

December 12, 2010

2007 B Eagle Ridge Ct.

Urbana, IL 61802

Dear Member of the Board of Trustees,

The purpose of this letter is to urge a greater degree of engagement and collaboration between residents of Urbana and administrators of the University of Illinois about the wind turbine project. The proposed project developed by a U of I student organization faces a funding deadline of May 2011. Several issues are unresolved. Because the Board of Trustees will give final approval to the project, you might be interested in its status.

At the Urbana City Council meeting on December 8, 2010 residents raised several objections to the wind turbine project:

Ernie Pearlstein stated: "The technical basis for the location is flawed... we need an opportunity to talk with the University and the students to identify different locations." (62:40)

Councilors agreed that a dialogue has begun, but community engagement has been insufficient. Council member Heather Stevenson said, "To develop a plan without consulting the residents, who are going to be the most affected, is the wrong way to go about this."

Mayor Laurel Prussing mentioned unresolved legal issues, and said: "I'm in favor of wind turbines, but everything needs to be done right." "You don't just put it next to this guy's house without talking to him."

Steven Plat spoke with university officials last week, and reported that the officials' comments were dismissive, arrogant and misrepresented. He quoted a University official: "Any public outreach comment period going forward will have no effect on the turbines." (50:10)

The university is planning a "public information session" sometime before Dec. 25 but the exact scheduling has not yet been announced. Hopefully, the agenda will include dialogue and negotiation, in addition to 'information giving'. I am eager to see the turbines gracefully generating alternative energy in Urbana. This issue does not need to cause a great deal of consternation and it will not, if we work together.

To view a video of the Urbana City Council meeting of December 8, 2010, follow this link: Turbine testimony begins after the first 50 minutes. <http://urbanaininois.us/city-council/meetings/2010-12-06>

Sincerely,

Eileen T. Borgia

UIUC -MS '71; PhD '94