

Letter to the Editor

Submitted to the Portland Press Herald and Bangor Daily News

January 26, 2010

Dear Editor:

We want to correct the impression left by the article on the Fox Islands Wind Project (Turbines Turn to Headache for Vinalhaven) about the extent of the sound concerns in our community. It is important to understand that about 25 people live within a half mile of the turbines, most of them closer than the five people interviewed for the story. The reactions of these 25 neighbors range from not bothered at all by the sound from the turbines (and very happy with the project), to the reactions expressed by those interviewed by Mr. Terkel.

There are 1800 year round residents of the Fox Islands. We are faced with electricity prices that are three times the national average; high energy prices threaten the very existence of these two fishing communities. As a result of the wind project, electricity prices have dropped significantly for all 1800 residents. Far, far fewer than 1 person in 10 is bothered by the sound from the project. Indeed, less than 2% of the residents could possibly hear the turbines, and many of these people are not bothered at all by the sound. The Electric Coop board is concerned that some of our neighbors are bothered, and we are actively working to address this issue. But the general feeling of the community, contrary to the impression left by this story, has been one of pride.

Board of Directors
Fox Islands Electric Cooperative