

To the RES working group,

My name is Quincy and I'm a student at the Greenway Institute and a third generation Vermonter. My biggest concern is seeing Vermont's renewable energy production hindered by the not in my backyard-ism, or NIMBY-ism of the generations who came before me and who still hold the power to make a change. The citizens of Vermont have shown election cycle after election cycle that we prefer to export hydro-power from Canadian transmission lines and call wood burning plants renewable, rather than build real, renewable energy sources on our own soil. I ask the RES to increase tier II requirements and reconsider their stance on wind to combat this issue.

I come from Norwich Vermont; a town that prides itself on how progressive and environmentally friendly they are. However, I've spoken to many citizens who loudly support renewables and social equity programs, yet when proposals for these projects appear in their town, they quietly oppose them. In fact, I've seen these Norwich citizens spend copiously hiring private lawyers to lobby town management in efforts to block renewable energy projects.

While Norwich holds the NIMBY-ism I've seen first-hand, the concept envelops Vermont. Why does Vermont, a state that we can all agree wants to be a leader in climate restoration, have regulations that make new wind projects virtually impossible to implement? Legislators and government officials claim turbine noise disrupts citizens, so we have limited new wind projects to a noise output of 39 decibels, rendering new wind farms a pipe dream.

This room we are in now would measure more than 40 decibels of noise even if I were to stop talking. It seems we implement these standards simply because Vermont is infected with NIMBY-ism. A few of our beautiful tree lines shall not be muddied by unsightly wind turbines even if it means that we must buy our peak power from an out-of-state coal burning plant, harming the very nature we were trying to protect.

Raising tier II will ease us off Hydro-Quebec and other out of state energy sources, forcing us to invest in our in state renewable energy. We also must reconsider our stance on wind, which is necessary to supporting the demand of our grid while keeping it powered by in-state renewable energy.

Thank you,

Quincy