

My name is Brandon Clarke; I am 38 years old and I have two young children. I am a lifelong resident of Grosse-Île, where I work as a fisherman and farmer like the generations in my family before me. I am submitting this memoir to express my firm opposition to the proposed wind turbine project in our community. The connection to my home and dependency on the land shapes my family's livelihood. I, like so many other Islanders, rely on the land and sea and work with my hands everyday to provide for my family. I do not believe that wind turbines belong in a small coastal community with family values like ours. Our children deserve the respect to grow up with the same freedom, space and connection to this land that I have.

In my opinion, turbines are useless- they serve us nothing but someone else's profit. Their empty virtue signaling comes with little benefit to the community or the environment. Just consider the example to build a single turbine: how much diesel is burned to mix that much concrete or make that much steel, and to haul it all the way from Asia to the Magdalen Islands, then put it together with a 450-foot crane? How much oil does it take to lubricate the wind turbines and winterize them? And when the wind doesn't blow, they still need generators to produce power, meaning more fuel and emissions. These structures are supposed to make profit and produce clean energy but, in its lifespan, a turbine will not even offset the carbon footprint it takes to build and erect it into position. At what price should 'clean energy' come for such a loss to the environment and to our community. Not to mention the clearing and destruction of land in the installation process, bringing heavy machinery to scar the land forever.

This is my home and I will not watch it be sacrificed and industrialized to fill someone else's pocket. Our heritage and land do not come with a price, as some things cannot be measured in profit or power. We are a community that gives, that protects what we love, and that works hard for what we have. Our land, our waters, our way of life and our heritage are ours because we live them, protect them, and pass them down from generation to generation.

The life we have built here cannot be sacrificed and replaced by machines or money.

For all these reasons, I firmly oppose the wind turbine project.

Sincerely,

Brandon Clarke
Fisherman and Farmer
Grosse-Île, Québec
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