

**From:** John Dreher [<mailto:johndrhr22@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 5:40 AM

**To:** 'Ted Hartke'

**Subject:** RE: Note from Ted Hartke in response to Dreher message

**PLEASANT RIDGE EXHIBIT**

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I take my elected position seriously Mr. Hartke and I dismiss no constituent, I dismiss no concern. You did indeed misinterpret my message if you felt it was an attack on you or your family. I did not initiate this discussion, you did.

I sleep every night with the sounds of traffic, sirens, industry and trains invading my house. I have done so all my life. I don't like it, but I dismiss it as being the price I pay for being part of a culture that is bigger than just me.

I am an Illinois licensed Home Inspector and own a sound meter. You do not want me to bring that meter to your house and measure your night-time home noise and compare it against mine. That would be a bad day for your argument.

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**From:** Ted Hartke [<mailto:tedhartke@hartke.pro>]

**Sent:** Monday, June 03, 2013 5:07 PM

**To:** John Dreher

**Subject:** Note from Ted Hartke in response to Dreher message

Dear Mr. Dreher,

Thank you for addressing my concerns with your email last week. You gave me a lot to think about, but there are things you wrote that I disagree with.

Unfortunately for you and I, residents within the InvEnergy wind farm are having actual, measurable noise problems inside our homes. I am working towards finding a solution for it. I am "taking one for the team" as I presented my experience with dealing with the problem and presented solutions to prevent it from happening to other unsuspecting residents. I am doing this as a selfless act.....doing it while risking my reputation and peaceful existence amongst my neighbors.

In my desire to educate county board members on what my family is experiencing, I wanted to again extend the invitation to you and other board members to visit my property so you would have a true representation of what the noise is like inside my home on a regular basis. This would help you and the other community decision makers be able to proceed with first-hand experience. As of now, I have not taken any forceful action against anyone, and my efforts to help other unsuspecting and unknowing residents in other parts of our county, where the next wind farms will develop, has been a large burden. I feel that I cannot stay silent on this issue and allow other Vermilion County residents to be at risk of future suffering and damages when the problem is entirely preventable. I never intended to become an activist.....my only desire has been to live with my family in a safe environment where I can work hard and earn an honest living.

I was surprised by the response you provided to my 5/27 email. It is my hope that I have misinterpreted your words or your intent, but your message seems to imply a personal attack against me and/or my family. As head of my household I must consider the safety of my family above all else. I will not be able to ignore the wind turbine noise which penetrates my home. Every day, this noise enforces the call of duty I have to serve others by making them aware of the negative consequences of building turbines too close to occupied dwellings. Amending our existing wind farm ordinance is the next step to take towards making the adjustments needed to address the problem. Our ordinance is under the control and jurisdiction of the county board.

I have not looked for a magical solution or even a miracle of any sort, but I admit that I have prayed at night, in my bed, for the following things: Please Lord, make the wind either pick up or calm down so that I don't have to listen to these wind turbines at the common and regularly occurring noisy pitch. Please let me become accustomed to this new sound.....sort of like how people get used to living near trains or highways. Please let my wife and children fall asleep so that their day is not ruined tomorrow. So far, these prayers have not been answered. Fortunately, it does not take an act of God to amend the existing wind ordinance. There are other Illinois counties without zoning who have amended their wind ordinance after learning from their mistakes and finding deficiencies. What makes Vermilion County so special or exempt? Surely it is not because we were provided a legal opinion from one single attorney. There are no clauses or words that say this existing ordinance is "perfect as approved" or "permanent and can never be changed." This ordinance is just like any other policy or procedure.....subject to change and with the ability to evolve as necessary.

Working through this problem is going to be difficult. It will take toughness and perseverance. It was fairly easy to get this first wind project approved because it was new to the county and the regulations necessary to handle this new industry were in their infancy. Seven months ago, I would have never predicted this as a problem, however, it became a reality for me. As I have learned that my family's problem has repeated itself throughout the Midwest, I see that we have an opportunity to learn and adapt accordingly as these other communities have done.

As we prepare to work together towards a better solution, please don't mistake any of my words as personal attacks or threats. My approach is open and straightforward. If you feel hurt, badgered, annoyed, or uncomfortable, please know that those feelings are a natural part of being human.....these feelings are coming from the conscience within.

The noise from the wind turbines is very difficult to understand. It affects different people in different ways. I can understand how difficult it would be for outsiders to relate. As other residents begin to approach you with their problems, please note their problems are very real, and the people themselves are not delusional. There is

a growing number of science and health studies that are making it more evident that living too close to industrial wind turbines is a significant hazard. I have attached a few of these articles here for your reference. After doing some careful checking, I have found that the Vermilion County Board does have the authority to make the needed changes to protect future residents from harm.

Sincerely,

Ted Hartke

On Thu, May 30, 2013 at 8:28 PM, John Dreher <[johndrhr22@aol.com](mailto:johndrhr22@aol.com)> wrote:

Mr. Hartke, if you think that you can badger me and the other members of the Vermilion County Board into delivering some sort of magical solution to your perceived problem you are likely to be disappointed and quite likely delusional. I am going to walk you through this slowly.

**Vermilion County has no zoning ordinance.**

You chose to locate on a property not controlled by zoning. When you did that you rolled the open dice for your selection of neighbors

I chose to make my home in the city of my birth where I hear sirens, traffic noise, industrial hum and buzz and have for all my life. For the first nine years that my wife and I lived on the north bank of the Vermilion River we listened to the droning hum of the scrubbers on the stacks of General Motors Central Foundry. The drone was painful. Was it annoying? YES. But we sucked it up to progress and people having jobs. We never considered ourselves so personally **special** as to complain. My personal comfort is secondary to the community in which I live and the greater economy of my country.

Vermilion County does not hold the control that you desire.

You are beating up people who cannot give you what you want. WE DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY!!!!!!

Can you understand it now?

You chose to live in an unregulated environment. Now you have an annoyance.

Grow up, get tough, and turn your attack somewhere it might stick, because the Vermilion County Board cannot give you what you want.

I am a patient man, but if you persist in annoying me I can become one very capable adversary. Don't go there.