

DOCKETED	
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CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET
SUITE 7230
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 551-4001

DISTRICT OFFICES
11230 GOLD EXPRESS DRIVE
SUITE 304
GOLD RIVER, CA 95670
TEL (916) 464-4201

1320 YUBA STREET
SUITE 102
REDDING, CA 96001
TEL (530) 224-7001

California State Senate

SENATOR
BRIAN DAHLE
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



VICE CHAIR
ENERGY, UTILITIES
& COMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
MEMBER
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE #2 ON
RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION, & ENERGY
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE
NATURAL RESOURCES
& WATER
TRANSPORTATION

Sept. 25, 2023

David Hochschild, Chair
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Fountain Wind, Docket Number 23-OPT-01

Dear Chairman Hochschild,

The people of Shasta County spent four years debating the Fountain Wind proposal as the planning authorities exhaustively reviewed its impacts. Public interest in the project was so intense the county's Planning Commission met to review the project in the Shasta College theater to accommodate audience demand – and unanimously rejected the project. On appeal to the Board of Supervisors, the project was again voted down.

I did not support granting the Energy Commission the authority to site wind farms when the relevant bill was in the Legislature, but that decision has been made. Future projects whose proponents choose the state process can be considered on their merits.

For this project, however, it is nothing short of abusive of the public to launch a whole new application process. Neighbors who fear exacerbating the very serious wildfire risk in Shasta County's Intermountain area, members of the Pit River Tribe who consider the mountain lands sacred, and many others in the community worked for years with their county officials to share their concerns. They deserve to have this decision be settled, not for state government to reopen it and force them to defend their communities all over again.

There is no reason to think the serious public concerns that led to this project's rejection by Shasta County will change under the Energy Commission's jurisdiction. I urge you to respect the local decision, promptly reject this application, and let the community move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Dahle".

BRIAN DAHLE
Senator, 1st District