

March 9, 2021

Dear Utility Committee Members and Senators,

I am writing to share my experience with Nextera and how our County Commissioners have let us taxpayers down, here in Marshall County. I now feel as I am taxed without representation due to the events that have taken place in the last few months.

Nextera is definitely taking advantage of the counties that don't have zoning and it is going to have a deep impact on me and my family, as well as many others.

When we first heard about them coming here they had been not only having private meetings with the commissioners but they had been signing land owners and telling them they couldn't tell anyone. I have gone to a few meetings and I even spoke once about my concerns and how I felt like the commissioners should set setbacks for nonparticipating residences and they assured us that they would be able to work with Nextera to place each turbine. I live in a fairly populated rural area because I am on a county road. I have lived here almost 19 years, we recently redid our mortgage so we could do some repairs and improvements on our home and now I am really sad that we did that and I'm really not sure what to do now because I won't be able to sell my home for a few years and by the time I'm able to, I fear my property value will be so low, we will be forced to stay or just walk away from the home that we have worked so hard to have the last 19 years.

On September 15, 2020, I was running late that morning and my dogs were very upset and so I walked outside and there were 3 people in a fancy Polaris and one of the gentleman was touching the corner of my house with GPS equipment. He looked at me and I had to be the one to say anything to him and start a conversation with him. I asked him what he was doing and he replied, "Getting your GPS on your house.". I then asked him if this was for the wind turbines and he said yes and I asked him if he was working for the commissioners and he said yes. Come to find out he didn't work for the commissioners but Nextera. While he was here he informed me that they were going to place one 2000 feet from my house and with the trees over there, I should be fine. Which that has a few flaws in it considering not only are these industrial size wind turbines, those trees that he is talking about don't belong to me but my neighbor and he has been ripping out treelines all over his property this spring. What is going to stop him from ripping out the ones that are supposedly going to protect me. The other flaw is I have skylights in my home. You can visually see these when you pull into my driveway and from the other road to the north of me. You can also see these on on Google Maps if you pull up my home. At this point the commissioners hadn't signed any agreements with Nextera and so I thought it was odd that this gentleman flat out told me I was going to have one 2000 feet from my house. (Note: commissioner signed the site map placement agreement Jan 4th, 2021.) So I had a friend contact the commissioners, as I was running late to work and did not have time, and she found out that they did not work for them and they didn't know they were even doing GPS measurements. I then called the cops and they found out they worked for Nextera. That is on record. I didn't file charges because according to the cop they were not trespassing and

basically they could go on my property because I didn't have NO TRESPASSING signs up and they didn't hurt anything. I did have two NO WIND TURBINE signs at the beginning of my driveway that there is no way they missed. I still don't think that is right because that means I can just go wandering around anywhere I want and as long as I don't hurt or tear up anything, it isn't trespassing.

I would now like to point out that the day the commissioners signed the site map agreement, without ever addressing the many Marshall county residents regarding setbacks from homes, they said they had made Nextera wait long enough. Ironically, the site map shows they have a wind turbine to be placed 2000 feet from my house. In fact there is also another one that is 2153 feet from my home on a huge section that the land owners don't even live in Marshall county. This property was inherited from their family. I think it is horrible that Nextera will sign up land from trusts and people who don't even live in the county and have no regard for the people that do and that they seem to have all of the commissioners on their payroll instead of the actual taxpayers who live here and pay their paychecks.

In the big picture of this wind farm, I am going to have 9 within a mile of my home on all sides of me. I've been told that I could also lose my access to my internet because there has to be a line of sight from my wifi tower to the tower in town. If they place a wind turbine in between those two towers, I will have no internet and I won't have access to anything else because there is not anything else around here. That will make it so my college child won't be able to do class stuff when he is home as well as if my other kids have to do online school for any reason like they had to last year. That would also be a deciding factor if I ever tried to sell. No internet service would be a huge disadvantage to anyone in the market.

They sent a report that states the two that are closest to me will approximately give me 5 hours/year Shadow Flicker and 46dBA when running. That is an approximate and could be more and it also does not take into consideration all of the turbies around me, only the two that are both to the south of me. As a nonparticipating resident, I should not have any sound, Shadow Flicker, or the flashing red night lights to deal with. The commissioners had told us earlier this year that they would make sure we didn't because they were going to individually place each one. They also have not addressed the fact that I have skylights and that will not only affect the report of Shadow Flicker, since the report states that they got their estimates from a computer program that based it off a normal resident with the normal windows and doors. I have sent emails, I have called several times and left messages and all this was before they signed. This report also doesn't address the flashing red lights that light up the sky that you can see for miles, how are those going to look inside my home with my windows and skylights? We have been told that we can buy curtains to eliminate the issues of Shadow Flickering and Night Lights. Not only would that be very expensive to get darkening curtains on all my windows but my skylights and my decorative windows on the south side of my house would be very difficult to do that with, as they were made to not have curtains or blind but to allow light in. They have also said in regards to the owners of the properties being signed up, that they can do what they want with their land even if it has negative effects of their neighbors because we have

no zoning for anything and they are free to do whatever they want with their property. I don't think that is right to say that only some land owners are important, that to me is discrimination. Not only are the commissioners choosing land owners that can apparently do whatever they want, they are saying the ones that it affects don't matter. Especially, when these people are signing up their farm ground and NOT the properties that they have their homes on. In fact if you look at the site map and compare the turbine distances from the participating people and their homes and the nonparticipating and their homes, there is a HUGE difference. Not one of the participating has them close to their homes. I was told by a mother of a participating that they left out a piece of land that they want to build a home on and the current home they live in. This does not seem quite right when they are leaving out their homes and subjecting everyone else that has homes next to their other properties to a nightmare that never goes away.

Another thing that I find concerning is our safety, there have been so many reports of ice throw and blade throw and while they try to cover it up, they have paid out many claims from damages all over the country. The attorney that they are using actually stated this in a meeting before they signed the agreement. One of the commissioners even sounded surprised because that was not in their reports that they got, from the developer. She said that on tape. They say that if you have a blade throw they can go 2500 feet. Does that mean I could be sleeping and a blade lands on my house? Ice can be thrown and reports have said that could go as far as a half mile and maybe farther as these companies try to cover this up. Am I going to get hit by ice or my children as they are playing outside? Is it even safe to go outside anymore? My son has a friend who is going to school for these and he even has said they shouldn't be that close to homes. The bigger they get the farther the ice throw and blade throw can travel. The commissioners don't seem to be too concerned with our safety either. This is deeply concerning to me as well.

This is not acceptable and we are being bullied by Nextera and I'm not sure what they have on our commissioners but they seem to be working for them and not us taxpayers. We are being pushed out of our homes and forced to endure things that we didn't sign up for 19 years ago when we bought our home. I am quite confident I will never be able to sell my home with this kind of negative impact that these are going to have. They have not started building yet but they are getting ready to and I feel helpless.

They should not be building industrial wind farms in a residential area or a rural area with a lot of family homes. There is no one protecting us and no one seems to care. Please help us and keep our homes free from this kind of abuse.

Sincerely,
Paul and Marabeth Olson
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