April 9, 2011

Dear friends at the CEC,

We had hoped to come to the meeting, but unfortunately have an out of state trip already booked and are unable to cancel it. We would like to give the input we would have given at the meeting in this e-mail.

We would like to suggest the following:

1. Rebates cannot exceed %50 of the total cost of the system.

2. Wind generators must be tested by a state approved neutral third party testing facility like DWEA has around the country in order to determine their true rating.

3. All applications received that were based on grossly exaggerated flawed test data should be resended before payment is made and should be recalculated based on accurate test data done by DWEA approved testing sites.

4. The rebate level remain at $3/watt for 1 more year.

We are making these suggestions because for the last several months there have been dealers in our area offering a small poorly made unit with a production that is grossly overstated at a rating that seems mathematically impossible, yet somehow it got on the approved list. They have had town hall meetings offering everyone free wind turbines, or wind generators for $1 and of course thousands have signed up for them, after all what do they have to lose....just $1. One dealer alone signed up 1100.

We are not just having sour grapes because it is impossible to compete with free, because we have still been blessed with sales. However, we feel like the state program is being defrauded because the funds are meant to help get systems installed that will actually make the energy they claim to make. The customers buying them are being told that 6 of these little fans the size of a ceiling fan will make as much power as our 10 kilowatt Bergeys.....and it is free, just pay $1 to apply. We seriously doubt the truthfulness of their claims. We know several of the people selling these turbines, and we believe they are good people who are just uninformed, at least we hope they are. They are just trying to earn a living, however, the factory that makes these exaggerated claims should be held accountable and should return the money for everything above what the wind turbines are tested and proven to do. To run the numbers on the projected output of a machine is easily done. It is not rocket science.

If the factory making these hyper inflated claims is found to have exaggerated their rating or their output by more than 20% of reality as proven by a third party testing facility, I would like to recommend that the state attorney general be consulted and encouraged to seek having the factory make repayment of all rebates that were given under false pretenses. To reward these companies with millions of dollars that were intended to promote small wind is a crime and needs to be stopped immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

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