

January 26, 2009

BLM Carson City District –Sierra Front Field Office  
Attn: New Comstock EIS Project Manager  
5665 Morgan Mill Road  
Carson City, NV 89701  
E-mail: [newcomstockwind@blm.gov](mailto:newcomstockwind@blm.gov)

Reference: Great Basin Wind, LLC  
New Comstock Wind Energy Project

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Susan Sutton. As the executive director, of the Virginia City Convention and Tourism Authority (VCCTA), I am writing this letter on behalf of my board of directors.

Our agency is vehemently opposed to the New Comstock Wind Energy Project. Virginia City and Gold Hill are totally supported by tourism dollars. All our marketing (printed collateral materials, media & travel professional tours and website) showcase the tag line "Step Back in Time". We offer our guests the unique opportunity of stepping back through a time portal to bygone years. The existence of 70, 420 feet high wind turbines whirling in the distant would negate those efforts completely.

Last year alone, 2007/2008 fiscal year, the VCCTA spent in excess of \$152,000 marketing dollars promoting Virginia City and Gold Hill as a "Step Back in Time" experience. This number does not include regional marketing dollars spent by area hotels, venues and other convention and tourism bureaus. A formula used for return on investment (ROI) by the Nevada Commission on Tourism is "for every marketing dollar spent a return of four dollars". Using this formula we can see the impact of lost revenue to the region in a very challenging economy. Virginia City is one of the largest historical districts in the United States and considered the "Gem of Northern Nevada" tourism. Our destination is a keystone component to selling the region: Reno, Carson City and Lake Tahoe. Should this project be approved it could cripple the marketing/sales efforts of the region.

We have also reviewed in depth the environmental impact to our destination, water, noise, animal safety, infrastructure etc. and again proclaim in a very loud united voice our opposition to the New Comstock Wind Energy Project. Should you have any question concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of my board members, 847-7500.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sutton  
Executive Director  
Virginia City Convention & Tourism Authority

CC: VCCTA board of directors  
Storey County Administration