a veil of untruth that has led them down this path of deception, no, acceptance. I feel greatly saddened that the beautiful country of Germany is littered with wind towers, statues to the god of false hopes and engineering principles sans physics.

One could also say that Europe leads the world in legalized prostitution, open drug abuse, alcoholism, pollution, etc, etc. But no one furthering their cause would call these banes to Europa leadership. They exist merely as socially accepted outlets for depravity and weakness. Thus, the acceptance of wind power generation might in some way equalize the scales, or be justified in some socialist circles. Noblesse oblige (yes, I got in here again, bonus!) is what causes it to be accepted and believed. Let them eat cake!

Unfortunately, I've learned over the past twenty years changing a European's mind on something to do with the environment is a bit like arguing football with a Brit. You just can't win, so why even bother? The point I am trying to project, in no delicate terms, is this:

If there ever was a time or subject that we should avoid even considering what Europe is doing, this is definitely the one. We can call this the new European problem. They signed up to it, so let's let it be their issue. Hey, they couldn't figure the Balkans out with us, so let's give it to them. Clearly, the management issues on the grid within greater Western Europe will need to be worked out so that power supplied by wind energy developments can be used to their fullest extent. Possible? Not really, since grid management in Europe is in the same state as British manufacturing. The issues that surround the effective use of wind energy in any semblance of order are so great; you'd have better odds in Vegas on Donald (with the odd hair) over a large lesbian in three rounds. Call me pessimistic, but the best place in Europe for wind (energy) is inside of Spain. I say that for two reasons; it is a power enclave and it also has large stakeholders in the wind energy industry. American, Spanish, and other countries all have major companies with influence, bankrolls, and capital that loom large. Oddly, a great deal of development is being proposed all over the greater United Kingdom, but I think a great many of them will eventually not see production. Cost overruns and a general lack of timeliness (which are hallmark to *any* large plant installations there) will kill many of the projects before nacelle one is ever perched on top of a

tower. Notwithstanding, several developments already underway and in production, the plunder of the Irish, Scottish, and British countryside will be held to a minimum. Perhaps all the delay that so greatly hinders (or hamstring) the UK in manufacturing will be a boon in slowing and stopping the insidious spread of the wind factory malaise. One can only hope.

I certainly bear no ill will to the Europeans who find themselves in a quandary between competitiveness and the alternative.

I would like to know where Russia, China, and the rest of the Pacific Rim lie in their respective development. One would think India to be a country that would be simply overrun with wind development, much like that of the robust and always-growing economy in China. I seldom hear of such developments because, I believe, the raucous appetite for growth of each one of those economies refuses to be hindered by the muddled belief in wind energy integration into the grid. China is perhaps one of the best test beds for wind integration. Since they have millions of homes not yet connected to the grid, innovation in making wind energy an asset may well be developed in an underdeveloped country. I have heard that the Chinese are developing wind towers that operate under magnetic levitation, or what

is known as maglev. This may be a breakthrough, yet it is years from refinement and integration. Oddly, China may be the missing link in converting wind energy from a subsidy industry into an actual part of the energy industry. This comes from a country with quite a bad track record in environmental stewardship and human rights. What strange bedfellows result when actual market driven (read economically feasible) development is allowed to take place. Subsidies that are all too often supposed to drive development may well have the opposite effect. If any prospective wind developers were waiting in the wings, they might do well to decide to sit on their hands until further development of this technology was possible.

So if China would become a major player in nacelle and associated material building, they could very well become a major global exporter of wind energy components. This would hinge on their ability to develop products at a lower price and relative reliability, which is the basis for most things we buy from their economy at present.

I've never had the opportunity to visit the Pacific Rim, and I have not been further east than Poland. But, based upon information I have read, I don't think that Russia will be entering into large wind developments, for two reasons. The first is that they have a somewhat market-driven policy on just about anything that has to do with costs. That isn't to say free market, but market driven in that they'll do what is cheaper and effective. The second reason I don't think that many wind towers will ever turn next to Volga is the state of manufacturing in Russia as a whole. Glasnost, which was given less than ample time to function, didn't result in any first-in-class Russian manufacturing. Early on I think there was a possibility of some fine heavy manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries blossoming. History has proven that the West has come near to engaging Russia itself but instead stayed on the fringes of the borders as a safer bet. There are a great many Western companies operating shell companies in Romania, Poland, and the Czech Republic, to name a few. Even though the blight of the past sins of the nuclear industry have affected generations in greater Chernobyl, the Russians will likely continue to develop nuclear plants. Even as their peak load decreases, they have to find a solution that is timely and cost effective. I would expect that they will use as much nuclear energy as they can effectively

develop and sustain. Wind energy development plays a very small part in their “energy policy” because it has no real bearing upon actual output, resources are fairly plentiful and logistically well located, and they create commerce by using what they already have. Some years ago the CEO of Big Brother said in a speech that coal was the way of the future for Big Brother and it was going to be a majority of the answer for the long term. I think that might be applicable for Russia as well, but I simply don’t know what the percentage of sources of generation are in Russia. Even if I did know what the published numbers were, I would be remiss to say I actually found them to be definite.

So, enough about the rest of the world and let’s get back to the good old US of A! It is great to be an ethnocratic country. If we weren’t, we might have bent to the other nations that signed up to the Kyoto Protocol. In the long term, our defiance to the Kyoto will result in greater environmental ombudsmanship than the Kyoto in total. For instance, the EPA requirements for CO2 emissions of 2007 standards alone will effectively do more on the long-term than the Kyoto would have done. The 2007 standard from the EPA is a quite difficult standard for OEMs to comply with, and it will change the trucking and truck manufacturing industries forever. However, it has been

a process that will result in the industry being prepared for the 2010 standard. This standard that comes into effect in 2010 is the lesser of the two and is not the quantum leap of physics that the 2007 standard has become. Over-the-road trucking companies have even altered their fleet maintenance policies, and one company (the pumpkin trucks) even placed a moratorium on buying the new trucks until another large common carrier submitted to being the guinea pig. It will be interesting to see how this plays out, since the North American market has been so greatly penetrated by the Germans. Perhaps the EPA standard will cause a reverse flow of engine technology advancement East across the Atlantic, although no one would ever admit to that.

Eh, but who cares what the rest of the world does, anyway?

Chapter 9

Wind Noise Is Not Flatulence!

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Of all the things about wind energy that are somewhat hard to measure, hard to quantify, just plain hard to nail down, the noise would have to be the number one issue. I know a lot has been said about the lack of such a noise in the first place; wind makes noise when it blows anyway, etc., but we can take a serious look at it for a second and see what can be done. Nothing can really be done, but we can say plenty about it.

Although 50 decibels seems to be the benchmark for acceptable levels of wind at the setback line, one has to question the math. If the setbacks are all different, why do you think there is a benchmark decibel limit? Either that noise level is supposedly below the nuisance level (I say it isn't) or it is right in the neighborhood of area 51 and Bermuda triangle. Huh? If that is what you're saying, I was with you for about two years. Since I'm not the sharpest tine on the fork, I didn't figure it out.

I can explain it to you in some very plain English. It is a number that is representative of the noise level as the wind comes whistling by your earlobe or past the guard on the test set microphone. Even though you might believe that this is an actual reading, it isn't.

So now you are completely lost. With no hope of ever understanding where I was going with this. Let me back the truck up, ok?

Sometime ago I was involved in some testing that involved federal automotive standards and what is known as “pass-by” noise level. That is a term simply meaning the noise a conveyance makes when it drives by. That is all it means. Now, to pass the test, the conditions on the test day usually require no wind, ambient of 40 F or higher, etc, etc. So, in order to make the noise threshold, conditions have to be perfect.

Well, that’ll just never happen. Because, in wind tower installations, the wind works in their favor, because they cannot separate the two (wind and noise). Why? Because the wind has to be blowing, in order for there to be measurable noise from the “swooshing” sound of the towers’ blades. It is a little like passing a test when a passing grade is exactly what you received.

For you underachievers (like me), think of it this way.

The test is graded on a curve, and nobody fails. That’s right, nobody fails. The reason within a reason here is

that the people with the rather deep pockets (the developer) will always have another wind expert with some better equipment measuring the sound of the wind, disputing your actual recordings. They will also stack the deck by ensuring that they take their readings when conditions are just right. I doubt you see many recordings at 3:00 a.m. on a clear night in the middle of the summer. Mainly because the wind isn't usually blowing then, but when it does, the sound will carry like a fart in church. But you don't have to worry about getting those readings, because they will have their wind sound expert guru taking the recording exactly when they wish. The other thing is that you'll only get a gander at a sampling of the recordings, since they were paying for the test, they control the sample.

Nobody ever said this was going to be very fair. Sometime I hear people say that they stood right below a tower and they could not hear anything. The reason for that was the sound was being carried off in the wind and towards a neighbor's house. The only way you could get a true reading of the sound of the noise below the tower would be if we had a perfectly vertical wind and wind towers had a 90-degree angle to them on the top. Sort of like a right-angle drive drill. Not very likely to happen, so it makes the statement about the lack of sound to be downright foolish, if not stupid.

We'll assume that to be just simple ignorance of the truth; stupidity is just such a hurtful word. (Hateful, almost). Please assume that if you have to live with a noise, you don't mind, as long as it is the sound of coin falling into your pocket. You really need to be wary of who is telling you the noise is nominal.

The other issue about blade noise is that I can see an accretive effect if more than one tower is near one's home. But the way that arrays are laid out might make that a real bastard to measure, at least in any effective terms. We'll see how that all comes together when the towers start spinning in my locale and lawsuits start in again.

An unknown variable will be the issues that result with extreme low frequency noise or perhaps the "vibrations" of the ground that are telegraphing through the towers and into bedrock. I have read about that happening quite often in some places with towers in Michigan. Unfortunately, the person who was experiencing it either died or ended up suffering a stroke and was moved out of their home, something along those lines. No one seems to know what exactly can be measured, if it can be measured, etc. There is a body of knowledge about this in the United Kingdom, and I think a company called Kinetica (spelled

differently) might have done the modeling and simulation on it. So if it was remotely accurate they must have had some damning findings about what low-frequency noise resulted. I was never to get that report in hand; I think it might have had some results that needed sanitizing by the DEFAR (or something like that). Apparently they don't have a freedom of information act or anything that functions like it.

Recently, I made some comment on a blog that was on a newspaper site in Peace Pipe County. I was greatly surprised by the open questioning of the sales pitch data (usually referred to as the shiny sheet propaganda). People were speaking out, asking questions, and generally being cautious enough, looking before they leap. The subject of noise came up on that site, and some of the explanations about wind were almost verbatim to some of the writings within this chapter. So either someone has been borrowing my stick drive from its storage place on my rear view mirror or some people share the ideas with me. Obviously, I don't have the time or the money to produce nice show-like materials; you can see this book is about as down and dirty as it gets. Hopefully, enough people will read what is written here about "unknowns" such as wind noise within a particular area and a particular development. My last point is in regard to that very

issue; there is no study, data, and any indication about what the wind noise will be from a tax farm in your backyard. The data that is out there is old, belongs to a different site, and doesn't account for the topography, the hardware, your home, or anything resembling particulars. Any data that is pulled across from one study and force-fed into another scenario isn't worth a stitch. Honestly, I cannot see how anyone just dives into this pool of unknown headfirst.

Sometime I will have to crawl out of bed at 2:00 a.m. and see if the sounds carry the way everything else does in the middle of the night. According to all the accounts from Big Wind, the way that sound carries at night must be a figment of my imagination. They have no data on it or they aren't sharing it because it reflects something other than what they wish. Oh, I know the swooshing sound of tower blades will be such a soothing sound; you'll sleep like a baby. Insomniacs will drive up the demand for local bed and breakfast inns to open as they flock in like tuberculosis patients to an asylum.

If the towers ever come to the town of Taykwanda (as I suspect they will), I can pen a second edition of this book. I can say that with some degree of confidence, since I will spend countless nights trying to fall asleep,

only to be awakened by the towers or the constant and incessant patrols of pretend security roving around the towers. It'll be like living in a mall parking lot, with John Candy look-alikes driving little white pickups around, putting themselves through private investigator school working for a mom-and-pop rent-a-cop-wanna-be Company.

There isn't much to say about wind, but there is a group of academia in Europe that get together writing white papers and discussing new hardware developments to cut down on wind energy noise, especially in cold environments. That is all I have to say about that. You can be the judge of wind noise. Do it with you ears and not your wallet.

Chapter 10

Safety First!

"When disaster waves, I try not to wave back."

Mason Cooley

When the towers started going up, or the groundwork began, I started to have that fear in the back of my mind that something was about to go terribly wrong. Of course, it would be too easy to predict some catastrophic failure of man or machine during construction and almost macabre to even postulate it.

Conversely, I might complete this book and the next day a whole crew of minions working at a tower site might be squashed like cockroaches. If the wildcatter tactics that are being taken don't eventually take someone's limbs and possibly some poor souls' lives, it will indeed be a miracle. Then, someone would say, "This fool wrote a book and he didn't even see what the biggest problem and grave danger was before his very eyes." That might have been true, especially since I have been avoiding that whole area since it looks a little like a war zone. This chapter is therefore nothing

more than an obligatory statement. I can synopsise the entire gist within one phrase: “These people scare the hell out of me.”

The mouthpiece for South Wind made the statement at an informational meeting a few years ago. “It’ll be hell the summer we are in construction, just hell.” I don’t claim to know anything about construction, but I would gather a statement like that to imply work was going to progress so fast and furiously that safety procedures and generally accepted practices and safeguards will be forgotten. Oddly, I followed a wind tower section down the highway this morning. Aside from going about 15 miles under the posted speed, which is sort of a safety hazard in and amongst itself, I started thinking about safety itself.

Your biggest concern has to be your own safety and that of your family. I think that goes without saying, but it is the preface to a point here; don’t concern yourself with the good of the people who are sponsoring towers, their families, or some Good Eggs who aren’t speaking up for themselves. You also definitely don’t need to worry about the next generation to live within the locale. If it is your kin don’t worry, they’ll vote with their feet. If you hadn’t heard the term before, it means they move away. If

people aren't vocal, well shame on them, so silent Good Eggs will have to fend for themselves. As far as the kin of the Tower people, you have to steer clear of trying to tell them you are trying to ensure everybody's safety, happiness, etc. That is just almost too corny to believe, and these are the same people who are bending over and grabbing their socks for a couple of grand per year. Save yourself the headache, and don't even attempt to explain your reasoning in regard to safety to them. Save the discussion on safety for the courtroom, depositions, and asking all the rhetorical questions possible in public. Since you have to combat the belief that "no proof of any safety concern, must mean there is no concern," you need to be able to at least draw the same line of thought that there IS a safety concern. Your job might become trying to help determine what reasonable doubt really might be. I would say that an unknown means there is an equal chance that a safety concern can exist. In the State of Wisconsin, the courts really will be of no help unless you can find a health and safety concern. I think this might be tied back to the old Right to Farm legislation, which sort of ties anything agricultural with anything on agricultural land, even though it isn't agriculture. Wisconsin has always been a place that farmers have held a distinct advantage in the area of bending laws to make them work for their situation. Must have something to do with that

Marxist capital city of Madison. Governor Dimboil, the current autocrat, might hope to keep industry here, but wind developments aren't really industry, and they don't create much in the way of taxes, since the developments will not affect property taxes. So, you'll really get to pay twice for them being near your home. You get to pay your share of taxes, their share they skip out on as industry, and probably overpay based upon the ever-decreasing value of your home. Ok, enough about taxes; this chapter was supposed to be about safety. I don't want you to tip over from angina pangs before you finish this book. I can't expect you to tell your friends what a worthless collections of drivel this book is when you are sucking an aspirin and getting the defib paddles in the meat wagon. Maybe this book will turn out to be the Napoleon of expose books, sort of an Anarchist's Cookbook for today. I have to point out again - don't do anything remotely like what the real Anarchist's Cookbook suggests. The only kind of a coward who is worse than a terrorist is one who won't speak up about what they think. That leads me to my last point about safety.

Tortuous interference

This is an excerpt of a letter from one lawyer to another lawyer, the latter of which represented the Citizens Concerned;

“Dear XX,

It has come to our attention that your clients, who ...name... Citizens Concerned, ... engaged in conduct outside the scope ... by which they intentionally ... with the contractual relationship between.....and have... to..... Willfully injure...falsely assert that... and offered...”items of favor”.attempt by your clients to tortuously interfere with....contractual relationship.... a violation of Wis Stat.

Since I don't know who to credit this letter to, and it doesn't really matter who wrote it, I have to disclaim it is something I did not write, do not take credit for, and have no intent to plagiarize. I do need to put much more here than I did, so that you can see what a slap threat was being made. I have to point out that there was later some indictments for a different development and loan guarantees against the same developer's staff and developing company, but that was years after this whole event took place. So, I would guess that one

could assume a claim against falsehoods that turned out to be true would be false itself. But those were different falsehoods. I guess once a snake oil salesman always one. But all of that matters not, because the only issue we need to be concerned with is safety. Your safety means that if you are in the State of Wisconsin, if you live in a state with a tortious interference law, you need to make sure you take actions alone. It also might help if you are a stockholder in one of the companies involved. I think there is a fiduciary responsibility to the stockholder as an individual that requires some amount of latitude to the stockholder. Although it might end up like the relationship of Kevorkian and some large automakers, it might not hurt. At least owning some of the stock makes it possible for you to contact the stockholder relations people verses the crabby customer people. You might never get off the automated system if you call up Big Brother to complain about something. Just because I don't have a gas leak, I have to talk to a machine. The people you talk to might as well be machines, since you are at least guaranteed to get a direct reaction when you make a keystroke. Don't get me wrong, I was a stockholder of some Big Brother stock long before I was ever a customer, and it is a great company. The reason that they are involved in wind energy is because they are a

great company. Nobody loves government cheese like companies like *corporate government cheese!*

If you are careful, act alone, send letters as individuals, never ever meet as a group with the opposition; you'll probably avoid any litigation threats and such.

Although I advise you of this, it doesn't mean you aren't going to get some letters that make you nervous and seem to imply that you need to move to Tibet and become a monk. I guess the life of a monk doesn't look too bad as long as the monastery has walls tall enough to shield me from the barristers of the world. Did I mention I wasn't smart enough to get into a law school in the State of Wisconsin? Funny, some things just work out for the best.

The long and short is you should protect yourself along the way. Wear protection. Always.

Chapter 12

The Tangled Web of Mistruths

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I think the title of this chapter might be a little misleading and sort of a misnomer in its self. A long time ago I did a research paper on another misnomer of the day. That was something called rBST, or recombinant bovine somatotropin or something like that. Most people called in BGH. BGH never really existed; there was no such thing as a bovine growth hormone. That is what the Russian cows took before the record cow bell lifting Olympics took place... I am being a little facetious here, if you had not guessed. There is nothing such as BGH, just like there isn't anything that is really a renewable energy. Ok, this is a little bit of a quantum step here, but renewable energy is really passive energy, and active energy is consuming something to get energy. So I get a little bristly when people say renewable this and renewable that. Passive energy sources are those that you happen to collect when they are available, and you don't get them other times. A renewable resource is something that you get to use over, and over again, right? The wind comes around when it does, and when the atmospheric conditions are right, you get to collect it again. There is nothing renewable about that.

I think diesel engine manufacturers should get green credit for reburning diesel combustion byproducts (with turbochargers) more so than someone can say

they are getting the wind, over and over again. Perhaps I am splitting hairs, but a renewable would more appropriately be a hydrogen car that produces drinking water. That is a renewable resource.

The next thing I have to address is the intermittency of wind. I don't know how wind helps do much of anything except screw up our grid and make power plants incrementally more inefficient. I wish someone would be able to plot out a clear strategy of how the wind towers would actually save any natural resources. It must be a bit more complicated than the industry pundits want to admit. I guess it is easier to call wind a renewable resource and just have that warm and fuzzy feeling that you are doing a great thing and getting paid for it. It is a little like a movie - they never let the truth get in the way of telling a great story, so why should the truth be a concern for us?

Another bit of supposed fiction is water quality. It has been said quite often that the water quality within a locale would not change. I have to admit, I don't have any data to back any claims on a change in water quality, but I don't think there is any more data to support a status quo. Oddly, blasting is usually not mentioned in the public data that is purported, but quite often it seems that blasting is part of the

construction process. It is kept secret somehow through the permitting process, but that is probably more a product of the poor permit process than anything else. The complete lack of disclosure must be the cause of it. When was the last time someone building a house or shed was asked if they were going to be blasting? Never, and it looks like the process to build a tax farm might have less oversight than that of home construction. But, it would be superb fiction to imply that no change to groundwater will result. Since I can't prove anything, you'll just have to use your common sense to decide if there could possibly be any effect. Of course, maybe they can blame it on herbicide runoff or some other failure of the local farmers. Much like a smoking gun without the smoke, or the gun, just the gunshot wound - you have an effect without a visible cause.

I have been told that local homeowners in Peatfield have reported tasting a distinct metallic taste in the water from their wells. Of course, bad tasting water and E. Coli and Cryptosporidium and Shigella are not one in the same. But, with the relentless onslaught of outbreaks of water and food-borne illnesses across the heartland, one more chance for leaching groundwater is never welcomed. Perhaps, I will venture to guess, this will remain a point of contention in Peace Pipe County.

Luckily water quality seems to be less of a concern until it is bad. Lucky for the Big Wind.

It is s a good thing this is a fiction book, since we are debunking the fiction of real life to create truth in fiction. Ok, wait. That might be just a bit too deep for me. Whoa, dude, that is sooo deep! I just would not get through this book without paraphrasing Shaun Pen (sic) in my favorite role that he played. He might have peaked a little too early, that actress with the name of Mother Mary and child (sic) at the same time. Getting older must be a real bummer for him. I just remarked to someone that writing this little book is my way of carving my initials in the tree of life before my 40th birthday rolls around. At least I know I didn't peak too young, ha-ha!

Lastly, a great many people, perhaps 10,000 per day, see two very well-placed towers along a major thoroughfare owned by Big Brother. These towers, also in the State of Wisconsin, have some great PR value for the Big Wind people-and for Big Brother, too.

The only problem is that anyone that knows much about towers would understand that two towers could not be so near each other, because they would interfere

with each other's wind flow. So, a southerly wind would result in the one to the north not turning, or vice versa. It really becomes apparent if you happen to commute down that major thoroughfare. A real cynic might even say that these two towers aren't even producing any power that hits the grid because they are just so old, and there also doesn't seem to be a substation that is expressly for the towers. That would be quite an issue, since Big Brother can calculate that "renewable" power into their portfolio. But like I said, that would take a real cynic to postulate such a thing. Big Wind wants you to know that there is about 8 times the needed energy available on the globe in wind potential. That is a little like saying there is enough sun (not solar) sun energy on the earth to power us without any need for fossil fuels. One statement is as much as a joke as the other. It'd be like saying you can store wind energy in a jar, per se. It is silly really to even reference here, but if I don't someone will try to use that as some scientifically verifiable factoid.

Chapter 13

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Birds!

There has been a great deal of hand wringing over birds, bats, migratory birds, and the possibility of the issues with EMI. I really don't want to leap into that whole mess, mainly because bringing that issue up makes most people think I care more about a goose than anything else. I really don't care much for a Canadian goose, but I do have some concern for birds of prey. With the overall inability to segregate the birds, I am worried about the good of a few against the concerns of the goose, the good of the many; it makes no sense to even raise the argument. When the Fish and Wildlife Service was less help than other typical government bureaucrats, the Sierra Club seemed impotent against the tax farms, then I have nothing. IF the Sierra Club is ineffectual in a fight to save thousands, perhaps millions of birds, I might as well stay on the porch. I know a great many people down in the flyway that'll have great disdain for the course I took here, but no other course made any sense.

I don't have any great dislike for the great Canadian goose, really not at all. It is like fighting for the rights

of the bowtie. I don't mind the bowtie, but unless I am in a tuxedo, it really doesn't hold much for me. So goes my concern for the goose. So please don't hold it against me because I don't rush to the defense of a poor goose. They are beautiful and majestic birds in flight, but they like to congregate by the hundreds and thousands. More than that, they are all on their collective junket at the same time, so maybe a group of 500,000 stops by the Horken Marsh at any week during the fall.

Funny thing how that works out because they make their little trek based upon the magnetic force of the earth. Without that magnetic force working with internal compasses, they will probably end up going towards other bodies of water or concentrating their troupes in municipal areas, wetlands, whatever. So one might think that the real fallout (aside from goose droppings) will be how different areas will have to sustain the crop damage, disease, and general malaise of goose groupies hanging out in the town park.

I don't know much about bats except that they fly in the dark via the use of their natural sonar. I really don't like bats very much, but I know they have a purpose somewhere in the bigger picture. Defending the bat would be like rushing to the defense of the sea lamprey.

Almost impossible for anybody to even pretend they care very much about that slimy critter. So if it was an important link in the ecocycle or a protected species, I would have a hard time raising support for it. So goes the reputation of the much maligned bat.

The birds of prey that might suffer are also not a very easy sell. Fishermen hate those herons or egrets, and the collective eagle populations are growing back to their “pre-DDT” levels. You also have a hard time getting any change in the cup for these birds because of that fact. I don’t care much for the blame of DDT for all ills in the 1960s. It is a poor argument that blames the downfall of the North American ecology on DDT, and it is equally weak to argue against Big Wind for the sake of the birds. Typically, a show of genuine concern by the Boss or similar figure might make a difference. Someone with a last name that sounds like menstrual cramp might show up and support wind because it might save a family farm from reality, which is sometimes referred to as plight.

Ironically, maybe a dark horse supporter could make the birds a viable issue, but don’t look for it anytime soon. This fight will take common sense, not environmental consciousness. Piece of Green is wholeheartedly supporting wind, so the rest of the

environmental left will have to stay on that side as well. (As you can see, I sidestep trademarks and copyrighted items as best I can.)

I don't want you to think I don't care about birds. The problem is, the rest of the world really doesn't care. A dead bird is like a tree falling in the forest. If nobody sees (hears) it, it doesn't really die (make a noise).

Chapter 14

Best of Luck to You; Now Get out There

What else can you I tell you, that I haven't already said? So many things in this book might be offensive to so many people. That wasn't really my intent, but it might

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simply be an added bonus. I don't think you'll find anything other than the references to the ignorant and the Third Reich being akin, remotely offensive, unless you are hypersensitive, in which case I am truly sorry. Genocide and ethnic cleansing takes place all over the Earth - East Timor, the Balkans, Rwanda, and Darfur. I needn't go on- you get the point. Nothing is sacred if you consider people die in persecution all the time, without even much notice by the rest of world. Sadly, we remember the horror of the Holocaust, but not who Radovan Karadzic was or where Darfur is on the map. What is the correlation between all these horrific events and wind power? Absolutely nothing. Nothing we do in regard to wind will change the fact that nuclear power and coal will be the primary sources of electricity in our lives. Nothing changes the facts. That is my point. The common thread is that the truth will be much maligned and twisted, and the facts are lost somewhere along the way. Seven hundred million will defecate in an open hole or directly on the ground today somewhere on the Earth. Maybe that makes a little impact upon you. Millions of peoples have died in genocide and ethnic cleansing in the past century, and yet we have not progressed to the point where this world is still so undeveloped that almost three quarters of a billion people don't have a toilet to use. And we are going to save the planet by subsidizing wind? We

are doing it all with our simple use of the tax farm? We should give ourselves a collective pat on the back. Of course nothing we do will have any effect in our lifetime, but why let the truth get in the way of a warm and fuzzy feeling.

Wow, did that ever get off track! I have a hard time even trying to be serious when writing about the tax farms. We are wasting our time picking up a penny while the dollars are blowing away, no pun intended. I hope you aren't offended that taking wind seriously is quite impossible. If you are offended by the fact, I hope someday you can admit it to yourself. You don't have to admit it to anyone, and don't bother telling me about it. Just rest well knowing that I don't need to write this book with a pseudonym to avoid the Rushdie treatment. But, if I did, my identity would be so thinly veiled, you'd have to be a believer in wind energy *not* to be able to figure out who wrote this book. That is what I call high irony, oddly enough. You might think wind energy will make us independent from imported oil. I can't offer any help for you in that case. As I stated earlier, everything I could possibly share with you, you've already read, but I can recap:

1. Be thorough
2. Be political
3. Be realistic
4. Have fun exposing what you find
5. Use all your assets
6. And finally do not forget the power of the Internet, which is great. The greatest power of all IS the signs you display in your front yard. I don't have a silver bullet or wooden cross for you. Recall, I failed in my fight. I can fail again by not energizing you to expound on the truth and common sense.

Not to bore you, but back in the 1960s there was a company called Mission Hills trying to buy up the mineral rights of landowners in Fondue County, probably for the huge shale deposits or oil reserves by Lake WinnEcoli (LOL!). The long and short of that debacle is this - it was a joke. So is the subject of this book. Tax farms are the bearded-lady sideshow in the circus of energy. Coal and nuclear will be the major sources of electrical power worldwide for the next century and a half.

Nothing that is done now or any number of towers

built could ever change that. For the record, my Dad was against the Mission Hills thing because he thought it was a stupid idea. Gosh, I miss my Dad.

I don't think much of Al Gore, especially since he is wearing that Nobel Prize (copyrighted) thing like it actually means something. There is a guy who was on that team who won the Prize, and he says all this alarmist garbage is useless. Al is getting kinda pudgy these days, so calling him Chicken Little isn't appropriate. But it does conjure up a funny image. Al Gore did say something of note about understanding being directly related to one's salary and the need for that salary to continue coming in. That makes me chuckle, because that IS the essence of wind energy, the tax farms, whatever you want to call it. Al Gore also fought in Vietnam. It just depends on what your definition of fighting is, if that is a truth or not. Would expect any less of the Father of the Internet?

Just remember this, you have the chance to support wind energy development, or you can support common sense. The two are mutually exclusive.

"You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."

-Abraham Lincoln

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Glossary of Colloquial Terms and Abbreviations

Axis of Evil-The purveyors of half-truths

Big Brother- Large utility that sounds like a French word

Big Wind-the “industry” of flatulence

Ecolove- Enviro-whackiness

Green Genes-environmental good Samaritans who are lucky common sense isn't required for citizenship

Good Eggs-those who may or may not help you in your fight but aren't standing in your way

Lake WinnEcoli-just what the name implies

NIMROCS- Not in my realm of conscientiousness, or a new twist on the old NIMBY

Noblesse Oblige-an old take on collective ignorance

TTP-technique, tactic, or procedure

Tax Farms-any development on which your tax dollars are helping utilities take money from the federal government, charge more for electricity, and use more coal and nuclear because of it. Wind power installation, in general.

UnHolyland-a strange place in Fondue Lake