



**PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF THE DOWNEAST LAKES WATERSHED
(PPDLW)**

October 19, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Land Use Regulation Commission held a meeting today at the Waterfront Event Center in Lincoln. The sole item on the agenda was a final deliberation session for the Bowers Mountain Wind project. While the proposed project site is in the Expedited Permitting Area defined by the Wind Law, it would affect the scenic value of many of the lakes that make up the Downeast Lakes Watershed. Following a brief discussion the Commissioners voted unanimously to have the LURC staff draw up a denial document for their final vote on December 7th.

The 200+ members of the Partnership for the Preservation of the Downeast Lakes Watershed are extremely gratified that the LURC Commissioners have determined that First Wind and their attorney, Juliet Browne of Verill Dana, failed to prove that the Bowers Wind project would not have an unreasonably adverse scenic impact on this large and historic watershed.

The property owners and recreational users of these lakes, along with the Lodges, Sporting Camps, and Guides who depend on the area's recreational tourism for their livelihood, will not rest until this development application meets its final defeat on Dec.7th. By denying this permit LURC will send a strong message to wind developers that while former Governor Baldacci's flawed Wind Law provides them with an expedited permitting process, it does not guarantee approval. There are sites within the expedited wind permitting area that are simply not appropriate for industrial wind development and the Downeast Lakes region is one of them. As a state, we should be looking for ways to enhance our tourism business while preserving the State's natural beauty and 'Quality of Place' for residents and visitors alike.

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