



**Statement of Timothy Killian  
Policy Consultant, WindWorks! Northwest  
Klickitat County Planning Commission  
February 16, 2010**

My Name is Tim Killian. I reside at 1301 First Avenue, Seattle, Washington. I am speaking tonight on behalf of WindWorks! Northwest, an advocacy group that supports well conceived wind power projects.

I am thrilled to be here in Klickitat County because you have pioneered the development of your wind power resources while honoring broader social values such as individual property rights and environmental protection.

There are those who would have the County stop in its tracks when you are only just now hitting your stride. Certainly the 1000-megawatt milestone may be recognized as a point of reference, but nowhere was that 1000-megawatt number intended as a stop sign, or even a warning signal.

This County and its citizens know more about what wind power means locally – and globally – than any other community on the Continent. This County conducted its environmental studies early and often and created the Energy Overlay Zone (EOZ). That foundation, along with the ongoing commitment of developers and landowners to adhere closely to local and state regulations, has achieved the balanced development for which you have every right to be proud.

There are some that would have you conduct more SEPA studies and other assessments. Their goals should be clear. They object to what has been built to date and while they are unable to find any deleterious environmental impacts, they do not want the County to go forward. They want to stop wind power development. Period.

You are evaluating several suggestions for improved monitoring and collaboration such as the consolidation of several of the Technical Advisory Committees. I suggest that you adopt and proceed with common sense, constructive suggestions while rejecting everything else. You know how to separate the wheat from the chaff; don't hesitate to do just that.

Ten months ago in testimony I delivered in neighboring Skamania County I pointed out the unacceptability – from an environmental perspective – of Friends of the Gorge’s opposition to a wind power. The Friends who maintain, contrary to law, that the boundaries of the Scenic Area extend as far as what can be seen from within it, have drawn a new line. Their elitist and sanctimonious commitment to aesthetics over anything else has led them into an indefensible, anti-environmental position: an anti-wind power position.

WindWorks! Northwest has several simple questions for the Friends of the Gorge – its Board, its staff, and its membership. What is your policy for addressing climate change now and into the future? Have you ever supported a wind power project in the Gorge that features – as everyone knows – the finest wind power resource in Oregon and Washington? Could you ever support any wind power project in your precious domain?

The Friends of the Gorge are now, more than ever, “The Enemies of Clean Energy.” In citing junk science critiques claiming health effects of wind turbines and recognizing sub-audible turbine “noise” and similar preposterous attacks, the Friends have surfaced on the wrong side of history.

Consider these simple statistics based on one 1.5-megawatt (MW) turbine that operates with a 33% capacity factor. That one turbine would generate a total of 4,336.2-megawatt hours of electricity displacing 2,891 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> that would otherwise be emitted to generate that same 4,336.2 megawatt hours of electricity annually.

In layman’s terms, according to the federal EPA calculator, those carbon dioxide emissions are equal to 480 passenger vehicles per year (averaging 19.7 mpg) and that single turbine’s production would keep a coal-fired power plant from consuming 13.7 rail car loads of coal. And that’s just one wind turbine’s contribution to a cleaner environment.

Klickitat County, you are on the right side of history. WindWorks! Northwest urges you to continue forward with developing the resource that makes sense for your landowners and their business partners; that makes sense for the County and its special districts; that makes sense for the State of Washington, the nation and the world at large.