

MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND ENVIRONMENT & LAND USE COMMITTEE

**1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61802**

**DATE: June 30, 2022 PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room
1776 East Washington Street
Urbana, IL 61802**

MEMBERS PRESENT: ELUC: Eric Thorsland, Aaron Esry, Chris Stohr, Mary King, Kyle Patterson, Stephanie Fortado

ZBA: Ryan Elwell, Lee Roberts, Jim Randol, Nolan Herbert, Thaddeus Bates, Tom Anderson, Larry Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT: ELUC: Jacob Paul

STAFF PRESENT: John Hall, Susan Burgstrom, Stephanie Berry, Mary Ward

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Kamerer, Rebecca Kamerer, Josh Jones, Justin Bowers, Kathy Shannon, Matthew Frank, Time Lecher, Jan Carter Niccum, Ben Mallernee, Justin Lappin, Kyle Barry, Victor Munoz, Constance Musick, Kelly Vetter, Don Carter, Matt Herriott, Scott Weisbrook, David Happ, Charlie Mitsdarfer, William Mitsdarfer, David Reel, Shannon Reel, Todd Herbert, Darrel Rice, Regina Rice, Larry Negangard, John Althausser, Ben Wolcott, Diane Boyer, Paula Moreno, Justin Leerkamp, Keith Kilian, Ann Kilian, Stacy Way, Kim Decker, Ed Decker, Rodger Menning, Diane Menning, Carol Christian, Jim Christian, Patricia Patrick, Terri Stigers, Brandon Hastings, Lynn Rice, Phillip Luetkehans, Dirk Rice, Josh Hartke, Leon Peters, Erica Peters, Adani Sanchez, Rodger Negangard, Ann Quakenbush, Sophie Quakenbush, Stephen Smith

1. Call to Order

The ELUC meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

The ZBA meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called for ELUC, and a quorum declared present.

The roll was called for ZBA, and a quorum declared present.

3. Suspension of ZBA Bylaws

Mr. Elwell entertained a motion to temporarily suspend the ZBA Bylaws for the joint study session of ELUC and the ZBA.

1 **Mr. Wood moved, seconded by Mr. Roberts, to temporarily suspend the ZBA Bylaws for the joint**
2 **study session of ELUC and the ZBA. The motion passed by voice vote.**

3
4 **4. Approval of Agenda**

5
6 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Elwell and entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

7
8 **Mr. Esry moved, seconded by Ms. King, to approve the agenda. The motion passed by voice vote.**

9
10 Mr. Thorsland entertained a motion to allow the ZBA to participate as if they were County Board Members
11 during the discussion.

12
13 **Mr. Stohr moved, seconded by Mr. Patterson, to allow the ZBA to participate as if they were County**
14 **Board Members during the discussion. The motion passed by voice vote.**

15
16 Mr. Thorsland said he had a lot of slips and is expecting to extend the hour of public participation because
17 he knew county residents came and wanted the chance to speak. He said they would do everything they
18 could to get everybody in. He said the time limit of 5 minutes would still be in effect. He also asked that
19 anyone who agrees with the preceding person say that and continue with their unique testimony. He said
20 they were discussing three things; the minimum separation which was suggested to be 3,250 feet, and the
21 noise limits of 39 dB(A) and 80 dB(C) for infrasound. He said keeping to those topics would be helpful
22 in getting everyone the chance to speak.

23
24 **5. Public Participation**

25
26 Mr. Thorsland opened public participation and called Rebecca Kameron to speak.

27
28 Dr. Rebecca Kameron, 1782 CR 300N, Philo, said she owns a veterinary practice in Sidney that provides
29 farm services in Champaign, Vermilion, and Douglas counties. She said they could tell from her address
30 she lived three miles from the Douglas County line and a few more miles from the Harvest Ridge
31 installation. She said she had several friends and clients that feel the effects of wind turbines and heard
32 several anecdotes about dealing with the energy companies. She said many in the room made it their point
33 to attend all the meetings because of what was seen in Douglas County and why they were asking to
34 increase setbacks, limit tower height, and lower noise limits. She said that would all be accomplished with
35 the ZBA's recommendation, which she fully supported. She said when someone shows you who they are,
36 believe them. She said the Harvest Ridge project showed them many things about who the wind energy
37 companies were. She said they used the rural roads with the empty promise of repairing them and only
38 returned to fulfill their promise after a lawsuit. She said their giant equipment crushed the underground
39 tile and severely compromised soil drainage systems. She said farmers were still dealing with flooding
40 fields two years post completion - fields that previously presented no drainage problems before the project.
41 She said that probably the most offensive was their business and sales tactics. She said they offer whatever
42 it takes, usually large sums of money, to divide and conquer the communities they build in. She said they
43 pit neighbor against neighbor, landlord against tenant, and sometimes family against family. She said this
44 was what they have shown them and those who invested their time to be there meeting after meeting
45 believe them. She said they had also shown them their agenda, money. She said there was only one
46 proponent of wind farms who has come to speak throughout the meetings, who was a paid wind employee.
47 She said she wanted to offer a rebuttal to some of the speaking points he made at the June 16 meeting. She
48 said he claimed that Champaign County was like McLean County and many new installation projects are
49 coming in there. She said that sounded like a slippery slope to her; once wind will come in they will be

1 everywhere. She said she knows she does not want to see that, especially since there appeared to be
2 minimal county oversight on these projects or repercussions when the county residents are being negatively
3 impacted. She said the wind employee also said that wind energy contributes millions of dollars to the tax
4 base. She said agriculture already contributes millions to this county's economy and in 2019 agricultural
5 and its related industries generated approximately \$1.5 billion, supported 63,004 jobs that paid over \$370
6 million in household income. She said agriculture contributes plenty to the county and asked not to allow
7 the wind companies to disrupt their lives, which was farming. She said the wind farm employee spoke
8 about the freedom to farm. She asked how. She said if the ZBA's recommendations were instituted, a
9 farmer's freedom to farm would be restricted because he could not have a turbine on his ground to make
10 profit. She said agriculture was defined by the Oxford Dictionary as the activity or business of growing
11 crops or raising livestock. She emphasized living organisms and said wind was not a living thing, and
12 turbines were not living things. She said they have nothing to do with farming or anyone's right to farm.
13 She said they were industrial installations. She said there were zero farmers coming to the meetings asking
14 the Board for the right to farm using wind turbines. She said in closing that she knew there were members
15 of the committee who would love to see wind come into the county. She asked for them to find a way to
16 protect the residents that will be directly impacted. She said that started with more County oversight and
17 stricter penalties, setbacks of 3,250 feet, limited tower heights, and lower sound limits. She said she would
18 end with a quote from Thomas Jefferson, one of our founding fathers, "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit
19 because in the end it will contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." She thanked the
20 Board for their attention.

21

22 Mr. Thorsland thanked Dr. Kamerer and asked for Josh Hartke to speak next.

23

24 Mr. Hartke said good evening and thanked them for being there. He said his name was Josh Hartke and
25 he was from Champaign. He said he knows that everyone has probably seen the recent headlines for the
26 potential brownouts in downstate Illinois. He said it is basically the idea that there was not enough
27 generation close enough to everyone using it during high usage times, like hot summers. He said there
28 will be brownouts in situations like that. He said those may or may not happen, but the major concern is
29 whether there is enough power on the grid. He said the ordinance they were considering in front of them
30 would effectively ban wind energy in Champaign County; people could cut it any way they want, but it
31 essentially does. He said these folks were not necessarily for safe wind siting, but no wind siting, and they
32 have the right to be that way. He said he wanted to be clear that was what the ordinance in front of them
33 was doing. He said they need this energy. He said how he grew up on a farm in a rural area in Effingham
34 County that was far less developed than Champaign County, and grew up a quarter mile from two cattle
35 feeding operations, a couple of different hog operations, and can guarantee them from being around
36 turbines a lot that he would rather have turbines around him than cattle and hog operations. He said they
37 lived within sight of a large coal plant and train track down there that woke them up on various nights
38 hauling very heavy loads of coal to that plant. He said his point was people in rural areas do live within
39 development and things that are necessary to move our communities forward, and supply much needed
40 energy resources. He said he knows when he first came to Champaign County and represented a part of
41 Champaign that included the Fifth and Hill area, an area where folks still to this day were living in an area
42 where toxic chemicals are seeping into their yards and basements because they lived next to a plant that
43 supplied energy to this community for many, many, many years. He said there were cancers that were
44 documented and proven to come out of that community as a result. He said asking people to live within a
45 quarter mile of a wind turbine built on a plat of ground approved by the person who owns it and wants it
46 there was not asking too much to supply this needed energy, in his mind. He said he knows there would
47 be folks talking a little later about the specifics of the dangers of wind which are high estimated compared
48 to what they were all looking at. He said he was not going to go into that, and those studies were really
49 recent and contain a lot of expertise from specialists in the fields of sound and health. He said he also

1 wanted to add that wind was the most affordable electrical supply on the market. He said folks could laugh
2 but there is no fuel cost. He said there was a reason why companies are throwing billions of dollars into
3 this because it was the most efficient way to generate electricity. He said he was asking for the committee
4 to look at the bigger picture. He said there is no doubt that the wind farms should be safely sited. He said
5 a solid wind company would want their project safely sited. He said 1,400 feet was a standard internal
6 mechanism he used for most of them. He closed by asking the committee to see the whole forest and not
7 just the trees and that there was a bigger picture here moving our energy system to renewable options. He
8 said they need that energy. He said he was sure that there will be people that blame the brownouts on
9 renewable energy but it would be very disingenuous to say the least to complain about renewables not
10 contributing enough energy and do everything they could to stop renewables from putting more energy
11 into the grid. He said yes, he works for a wind company and was one of a lot of folks in the clean energy
12 industry. He said that the county was missing out on thousands of jobs because people are afraid of very
13 standard technology that has developed all over the county. He said there were 70,000 wind turbines
14 turning in the United States and 35,000 of them in Illinois. He said they are not dangerous, folks. He
15 thanked the Board for their time.

16

17 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Hartke for his testimony and called Steven Smith to speak next.

18

19 Mr. Steven R. Smith, 454 CR 2400E, Broadlands, said he would like to address the Environment and Land
20 Use Committee and the Zoning Board of Appeals. He said the Champaign County ZBA has done their
21 own research as well as looked over the material presented by the public who attended their meetings. He
22 said most of the research was done by experts in their respective fields, coverings issue such as setbacks
23 from property lines, damage to the drainage for valuable farmland, shadow flicker that can cause epileptic
24 seizures, and sound pollution which can cause health and sleep issues. He said that was also in addition to
25 being annoying. He continued to list maximum allowed tower heights under 500 feet; the disruption of
26 agricultural practices mainly aerial spraying; flashing aircraft lights; loss of some of the nation's most
27 fertile and productive farmland; soil compaction from large cranes and equipment; killing birds that kill
28 large amounts of insects, as well as depreciating homeowner value from ugly towers ruining the pristine
29 scenery. He said the Zoning Board worked hard to come up with good, if not perfect solutions to help
30 mitigate some of these problems. He said the residents of the area came out in force to the meetings,
31 proven by the number of signatures on each ZBA meeting sign-in sheet. He said he personally attended
32 the last meeting of ELUC. He said there was only one person from the wind farm company that was
33 against the ZBA's ordinances. He said there were approximately three members of the ELUC committee
34 that want to override the ZBA and change the ordinances. He said he was taught in school that the
35 government was of the people, for the people, and by the people. He said it was to protect the rights of all,
36 which is guaranteed by the majority and their ability to discern in each case the wisest course of action. He
37 said that clearly backed the Zoning Board's suggestions. He said the ZBA ordinances were meticulously
38 researched, well thought out, and protected the good people of the county. He said the people themselves
39 agree with the ordinances and we the people were there to appeal the research of the Zoning Board and
40 our sacred democratic process to uphold the decision of the ZBA. He said wind turbines are not temporary
41 and are long term scars on the land which will be there at least fifty years. He said he can confidently say
42 most if not all in attendance that night would like to see the ruling upheld for the sake of the health of the
43 good people of this county, for their way of life, for their land, and for their children. He thanked them for
44 their time.

45

46 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Smith and called Kelly Vetter to speak next.

47

48 Ms. Vetter, 525 CR 2400E, Broadlands, said they as a county determine their own ordinances to protect
49 their people from being taken advantage of and to provide and care for their people and land in the county.

1 She said they were thankful that their Zoning Board and County Board are reviewing and listening to the
2 citizens who vote them in and protect their people's homes and land. She said the ZBA used most of their
3 recommendations the public put forward to protect the people and animals of the land. She said it was not
4 that they had to fit to what the turbine companies require, but they must follow the county's guidelines or
5 move on. She said putting money down to skirt around the County Board would be counterproductive to
6 their duty. She said the Board's first duty was to protect the citizens and not to make money deals that
7 prosper the community at large, to be realistic in the long term. She said writing a contract for fifty years,
8 or even forty would be irresponsible considering how much the wind industry has changed during that
9 time. She said they would be left holding the bag of an antiquated system unhealthy for man and bird. She
10 said the current system takes an incredible amount of fossil fuels to create and erect giant turbines and
11 ultimately dumps the enormous blades in local landfills. She said it requires a huge amount of fossil fuels
12 to decommission them as well, and not to mention the soil disruption from maintaining the turbines. She
13 said she was not against wind energy, just against it in its current form with all its unclean and
14 nonrenewable energy requirements. She mentioned the fact that they subsidized eighty percent of that
15 energy. She asked why she would want to waste her forced taxation on something that would hurt her
16 neighbors, her land, or the ecology of the county environment. She said the Board's troubles and worries
17 were just beginning if they were looking at a less strict ordinance in the future for money. She said the
18 ZBA would be called upon to make the turbine companies stick to their word on so many issues: drainage
19 ditches; water wells; ponding; noise and infrasound; shadow flickering; light pollution; harming wildlife,
20 etc. She said she will add by thinking about the wind company that paid \$8 million fine for killing 150
21 bald eagles. She guessed it was just the cost to do business. She said bald eagles have been sighted in
22 Champaign County and asked were they going to accept this unintended consequence. She asked about
23 the wetlands that harbor migratory birds and asked if they were willing to watch their slaughter as well.
24 She said the ZBA and ELUC will be called upon to regulate those things and they would get daily calls.
25 She said to trust her because a lot of other counties going through the same things are facing these
26 obstacles. She said maybe because those counties can trust the word of the turbine companies, but as soon
27 as possible they get sold off to another wind turbine company making it very difficult to get solutions. She
28 said already in many other counties in other states, landowners are filing nuisance lawsuits against wind
29 companies. She said nuisance laws protect owners from interference to the use and enjoyment of their
30 property by acts occurring somewhere other than their own property. She said in other words, landowners
31 can file nuisance lawsuits against the wind energy company even if that company never set foot on their
32 property. She said some those landowners are seeking injunctions to shut down the project and demand
33 millions of dollars for damages claiming the wind farm is a nuisance. She asked why people would have
34 to go that far. She said because they reside in a county that did not protect their basic right. She asked
35 which they would choose. She asked why they do not embrace a legacy view of our land for the future
36 while they watch for new alternatives with better outcomes and write stricter ordinances that protect them
37 now. She thanked the ZBA and ELUC for their time.

38

39 Mr. Thorsland thanked Ms. Vetter and called Phillip Luetkehans to speak next.

40

41 Mr. Luetkehans said he represented a couple of landowners in the area. He said he would try to keep it to
42 as quick as possible and has several exhibits to hand out afterwards if that was okay. He said Brookfield
43 Energy sent a letter that spoke about how California Ridge was right now. He said that was not the
44 question. He said if you tell them to build a four-inch cake, they build a four-inch cake. He said if I told
45 them to build a twelve-inch cake, they would build a twelve-inch cake. He said what they did was meet
46 the current ordinance and he understood that, but that did not state what they could do in the future. He
47 said the wind company executives had admitted under oath that if they were required to move their
48 setbacks to 3,250 feet they could do it. He said they would just have to get more land. He said they might
49 not want to but they could do it. He said they may go down the street for a while, but they can do it. He

1 said that Mr. Hankard from Brookfield also submitted evidence with a letter saying noise should be
2 measured at the residence - hogwash. He said the State of Illinois law is very clear and referenced the
3 memo, labeled as Exhibit A, "it is measured at the residential land". He said so if he had a five-acre parcel
4 that he does not farm, it would be measured from the edge of those five acres. He said if he had a fifty-
5 acre parcel that he farmed, then it was measured from the area used as his residence; where his kids played,
6 where they live. He said residential property is where this started. He said Mr. Hankard has been saying
7 that for five or six years and only under cross examination does he admit that was the case. He said that
8 was what they were getting from the wind companies there. He said they were getting half truths and they
9 would hear more of it in a second. He referenced the PowerPoint in the packet written by Dr. Punch,
10 Michigan State audiologist. He also said he would hand out Mr. Punch's comments he made regarding
11 Mr. Hankard's letter. He said Dr. Punch has been working for many years and you will see his notes and
12 comments made to Mr. Hankard. Mr. Luetkehans referenced Exhibit C, which was an analysis of the
13 Health Canada Study Mr. Hankard relied upon. He said Mr. Hankard talked about the WHO limits. He
14 said no, the WHO says to limit at the equivalent 38.5 dB(A). He said that was what Dr. Punch said and
15 that was what Mr. James said who was also an acoustician who had also been working on sound for many
16 years. He said Dr. Punch talked about studies that used infrasound. He said synthesized infrasound in this
17 case pulsed; that was what people were hearing, the pulsation. He said that's what was causing the
18 problem, the difference in sound. He referenced the testimony in the packet from Dr. Schomer, one of the
19 most renowned in his field. He said Dr. Hessler and Dr. Schomer were all in the 38 dB(A) range. He said
20 they would hear from the wind companies that 40 and 50 dB(A) was fine. He said they should notice they
21 were all paid experts by wind companies. He said Mr. Hankard had been doing this for twenty years for
22 the wind companies and no one else. He said Dr. Schomer, who Mr. Hankard has worked with, worked
23 for both. He said they would see it all in the studies and what they provided during the first hearing. He
24 thought it was also important to note that they must rely on what was before the ZBA. He said wind
25 companies presented nothing for the ZBA, not one piece of evidence. He said they want to change the
26 zoning ordinance then they need to rely on evidence in the public hearing. He said that was what the ZBA
27 relied upon, the evidence in the public hearing. He said that Mr. Hankard cherry picks certain parts of the
28 report and he would supply those reports to the Board and Staff, the ones he was able to find in forty-eight
29 hours, and highlight the areas where he picks only certain parts. He said the other part will be highlights
30 that do not support his position. He said it was important to do it right if they were going to do this. He
31 said to have time for a full hearing and bring in the experts and give them lead time, not twenty-five or
32 fifteen days, so they could really hear from the people who do this for a living. He said their ordinance
33 needs work; decommissioning problems, no escrow for people who file, the insurance was not right. He
34 said they need a full overhaul to protect themselves. He said the 3,250 feet was necessary, the 38.5 dB(A)
35 was necessary, but they need an overhaul to protect the County.

36
37 Mr. Thorsland said Mr. Luetkehans' time was up and thanked him for coming. He called Justin Bowers
38 to speak next.

39
40 Justin Bowers stated he is with Hankard Environmental. He said they are an acoustic consulting firm from
41 Wisconsin, and they were there because Brookfield Renewables asked them to review the proposed
42 changes and comment on the ordinance which they provided in the form of a letter. He said he hoped that
43 the Board and Committee had that. He said he was there to discuss the contents of that letter and sum it
44 up. He said the first item was to change the setback distance to 3,200 feet from the property line. He said
45 he was not going to comment on a specific distance there because he was assuming it was related to noise,
46 but in Illinois, assessing the noise limit at the property line was not appropriate. He said there were
47 different noise limits depending on the land use. He said they had residential, agricultural, and industrial
48 land uses. He said the most stringent limits were found for residential land uses and on top of that there
49 were even more stringent limits during nighttime hours. He said all that was done to provide a greater

1 degree of protection from sleep disturbance. He said the developers of the wind farm projects know that
2 so when they design projects, they design them to meet the residential noise limit requirements. He said
3 the next item was the 39dB(A) overall noise restriction. He said this was a bit different than the current
4 noise restrictions in the State of Illinois because Illinois does it a little bit different than most jurisdictions.
5 He said typically they would see noise levels regulated on an overall A-weighted basis but in Illinois it is
6 done through nine different octave bands. He said there were different limits for different frequencies. He
7 said he was not going to go into the math of how to get octave levels from A-weighted levels but if anyone
8 was interested he would be more than happy to discuss it later. He said he was just going to talk about
9 some of the overall A-weighted levels they measured in Illinois over the past ten years. He said they
10 measured fifteen locations, four different windfarms, multiple turbine models, and what they found when
11 wind turbine noise levels were the ICPB limits they'd get overall A-weighted levels anywhere from 43 to
12 47 dB(A). He said typically it would be 45 dB(A), but they have measured as high as 47 dB(A) and that
13 only occurs at a small number of residences for very short periods of time. He said if they compared those
14 levels to 39 dB(A), it would not seem like a small change if they were to use an analogy like speed limit.
15 He said going from 45 miles an hour to 39 miles an hour would not seem like a big change, but we are
16 dealing with logarithmic math for wind turbine noise levels. He said on a logarithmic scale, going from
17 45 mph to 22 or 23 was about half and that was a pretty large change. He said he could talk about where
18 the 39 dB(A) limit came from. He said there have been various studies on the effect of wind turbine noise
19 on health over the past few years and the two most rigorous studies were Health Canada's 2016 findings,
20 and the World Health Organization's in 2018. He said Health Canada studied over 1,000 residences near
21 windfarms and noise levels were up to 46 decibels and said their conclusion was there was no adverse
22 health effects from wind turbine noise. He said the World Health Organization also investigated the issue
23 and their conclusion was there was no adverse health effects from wind turbines. He said they did
24 recommend a conditional recommendation of 45 dB(A). He said they might be wondering why Health
25 Canada has 45 and the World Health Organization had 46 dB(A). He said the World Health Organization
26 recommends a 45 LDAN, which was a day evening noise level so if you assume the wind turbines operate
27 24-7, seven days a week then a maximum number of acoustic emissions of 39 dB(A) would be appropriate.
28 The reality was they do not operate that whole time and when they are operating they are not operated at
29 maximum number of acoustic emissions. He said the last item on the list was an 80 decibel noise limit for
30 infrasound. He said infrasound from wind turbines had been studied by numerous institutions all around
31 the world; governments in Japan, Australia, Germany, Canada, and they all come to the same conclusion.
32 He said wind turbines do produce infrasound but way below the levels of human perceptibility. He said
33 infrasound was measurable with scientific equipment but was not shown to cause any adverse human
34 health effects when not at the level of human perception.

35
36 Mr. Thorsland said that was his time and thanked Mr. Bowers for his testimony. He called Kyle Barry to
37 speak next.

38
39 Kyle Barry said he is an attorney based in Springfield, Illinois. He said he has been doing zoning and
40 permitting hearings in the renewable energy industry now for about a dozen years. He said he has done
41 wind permitting hearings specifically for Bureau, Ford, LaSalle, Marshall, Mason, McDonough, Morgan,
42 Peoria, and Logan counties over the last couple years. He said he tallied it up the other day and he helped
43 permit around 20,000 megawatts of wind and solar projects that have either been constructed or to be
44 constructed. He said some of the windfarm projects he has worked on recently in Bureau, Lee, and LaSalle
45 Counties are re-powers. He said companies are removing the existing turbines and replacing them with
46 more efficient ones. He said he wanted to give perspective a history and discuss a few facts. He said he
47 has been to several meetings, some of which Mr. Luetkehans and Mr. Hartke have testified at. He said in
48 each case the projects ended up getting their permits. He said he just wanted to put that into perspective
49 and show what all the other counties are doing. He said he met Dr. Paul Schomer about 11 years ago and

1 he met him because Dr. Schomer was his expert witness for the Sugar Creek Wind Farm Project in Logan
2 County. He said that project was proposed to have at least 117 wind turbines at the time and the setbacks
3 were only 1,000 feet. He said Dr. Schomer testified that the project met the applicable noise standards
4 including the Pollution Control Board's standards. He said that project was eventually built over the last
5 couple of years and it had about half as many turbines as it proposed, but Dr. Schomer had no problem
6 with the sound effects of having 117 turbines in Logan County back in 2011. He said he also wanted to
7 point out, even if they were already aware, Dr. Schomer was not a medical doctor and was the expert
8 witness on sound issues and not medical issues. He said he has on at least one occasion in Morgan County
9 had a medical doctor, a sleep expert as well as expertise in neuroscience that testified that wind turbine
10 project proposed for Morgan County would have no adverse health effects. He said he agreed with Mr.
11 Luetkehans on several things. He indicated the Pollution Control Board rules are based on the use of the
12 property, so you measure from the agricultural use where the turbines are located and to residential use.
13 He said the residential use was not always clearly defined and is fact specific, based on the residence or
14 home. He said he did agree they should measure from where the homeowner uses the property as a
15 residence but on many occasions they could tell from Google Earth the defined yard versus a cornfield
16 that surrounds it. He said where he would not agree is where they would draw the line for residential use.
17 He said finally, the other thing he would possibly agree with Mr. Luetkehans on was increasing the noise
18 standards and applying them specifically to wind turbines as a use had the potential for raising equal
19 protection concerns and he would encourage them to speak with their State's Attorney on that. He said he
20 has not looked over every piece of evidence presented during the ZBA hearings, so he was not sure if
21 there was a significant amount of medical evidence that demonstrated the noise generated from wind
22 turbines would cause health issues. He said he would tend to agree that they should take care and consider
23 taking on additional evidence at subsequent hearings because he was not sure that what was presented so
24 far was sufficient to satisfy some of the legal standards, including things like rational basis, and could
25 subject the ordinances if adopted to an arbitrary and capricious argument. He said in the end he would like
26 to thank the Board and Committee for the opportunity to speak and for holding the hearing.

27

28 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Barry for his testimony and asked Ben Mallernee to speak.

29

30 Mr. Mallernee thanked the Board and Committee for allowing him to speak and said he worked for
31 Brookfield Renewable. He said he was a technical specialist in wind energy. He said Brookfield was a
32 wind energy company with about 22,000 MW in operation, 21 wind farms in the USA alone. He said one
33 of those wind farms was California Ridge. He said that California Ridge was the only operating wind farm
34 in Champaign County. He said he has worked in wind energy for several years, six of which were in
35 Findley, Ohio. He said his office in Findley, Ohio was located within 600 feet of the nearest wind turbine
36 and within 1,000 feet of three additional wind turbines. He said that should be sufficient to say he had
37 worked around wind turbines a lot and had the experience from doing so. He said he was there to discuss
38 the three issues proposed and would leave the sound arguments to the experts we have already heard from
39 today and the testimony they had submitted via Mike Hankard. He said he thinks it had been made very
40 clear what was being argued that night was not with concern to noise, it was with respect to eliminating
41 windfarms from Champaign County. He said the sole purpose of the proposals was to halt wind
42 development in the county and he thought they need to maintain focus on that. He said that to date,
43 California Ridge has received zero noise complaints from within Champaign County as course of normal
44 operation. He said he was now moving on to the proposed setback of 3,250 feet. He said that
45 recommendation, as well as the noise recommendation, are not based on consensus science. He said that
46 was shown in the memo provided. He said the recommended setback increase was drastic compared to
47 what was in place today and would effectively eliminate the ability to site a wind turbine within
48 Champaign County. He said in front of them was an exhibit, mostly a red sheet of paper. He said it was
49 an analysis he had performed within the project area. He said there was no area that would comply with

1 the proposed 3,250-foot setback. He said they could waive that requirement and thus put a wind turbine if
2 the landowner within the 3,250 feet was willing to waive that; however, studies show at California Ridge
3 there was 134 turbines, each turbine had on average thirty-two landowners that would therefore need to
4 waive. He said that meant a little over half a mile from the property someone could unilaterally tell them
5 what they could and could not do as it related to wind turbines on their property. He thought that would
6 be detrimental to the county. He said California Ridge had offered several benefits to the county which it
7 operates in, including \$1.8 million in property taxes, \$400,000 of which goes to Champaign County. He
8 said that included thirteen full-time locally employed staff and periodic use of local contractors in and
9 around the wind farm. He said since 2012, the farm has generated the equivalent of taking 850,000 cars
10 off the road today. He said he was aware of the other proposed text amendment that focused on making
11 the setback requirement a function of tip height. He said the industry standard setback was 1,000 feet from
12 dwellings. He said the function was essentially in line with their standard and offered additionally the
13 scaling with the wind turbines. He said this meant as wind turbine technology increases their efficiency,
14 the setbacks will be scaled with them. He said for that reason he recommends Champaign County proceed
15 with the originally proposed text amendment.

16
17 Mr. Thorsland said that was his time and thanked Mr. Mallernee for speaking. He called Kathy Shannon
18 to speak next.

19
20 Kathy Shannon introduced herself and said she was from the City of Champaign. She said she had already
21 sent everyone there an email urging them to do whatever they could to encourage wind power instead of
22 changing the ordinance to make it virtually impossible for wind development to occur in the county. She
23 said she just wanted to add a couple of things based on what had happened that week and based on earlier
24 comments she heard. She said first there were two school referendums in their area that failed that week
25 and they failed dramatically. She said they need to fund their schools and the idea of kicking out
26 developers of wind energy when the county was in desperate need to fund education was horribly
27 disappointing to her. She said in Champaign they had the property taxes to fund their schools, but their
28 rural school districts are desperately hurting and need those developments. She said secondly that day the
29 Supreme Court severely limited the ability of the EPA to regulate power plant emissions so this will be
30 something that falls on them locally. She said they need to ensure they have clean energy because clean
31 energy was the future and what they needed for their children. She wanted to point out that every negative
32 thing being discussed there regarding wind power was worse when thinking about fossil fuels. She said if
33 they were to start over again and look at which types of energy to allow, the answer would be
34 overwhelmingly obvious. She said fossil fuels, particularly when pipelines leak, degrade their soils,
35 degrade their drinking water, destroy habitats, kill far more birds than wind turbines would ever do, and
36 they are overwhelmingly subsidized by their taxes. She said the amount of subsidies wind and solar get
37 was a drop in the bucket compared to the subsidies the government gives for fossil fuels. She said if they
38 applied those same standards things as highways, fossil fuels, oil wells, coal plants, etc. they would have
39 no energy, no transportation, and no infrastructure. She knows no solution is perfect, but wind is a far, far
40 better solution than what they currently have, and they need to do everything they could to encourage it.
41 She said this was for their future and their children's futures. She thanked the Board and Committee for
42 their time.

43
44 Mr. Thorsland thanked Ms. Shannon for speaking and asked Matthew Frank to speak next.

45
46 Mr. Matthew Frank, 2207 O'Donnell Dr. Champaign, said he was there to oppose amending the
47 Champaign County Zoning Ordinance to further restrict wind power. He said he would like to address
48 specifically the proposed restriction to 39 dB(A). He said he did not want to comment on infrasound. He
49 said first, he did not believe the County should be using their regulatory power to restrict business uses of

1 Class-C land. He does believe the County has an interest in regulating pollution of Class-C properties
2 impinging on Class-A properties. He said he felt the County should focus on regulating what they think
3 were appropriate across the board of all uses rather than imposing specific setbacks on specific
4 technologies. He said at the top of page four of the agenda packet, it suggested that the current Illinois
5 Pollution Control Board noise regulations were not sufficient because wind turbines did not even exist
6 when those regulations were created, yet IPCB Title 35 had been revisited and amended in 2004, 2006,
7 2007, 2015, and 2018. He said the IPCB was aware of wind turbines and their advancement in technology.
8 He encouraged them to carefully study to understand the nighttime limits on noise pollution in Title 35
9 that restrict the amount of nighttime noise pollution between Class-C land and Class-A land. He said if
10 they believed they were not strict enough, then he encourages them to change it for all land uses and not
11 just for wind towers. He said please be aware those noise limits for Class-C land impinging on Class-A
12 land were currently and uniformly stricter than 39 dB(A) for Class-C land impinging on Class-A land. He
13 said if they were to adopt a limit of 39 dB(A) on Class-C property owners, they would be requiring Class-
14 C properties to be as quiet as Class-A properties in the 125hz to 250hz frequency range. He said that
15 basically wind farms, or any use of Class-C properties, should be as quiet as a residence at night. He
16 thought that was restrictive, but if the Board thought that was appropriate for all Class-C land uses then
17 they should go ahead and pass that regulation. He asked them to please not restrict a single use on a
18 productive business use that some landowners would prefer to use over other land users. He thanked the
19 Board and Committee for their time.

20

21 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Frank for speaking and asked Constance Musick to speak next.

22

23 Constance Musick said she was a resident of Champaign County. She said she was also a member of Local
24 Laborers 703 and she had worked with wind turbines before. She said Champaign County needed to bring
25 in better paying jobs to keep county residents from looking outside the county for employment
26 opportunities. She said they want to keep it within their communities and generate money for all of them.
27 She said she wanted to keep it short and let them know that. She thanked the Board and Committee for
28 their time.

29

30 Mr. Thorsland thanked Ms. Musick for her testimony and asked Victor Munoz to speak next.

31

32 Mr. Munoz said he lived in Champaign and was there to represent Local Laborers 703. He said all the
33 work being done for wind farms was trade and union work which only generates within their community
34 with their own laborers. He said whatever they did use as far as laborers, carpenters, labors, operators,
35 was all union work. He said all that meant was that money was coming into their community. He said that
36 was one of the biggest things for them as far as their trades go. He referenced what Ms. Musick said about
37 residents having to leave the county for jobs and that was not what they wanted. He said they wanted to
38 stay in their area, generate money for their area. He said he felt it was important for them to bring this
39 work for the community. He thanked the Board and Committee for their time.

40

41 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Munoz for his testimony and asked Rodger Henning to speak next.

42

43 Mr. Henning, 1664 CR 600E Philo, said one thing he was hearing was a lot of people who want the wind
44 farm do not live around there. He said he does not see how they would be negatively impacted by the wind
45 turbines' development. He thanked the ZBA for listening to them over several weeks and the stuff they
46 presented to them. He thought they came up with sensible and healthy guidelines for wind farm
47 requirements. He said he attended the last ELUC meeting where he believed the chair stated ten years ago
48 that he thought Champaign County had some of the strictest regulations regarding wind turbines in the
49 State of Illinois. He said a lot has changed in ten years and there have been a lot of studies that were done

1 and shown to them. He said they were all presented to ZBA over the past couple weeks, and they say the
2 setbacks should be farther. He said Edgar County had adopted a 3,250-foot setback. He said he wanted to
3 stress the setback should be from property lines. He said he lives on thirty acres; five and a half acres for
4 his house, eleven acres in a tree program, and the rest was tillable. He said he was in those trees two to
5 three times a week and it was on the other corner from their house. He said he does not want to hear wind
6 farms by him. He said that was part of his property and not just where he lived. He said his property was
7 where he lived. He felt they needed to accept the recommendation from the ZBA and let land and
8 homeowners negotiate themselves with the windfarms. He said if they needed to bring it before the ZBA
9 for a variance, then let them do so. He said it was no different than anyone else wanting to build too close
10 to a property line or not enough setback set in town by the zoning committee. He thanked the Board and
11 Committee for their time.

12
13 Mr. Thorsland said they would now do the last official person of the hour before they must extend public
14 participation. He said they were making good progress in their slips and wanted to make sure they give
15 everyone the chance to speak who wanted to. He called Don Carter to speak next.

16
17 Mr. Carter, 1799 CR 800N, Philo, thanked the Board and Committee for their time. He said he and his
18 wife retired in a rural haven many years ago and said it was a wonderful property. He said they live in the
19 footprint of a proposed wind farm, not official or anything, but they are out there getting their contracts
20 signed. He said they were going to be affected by it and they have put in a lot of time with the ZBA trying
21 to present their case. He said he could not do anything about it. He said they had to come to their
22 representatives to run interference for them and make sure that as their constituents they were protected.
23 He said he was there in total support of the ZBA's recommendations regarding noise and setback. He
24 thought it was particularly instructive that one of the young men who worked for the wind company had
25 the ability to understand what their intent was. He said it was not just about what the effect would be, but
26 he knew what their intent was. He thought that was an unusual ability and the truth was the recklessness
27 people like that were willing to go to achieve their ends in a particular area. He said he does not know
28 what their intent was. He said their intent was for people like him and his wife would have something they
29 could live with if wind energy came in. He thought it was a very different situation to ask Dr. Schomer to
30 come in and testify about what would be possible versus what would result in the least number of
31 complaints by the souls that live there. He said he thought they would get a different outcome on that. He
32 said they keep talking about health effects. He said there was a lot to do with just simply the quality of
33 life, not necessarily that you're physically sick. He said they heard testimony from people who had worked
34 under wind turbines, and they would say they would hate to have to live there. He said he had invested a
35 lot of money into his property and hopes it will be worth at least that when passing it on to his children.
36 He said he does not feel that would be the case if they lived in a footprint of an overindustrialized wind
37 farm. He said he was not against wind energy, but he does not believe the technology is where it needed
38 to be yet. He thought they were overindustrialized and not the best use of land. He said they just had to
39 drive down to Douglas County to see what the result has been. He begged ELUC to adopt the
40 recommendations of the Zoning Board. He said they put in a lot of time, heard a lot of testimony, and
41 digested a lot of data and have come up with what he believed to be a good recommendation with the
42 people in mind who had to live with the things. He thinks they need to keep that in mind. He said the
43 people in the City of Champaign are not going to have to live with them unless they put a couple of them
44 up in West Side Park. He thanked them for their time again.

45
46 Mr. Thorsland entertained a motion to extend Public Participation beyond the hour.

47
48 **Ms. King, seconded by Ms. Fortado, moved to extend Public Participation beyond the hour. The**
49 **motion passed by voice vote.**

1 Mr. Thorsland called Charles Mitsdarfer to speak next.
2

3 Charles Mitsdarfer, 1587 CR 300N, Tolono, said he agreed with everything Mr. Carter said and he spoke
4 very well, so this probably not take as long. He said he appreciated the Board's time, and he was not paid
5 by any organization to be there. He said he and the folks behind him were there because they were
6 passionate about their professions, their lifestyles, their families, and about where they wanted to live. He
7 said if they were being honest, they were in Illinois and they had a lot of good things going for them in
8 Champaign County and a lot of things not going for them in the state. He thought the fact they all wanted
9 to be there in the county said a lot and they want to be there with their family and raise their kids there.
10 He wanted to express his full support for the ZBA recommendations. He said they spent a lot of time and
11 effort on that. He said he was completely against having wind turbines in the area at present. He did not
12 think the technology was not good enough at being efficient and safe for county residents. He said the
13 farm ground in Champaign County was Best Prime Farmland and better than the land mentioned and
14 compared to in Effingham. He said they were fortunate enough to have some of the best farm ground in
15 the world and it would be a shame to take it out of production without a good reason. He said he had not
16 seen a good reason yet. He said everyone knows that but he just wanted to repeat it, God's green earth.
17 He said it would be hard to not find green out there right now because of all the corn which brings a huge
18 amount of money, jobs, tax revenue to their county. He said that was worth keeping in mind. He said they
19 all enjoy their life in the rural part of the county and he thinks that those who enjoy their way of life in
20 town should be able to do that, but they really treasure their ground in the rural part of the county. He said
21 they were their homes, their farms, and their livelihoods and they were just trying to protect them. He said
22 most of them took off work today because most of their workdays do not end at 4:30 or 5:00. He said this
23 was important to them and that's why they were there and wanted them to understand their sacrifice being
24 made to be there and speak to them. He said a lot of the land was on leases and the owners have sold
25 California Ridge and proceeded to change hands several times. He said it was out of state and in state and
26 back and forth. He said there were property taxes that were not paid on time from their company. He said
27 if any of them at the table did that they would all be in big trouble, but the turbine companies were able to
28 do it. He said farming builds tax revenue and the County's economy. He said it affected their food and
29 water supply, and wars have been started over both of those things. He thinks it was worth keeping the
30 ways to produce food and our ground water supply as safe as they could.
31

32 Mr. Thorsland called Justin Leerkamp to speak next.
33

34 Justin Leerkamp said he lived in rural Sydney. He said he also farmed in Douglas County under the
35 footprint of the new 580-foot-tall turbines, so he had personal experience with what he was speaking
36 about. He said Mr. Thorsland mentioned the State bill a few times aimed at taking zoning control away
37 from the County to the State level. He said they were aware of that a few sessions ago and he thinks that
38 whatever side of the issue they land themselves on he would agree that that would not be something they
39 would want. He said he would rather see it controlled locally because he had his voice there where he
40 would not in Springfield, so he appreciated the time they put in to listen to him and all the time the ZBA
41 has put into it over the past several months. He said he was not against renewable energy and has a solar
42 panel in his yard. He said renewables are important and they may be the future. He said industrial wind
43 complexes were something completely different than renewable energy supply at a home level. He said it
44 was mentioned they could put a turbine in town, the Brookens Center has a lot of land they could use. He
45 asked why the County was not taking the lead and putting a turbine up. He said he was not against wind
46 turbine energy but just wanted to protect his property with huge investments with adequate setbacks. He
47 said this was an industrial thing moving into a rural and residential area that would not be contained to a
48 40 acre parcel on the corner. He said this was something they were going to see, feel, and hear for miles.
49 He said the current zoning at 1,200 feet was not enough and he was looking for something more reasonable

1 that would give them more protection. He said he did not know a lot about decibels and sound, but he
2 could tell them from working underneath the Douglas County wind turbines they were loud. He said they
3 were not loud everyday but would depend on the environment, wind direction, a lot of factors he does not
4 understand. He said they were loud at 1,200 feet, 1,500 feet, 1,800 feet, and loud at 2,500 feet. He said
5 when they would get to 2,500 feet they would have multiple ones going on around them and would not
6 know which direction it was coming from. He said he heard them every day working down there, and that
7 property was in Champaign County and there was a turbine right across the road. He said it was probably
8 about 1,200 feet away from the road but he would have to measure it and if it fell over it would look like
9 it would fall into Champaign County. He said he knew that was not the case, but the perception of how
10 tall they were made it feel that way. He said what they were looking for was what the ZBA recommended.
11 He said the people who have spoken fell into two camps; people that work for wind energy or live in more
12 urban areas, and rural folks. He said everybody's voice is important and he appreciated that everyone was
13 getting the opportunity to be heard. He said he and his kids were the ones who were going to have to deal
14 with it. He said with his property and the good relationship with the neighbors there was not going to be
15 a turbine within 3,000 feet of his house. He said he was doing this for his kids and the rest of the residents
16 of Champaign County. He said this was an important moment for Champaign County right now. He
17 thanked the Board and the Committee for their time.

18
19 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Leerkamp for his testimony and called Jan Carter Niccum to speak next.

20
21 Mr. Niccum said he was from Savoy. He said he had a few different perspectives on this project, and he
22 attended the five previous meetings. He said his first personal experience with wind energy was in 1992
23 on the southwest corner of the island of Hawaii. He said there was a big Mitsubishi wind turbine complex
24 there. He said he was initially so impressed, thought they were kind of cool, but there were no houses
25 around. He said no one lived in that area. He said a volcano was in the process of erupting about a half
26 mile from the wind farm and lava was flowing across the highway. He said there was not a concern
27 regarding setbacks in that area. Now he said thirty years later he was thinking about the decommissioning
28 of those wind turbines. He said they heard previously about replacing them and if there were enough future
29 dollars for doing such things. He said Ted Hartke discussed his own experience where he lived. He said
30 he remembered when Ted bought his home because he thought the home was an interesting house with
31 indoor play facilities and things he thought his kids were going to grow up and enjoy. He said that all
32 changed with the wind and the noise and vibrations from the turbines very close to his house. He said Ted
33 ultimately moved out and it took him about three years before finding someone to buy his property so
34 close to a wind farm. He said residents of Savoy came to their board about ten years ago to install wind
35 turbines in new neighborhoods like Prairie Fields Subdivision and they created a restrictive ordinance. He
36 said there were people who wanted to put various types of wind turbines in, like eggbeaters out in the
37 fields, only much smaller for their own individual use. He said they were concerned with things like fall
38 radius and did not think about the noise, infrasound, and all those things. He said to his knowledge no one
39 has built a wind turbine in Savoy. He said they heard an earlier comment about clean energy and the
40 potential for brownouts and blackouts because the energy market was not as friendly as it could have been.
41 He said the argument was made that we needed wind energy to power our toys and electric vehicles and
42 everything else coming down the pike, that there has been discussion of building a small nuclear power
43 plant near Abbott on the east side of the railroad tracks in the center of Champaign. He said it would be
44 interesting to see if some of these same folks that live in Champaign would feel the same about a nuclear
45 power plant being built a few blocks from their house. He said there was a lot to think about when it came
46 to energy and was just the nature of the beast with their lifestyles being energy dependent. He asked at
47 what expense. He said he felt the ZBA's recommendations were important to be taken into consideration
48 by ELUC and the County Board to keep the residents of rural Champaign County safe and happy. He
49 thanked them for their time.

1 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Niccum for his testimony and asked Ted Hartke to speak next.
2

3 Ted Hartke stated that he lives in Sidney, Illinois. He said he has been doing these things for a while, and
4 he feels like a lightning rod. He said he could tell everyone that he doesn't want to be here to tell them all
5 of this again. He said he really wished everyone had a chance to do some cross-examination of the folks
6 who came up and said stuff tonight. He said having lived it, he knows where the loopholes and the lies
7 and hiding the prize are. He said he would love to cross-examine all the guys that went before him. He
8 said at ZBA meetings they can present all the testimony they want, and then here they get limited. He said
9 he tried to do presentations to the ELUC committee but they didn't want to hear it; that's pathetic. He said
10 he is ethically and morally not allowed to present false information to them because he would be in
11 violation of his professional engineering, professional land surveying and professional design firm
12 licenses. He said his livelihood depends on the truth and protecting human health, safety, welfare and all
13 that stuff. He said we need to modify this 80 decibels low frequency noise to 80 dBPK, meaning peak. He
14 said that is what wakes up kids, husbands and wives inside their homes when you get that big thump of
15 air pressure pulse inside your house from wind turbine blade flex. He said he wanted to remind everyone
16 that the minimum regulations for statewide setbacks in Al Gore's home state of Tennessee is 35 dB(A) at
17 the dwelling in all of Tennessee. He said they didn't just come up with that standard willy-nilly. He said
18 he has a timeline. He said in 2011, Dr. Schomer measured the noise at his house while working for
19 Invenergy; he was working for Kyle Barry, Apex attorney, and spoke in Logan County, and they got their
20 turbine setbacks, and they met the IPCB standards. He said well that's great. He said in 2013, Dr. Schomer
21 was working for Invenergy in his back yard, and the noise levels were 0.1 decibels below the maximum
22 noise level allowable in the entire state of Illinois. He said an acoustician came here tonight, he'll find his
23 name later, he said that a 45 dB(A) noise level is pretty normal and the reason they go down to 39 dB(A)
24 is because that's for constant noise. He said well hell, he had constant noise all night long at his house at
25 46, 45.5 all night long, constant, average noise. He said that's why he's here, to spill his guts to everyone
26 here; he's not a liar. He said in 2014 after he abandoned his home in Vermilion County, Apex purchased
27 the Robling home for \$100,000 in Vermilion County, the ultimate waiver, right. On May 27, two weeks
28 later, they purchased the Irek home for \$295,000. He said on April 29, 2015, Apex offered good neighbor
29 agreements with self-imposed half-mile setbacks and gave money to everyone within one-half mile. He
30 said Apex knows they have a problem. He said in May 2015, just before he bought his house in Champaign
31 County, Apex sold the \$295,000 house for \$117,500. He said all the setbacks can have waivers, we can
32 still have wind, and allow the neighbors to negotiate their own outcomes. He said the individual is the
33 smallest minority; at these other meetings, we had board members say, "we've got to do what's good for
34 the whole county, we've got to bring in the jobs and the money." He said what's good for the whole county
35 is not good for the individual; that's why we have laws in place to protect minorities. He said the rural
36 citizens in Champaign, Vermilion, all these counties are the minorities because they don't have the money
37 to fight against these guys. He said he grew up 250 feet from a hog facility and his mom and dad had
38 2,500 pigs when he was a child for 17 years. He said he lived 150 feet from a CSX railroad for three years
39 when he was in college. He said he abandoned his home 1,665 feet from the closest turbine. He said Dr.
40 Schomer, who authored IPCB standards, testified many times in communities that IPCB regulations are
41 inappropriate for turbines. He said he has been called a lot of stuff, and he can't believe that we can't let
42 people sleep in their homes. He said his last request is this: if the wind company is so confident that
43 everything is cool, he would like for them to put on their application that all of the children will all be able
44 to sleep in their bedrooms at night – have them sign that document and that would be perfect. He thanked
45 the Board and the Committee and said have a good night.
46

47 Mr. Thorsland called William Mitsdarfer to speak.
48

1 William Mitsdarfer, of rural Villa Grove in the south part of the county, stated that someone said
2 something about property taxes for the schools. He said that his taxes for bare farm ground went up \$10
3 an acre this year. He said that may not seem like a lot, but it's a bunch. He said he thinks he probably pays
4 quite a bit for the school taxes, probably more than the wind farm does for the average farmer. He said he
5 knows someone said that there has not been a single complaint in Champaign County from the California
6 Ridge wind farm, but it's pretty sad since Mr. Hartke lives across the line, his complaint doesn't count.
7 He said the last thing he had is, he's sure everyone here has probably had a meal today. He said that meal
8 was brought to them not by wind power, just so they know.

9
10 Mr. Thorsland called Todd Herbert to speak.

11
12 Todd Herbert, 435 CR 1700E, Philo, said he would like to commend the Zoning Board of Appeals for two
13 to three months spent listening to hours of testimony, and they came up with a good solution that his
14 neighborhood wants and would go for. He said he can't help that it is so populated out there that maybe
15 the footprint of a tower won't work in Champaign County, but as long as they're healthy and able to live
16 with it, they're happy. He said he feels with the time the Board has put in, it's unfortunate that the
17 Environment and Land Use Committee doesn't like that. He said he lives in a rural neighborhood and he
18 supports what the Board came up with: 3,250 feet from the property line would be great. He said he lives
19 on a 5-acre tract, and he doesn't just sit on his porch; he goes out on that 5-acre tract and walks his dogs
20 and such. He said he doesn't want to be disturbed by that either; the pulsating, the flicker, everything else.
21 He said he knows most of the people out here in the audience, and everybody moves to the country for a
22 reason, usually. He said it's because of the landscape, quietness, the sunset, the sunrise, the stars, and all
23 that is affected. He said he can look not too many miles south of his house at the Douglas County wind
24 farm and every night when he goes to bed he sees the lights flickering down there. He said it's pretty
25 disturbing, and he wouldn't want to live next to one of them. He said those are his thoughts and he knows
26 the ZBA has gone to bat for them, and he hopes ELUC can and the County Board, and they really
27 appreciate their support. He asked that they just do the right thing for the citizens of Champaign County.

28
29 Mr. Thorsland called Darrel Rice to speak.

30
31 Darrel Rice said he lives and farms outside of Philo. He said he appreciates all that the Board and
32 Committee do in service of the community, and thanked them for hearing everyone out tonight. He said
33 most of what he was going to say has already been said quite well, so he won't repeat it. He said he wanted
34 to remind them that the first couple of ZBA meetings where this was being discussed, there were 70 to 80
35 people here in the crowd, and there wasn't one testimony in favor of wind farms. He said most of those
36 people lived in the footprint, most of them are his neighbors, and he knows most of them by their first
37 names. He said so those are the people that were coming out to those meetings, and they are passionate
38 about these things because they are talking about their homes. He said the people who are in support of
39 wind are either being paid to be in support of it or they live in town here and it's easy to say they want
40 wind down in southern Champaign County because they'll hardly be able to see it from Champaign. He
41 said the people who are living in the footprint of it are the people that are seated behind him tonight saying
42 they would like to see the ZBA's recommendations passed by ELUC. He said the Board spent hours and
43 hours on these recommendations and he hopes ELUC will consider them seriously. He said he hopes
44 ELUC is here to represent them as citizens because the Committee can do what the citizens can't. He said
45 they are counting on the Committee to give them a fair shake, and said thank you.

46
47 Mr. Thorsland called Adani Sanchez to speak.
48

1 Adani Sanchez thanked them for having this study session and said she wished that she could have been
2 at the other ones. She said she is not a property owner, but her understanding is that someone is not allowed
3 to tell people what to do on property that someone owns. She said she doesn't know if she will ever be a
4 property owner, but she is really excited to move out into the country and set up her own windmill farm.
5 She thinks it is really important here to consider that fossil fuels have a definite end, and they know that
6 they are running out of them. She said Illinois grows a lot of corn, and she thinks all the work the farmers
7 are doing is so valuable and important, but it is going to be really difficult to keep growing corn when
8 they are seeing the variable nature of their climate right now and they literally just had a week of a 100
9 degree days. She doesn't know if a farmer could grow corn in that, but someone could tell her about that
10 later. She said she really thinks it is important to think about renewable energy and what Illinois is doing
11 to maintain independence from fossil fuels. She said they are seeing it at the gas pump, and they are seeing
12 the reliance on these fossil fuels, which is really detrimental, so they need to make sure they have
13 diversified and are encouraging several types of renewable energy, and making sure they are holding these
14 corporations. She said it seems like some of these wind farm corporations do have some serious problems;
15 she hopes they are holding them accountable, but she doesn't think these amendments are addressing those
16 things, so she seems to have a disconnect somehow. She said she hoped the amendments that are made to
17 the Ordinance are actually creating more accountability for these wind farm corporations and making sure
18 that they are encouraging more development, because they need that, it is important for their community
19 and their livelihoods. She wants to continue living in a place that is not under water and she comes from
20 Texas where they don't really maintain their energy grid very well, so she doesn't really want to move
21 again. She said that she just kind of wants to reiterate that they live in a society where she lives next to
22 powerlines that are pretty ugly and a whole bunch of streets with big cars that blow exhaust into her brain;
23 it's really horrifying and is a part of how they live in this society. She thinks it is really important to know
24 that this is how the world moves and Illinois is going to be left behind if they don't do a lot of work to get
25 into renewable energy. She said she thinks this is really an opportunity for Illinois to step up and be a
26 leader, create more jobs, and build more tax bases, so hopefully they can set up that infrastructure to not
27 be under water and it would reduce the reliance on fossil fuels. She thanked the Board members.
28

29 Mr. Thorsland said that as surprising as it seems, that is all the public participation slips that he has of
30 people who have filled out and wanted to speak, so he is going to give them a chance if they want.
31

32 Mr. Thorsland called Matt Herriott to speak.
33

34 Matthew Herriot said that he lives in rural Philo, and he appreciated Mr. Hall listening to him, he thought
35 he was going to put the slips there at the front, but good job.
36

37 Mr. Hall said no problem.
38

39 He said that he would like to thank all the Board members for their service of the residents of Champaign
40 County and using the best judgement for all of the residents. He appreciates all the time and the work that
41 the ZBA has put into this proposed text amendment and he knows a lot of people behind him have done a
42 lot of work as well, so thank you. He said he and others behind him that live in rural Champaign County
43 would be most affected by any wind turbines in the county. He said that he urges ELUC to accept the
44 proposed changes to the wind ordinance, especially the recommended setback from the property line of
45 nonparticipating residents of 3,250 feet. He heard one person earlier talked about Class C land, and he
46 doesn't know about them, but he lives on 6.5 acres with a home and that is not Class C land, so the setback
47 of 3,250 feet should be from his property line. He said that the setback of 3,250 feet would provide
48 adequate protection to property owners and their families from adverse effects of wind turbines. He said
49 the map on page 67 of the PDF handout that the office of P&Z put together tonight showing space available

1 for wind turbines is not 100 percent correct. He said there have been others that have said that eliminates
2 wind farms and wind turbines from this county, but that is not correct. He said the wind farms can go out
3 and get these variances and good neighbor agreements. He said he has had to work for everything he has
4 had, so make them work for what the wind farms want to impose on them in rural Champaign County. He
5 said that a 3,250 feet setback would not give the wind companies free access to the county as stated in the
6 original proposal from ELUC. He said the wind companies could still apply for waivers like he had just
7 said even with the proposed amendments that ZBA put forth to ELUC. He said with the data presented
8 and public testimony, the ZBA is clear that the proposed changes by the ZBA are necessary to protect the
9 safety and wellbeing of their residents. He said the ZBA unanimously voted for these changes to the
10 Ordinance and there is no reason for the ELUC committee to not send all the changes to the full County
11 Board for a vote and passing of the amendment. He said that one other thing that he is not sure, and he
12 urges everyone to actually read all the data, because he has spent a lot of time reading everything before
13 every meeting and after every meeting, so he is an informed citizen. He urges all Board members that are
14 voting on the residents' behalf to make sure that they have done the same, because he wants the Board
15 members to sleep 20 years from now and say yes, they did the right thing for every single resident of this
16 county. He said please quit wasting everybody's time and do what is best for rural Champaign County
17 and pass the ZBA's proposed amendments soon – thank you.

18
19 Mr. Thorsland said thank you and asked if anyone else would like to speak at tonight's meeting who hasn't
20 spoken, who maybe has not filled out a public participation slip or had a slip that slipped from his hands;
21 if so now is their chance to raise their hand or he is going to close the public testimony at this point. He
22 said once, twice, and thank you very much. He thanked everyone that spoke for being concise, staying on
23 time, and they actually did this quicker than most people anticipated, and that is thanks to the folks who
24 have come and stayed engaged. He said moving on, they are now into the discussion part and again the
25 things they are going to discuss tonight are increasing the minimum separation to the principal structures
26 to 3,250 feet from non-participating property lines, changing the noise limit to 39 dB(A), and adding a
27 noise limit of 80 dB(C) for infrasound. He said before they get to that, they did get some other input late
28 and he thinks Ms. Ward has the email he would like her to read into the record so that it can become a part
29 of tonight's meeting.

30
31 Ms. King thanked Mr. Thorsland and said the email was from Ryan and Robin Fellers, and they say, "we
32 want the committee to know it has our full support with regard to expanding wind power generation in
33 Champaign County. It has been well documented that burning fossil fuels is leading to catastrophic climate
34 disaster, and we must transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources as soon as possible to
35 avoid climate change's most disastrous effects. Wind energy is a clean fuel source, and it doesn't omit
36 particulate matter or contribute to the greenhouse gases that warm our planet. Additionally, wind power
37 doesn't need large amounts of water to keep plants cool, which makes it even gentler on the environment.
38 Wind is a sustainable power source; as long as the sun shines and the earth rotates, wind will be here ready
39 to be utilized as clean energy for the world. Wind power is economically sound, not requiring large
40 subsidies from the government to keep it viable. Thanks to mother nature, the fuel is free, and it is not
41 dependent upon the variability of fuel prices upon which traditional sources of power depend. The wind
42 power industry will create jobs, manufacturing, installation, and the maintenance of wind farms. Rural
43 economies can particularly benefit from wind power creation; farmers can rent out small pieces of their
44 property for turbines while continuing to farm the rest of their land, and since wind is a domestic source
45 of power, it contributes to our national security. As residents of Champaign County, we would love to see
46 wind fully embraced as an energy source. It is clean, sustainable, and economically viable – please do all
47 you can to expand its use.

48

1 Mr. Thorsland thanked Ms. King and said that they have before them both ZBA and ELUC members. He
2 said there is a packet that staff has put together that starts with the Hankard Environmental letter, and he
3 is just going to point out a few things that are in it, so that they know there has been discussion and he is
4 sure they will discuss more what is in the Hankard Environmental letter. He said that they received emails
5 with Ms. Burgstrom's name up at the top from Isaak Simmers and they are in support of following the
6 WHO noise limits, they talk about fossil fuels, revenue from wind power, and they are in support of wind
7 energy.

8
9 Mr. Esry said those were forwarded from Isaak Simmers.

10
11 Mr. Thorsland said yes, they were forwarded. He said that Brookfield Renewable U.S. sent them
12 information from Ben Mallernee, who also spoke tonight, and that is in the packet, and he recommends
13 everyone read that in both bodies. He said the Iron Workers Local Union 380 spelled his name in an
14 interesting way, but he'll take it. He said they sent an email yesterday that is in the record, and they're in
15 support of wind energy.

16
17 Mr. Bates asked why these are being read in.

18
19 Mr. Thorsland said that he is not reading the whole thing in, he is just pointing them out.

20
21 Mr. Bates said they all have them.

22
23 Mr. Thorsland said okay.

24
25 Mr. Bates said those are all documents they can all read.

26
27 Mr. Thorsland said and for the audience to know, he wants them to know.

28
29 Mr. Bates said they can go online and read them too, just like every other person.

30
31 Mr. Thorsland said Adani Sanchez, Matthew Frank, and Yousaf Shah sent letters of support. He said the
32 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers came tonight. He said all that stuff is available for
33 everyone to read and it is online as well. He said moving onto the discussion phase, they are here to talk
34 about those three things. He thinks he will open it to ZBA members first if there is anything that they want
35 to add about how they came to their decisions, anything they want to talk about that was said in public
36 comment tonight, or anything they would like to respond to in any of the correspondence they got. He will
37 let them sort of lead that discussion with their membership and then they will move over to ELUC
38 membership, then they will have input from everybody. He said that he would let Mr. Elwell run this part
39 of the meeting.

40
41 Mr. Elwell thanked Mr. Thorsland and called on Mr. Randol to speak.

42
43 Mr. Randol said they have spent numerous hours going through this and listening to everyone and hearing
44 their opinions. He said looking at materials presented to us, he will say that there was maybe one person
45 that came before the Board that was speaking in favor of the windmills, period. He said after all the hours
46 that they put into this, and when it comes down to this, why do they have six, eight, or ten people that now
47 want to voice their opinions. He said whenever the Board went through all of the evidence, and they are
48 not against the wind farms at all, but they figure that they are representing a huge area of the population
49 where this particular wind farm is proposed. He said that this could happen anywhere else in the state, but

1 this area is pretty heavily populated, and they felt they needed to protect the desires of individuals living
2 in this area. He said regarding the distances, he has been around the windmills, and he wouldn't want to
3 be there having one right next door to him, but whenever they talk about having a setback from the
4 residence, if somebody owns more than one, three, fifteen, or twenty acres, they may not always want to
5 have their home in one particular area where the existing home is. He said it could be destroyed by a fire
6 or an act of God, and using the setbacks at the residence would eliminate them being able to build a home
7 somewhere else on their property without going through a bunch of restriction changes. He said they just
8 feel this should be from the property line rather than from the residence. He said regarding the height, just
9 because some manufacturer wants to start building six or seven hundred feet high wind turbines or have
10 no limit on the height that they want, that is awfully broad minded and open ended that could happen, who
11 knows what changes would come place ten or more years down the road, so they strongly feel that staying
12 below the 500 feet limit is the best way to protect the citizens in this particular area or anywhere else in
13 the county.

14
15 Mr. Thorsland said just as a reminder for other folks, they are not actually talking about the height today,
16 that is not on the agenda to talk about, the 499 feet height limit is still in place. He said that was not brought
17 up in discussion.

18
19 Mr. Elwell thanked Mr. Randol and asked Mr. Herbert if he would like to add any comments.

20
21 Mr. Herbert said that he thinks this was all brought forth in four meetings, they had four meetings on this,
22 and they have spent a lot of time on it. He said these are the recommendations that they have thought to
23 add, and a lot has changed in the past several years, because things do get bigger and coming from an
24 agriculture background, farming equipment gets bigger and bigger every year, they aren't making roads
25 wider. He said he supports the property line setback because that does hit home a little bit. He said back
26 to his original thought about the four meetings, he sees several of these faces repeat and they have come
27 to every meeting and spent their time to come and listen to this, and that is their livelihood for a lot of
28 these people. He said the property lines is a big one and it isn't just his house. He said they will make
29 more property, but there is not more land being made, it only comes up for sale, and that price is going
30 up, up, and up. He said that he might want one of his daughters to build on a piece of his property and
31 when that time comes that may limit him if it is not from his property line. He said for the noise, he thinks
32 it is important to protect every individual and that noise might not affect everyone the same, but the ones
33 that it does, he thinks their voice matters as well with infrasound or just flat out noise. He said they have
34 spent a lot of time reading that and he has seen a stack of papers to sift and read through and gather his
35 information from. He said that he supports all this stuff, he thinks this is their agreement, this is where
36 they came to, and that is where it should stand.

37
38 Mr. Elwell thanked Mr. Herbert and asked Mr. Bates if he would like to make any additional comments.

39
40 Mr. Bates said just to make sure they are all aware of how this was brought up, this was brought up at
41 ELUC, this wasn't anything that ZBA had brought up. He said that it was put forth in front them to listen
42 to them all, and as it has been stated there may have been one in support. He questions why now after a
43 joint meeting that has been unprecedented and has not been done in 50 years, they have all of a sudden so
44 many people speaking out in favor. He said where were these people when the public testimony was
45 available, and who was reaching out to these individuals all of sudden or why do they all of a sudden feel
46 like they need to come forth; where were they at the meetings for the public hearings – that's a great
47 question. He said again, ZBA did not bring this to the table, they listened to the constituents and sifted
48 through the mounds of paperwork, and put countless hours into this, not just here, but at home reading
49 through materials that were presented to them. He said that the Board sent a recommendation based off

1 the facts that were provided to them from the people who came out and spoke, and that is how they came
2 to their decision.

3
4 Mr. Elwell thanked Mr. Bates and asked Mr. Roberts if he would like to make any additional comments.
5

6 Mr. Roberts said that he voted along with the rest of the ZBA, and they sent the information to ELUC,
7 and it is in their court. He said that he doesn't know what else to say or what else to do. He said the
8 gentlemen proceeding him spoke very eloquently about what has happened, and he doesn't know what
9 else to add. He said the ZBA made their decision and they sent it to ELUC, and like he said the ball is in
10 their court.

11
12 Mr. Elwell thanked Mr. Roberts and asked Mr. Anderson if he would like to make any additional
13 comments.
14

15 Mr. Anderson said the infrasound part of this recommendation is the 80 dB(C) that kind of hung in his
16 head. He feels that while it is a great big number and the wind turbines that make this much noise certainly
17 should be a 100 miles away. He said the newer wind turbines make more infrasound noise and he was
18 speaking of zero through 20 cycles per second or Hertz. He said the new wind turbines may make more
19 noise of the infrasound variety. He said so they don't forget about it, most people can't hear the infrasound
20 noise, but nonetheless, someone's body can sense it and react to it, and their house and animals respond
21 to it.

22
23 Mr. thanked Mr. Anderson and asked Mr. Wood if he would like to make any additional comments.
24

25 Mr. Wood said that as other members of the ZBA Board have already pointed out, they went through a
26 lot of information. He said starting with the assessment that was done for California Ridge by the
27 individual that wrote them a note here recently from Hankard. He said Dr. Paul Schomer's name was also
28 on that publication, and he didn't notice that there was much of an issue for that particular publication,
29 but that was done quite a few years ago, he believes it was back in 2013 or 2014. He said that there have
30 been subsequent publications that they have read through, and he has most of them here; the one for
31 Livingston County that Dr. Schomer did several years later pointed out the fact that they really don't get
32 rid of the annoyance factor for everybody until they get out past 3,000 feet, which is the noise issue that
33 they have, that is the audible part of it. He said there really isn't a whole lot of information around the
34 infrasound issue, but the information that he has been able to pick up on would suggest that it really starts
35 to become annoying when it gets up around 65 to 75 dB(C). He said that since it is something that is not
36 audible, it is something that would need a lot more energy to create before it actually starts having physical
37 effects on the body, whether or not it is a criteria that really needs to be established. He said his gut feeling
38 is when there are multiple wind turbines in close proximity, there is probably going to be interference
39 between those wind turbines and create both points where they cancel each other out, and other points
40 where they add together, so they are going to end up with points with more excessive energy. He said the
41 second thing that really affected his choice of having this type of setback and limiting it, not so much the
42 height, but the separation distances is because of the population that they have here. He said that
43 Champaign County is the fourth largest in terms of population of the 102 counties in Illinois. He said that
44 there are 90 other counties that have considerably less population density that are available. He said putting
45 towers out here at some point is just going to slow the growth of any residential areas out in those areas.
46 He said without violating the setback rule, they won't be able to build any more houses out there once that
47 is installed, so that is certainly a concern of his. He said he doesn't think bigger is better and he would
48 suggest that given what he has been through in the last 40 years with respect to technology and the way it
49 has been changing, it's has only been 120 years since they were riding horses and buggies. He said that

1 technology has been changing at what they call an exponential rate. He said that it seems like it is a fairly
2 linear process when they go through most of the 1900s, but when they get into the 1990s and computers
3 start being developed, then they get into if they understand an exponential function, it kind of moves like
4 this and then it takes off vertically, and that part where it starts to curve upwards is where they are. He
5 said they are in the knee of the exponential curve and technology is changing so fast these days, they all
6 know because they change their phones once every two or three years. He said all the other technology is
7 affecting every part of this, and it is going to affect the way they procure energy. He said they can put up
8 these wind farms and he can tell them that he would not sign a 90 year contract for this kind of stuff,
9 because the technology that is going into these things right now will probably be obsolete in ten years,
10 and there will be other things that will be taking its place, and hopefully those things will be more benign.
11 He said personally he feels a whole lot more comfortable with solar because he has a 10,000 kilowatt
12 system on his house, and he has had it there for five years and he doesn't have an energy bill to speak of
13 from an electrical perspective, but he does have to pay a little bit for propane. He said what he has invested
14 in for solar there are better things now in solar panels just in the last five years. He doesn't know that he
15 would want to put too much investment into this type of thing, which is really large, and they don't know
16 all the impacts that it could have on their health. He said there are a lot of case studies out there for people
17 and not just Ted Hartke, but a lot of others where people have just moved out of their houses because of
18 the impact of it. He said some people are going to obviously be more sensitive than others in this respect;
19 there is going to be a certain percentage of the population that is going to be affected by it more so than
20 the rest of the population and they have to take that into consideration. He said if Dr. Schomer's work
21 here, and this thing here suggests that in order to make sure that they are protecting everybody to the
22 extent that they can from the noise and hopefully any impact from the infrasound is that they get that
23 separation out there to around 3,000 feet in order to guarantee that; if they don't do that then he thinks
24 they would put a lot of people at risk that don't deserve to be at risk. He said when they look at some of
25 the other areas around us like McLean County for example, they have a couple of wind farms up there
26 now and he thinks they are planning to put in a couple more, but they have to realize that Livingston
27 County has about 200 additional square miles of space and it also has 40,000 fewer people, which means
28 the population density is considerably less. He said Vermilion County over here, and they can see from
29 this map here, that there are a lot of wind turbines out there, but Vermilion County has about 50 square
30 miles more than Champaign County, but it only has 46 percent of the population, the population over there
31 is somewhere in the neighborhood of around 45,000 – it is considerably less. He said that he is not against
32 wind power as it is and there is information that he has read that getting taller wind turbines isn't
33 necessarily with new advancements and being able to generate energy, that they don't necessarily need to
34 go taller. He said the most important thing he thinks is the separation distance. He said one concern that
35 he had, which was mentioned earlier by someone else, was establishing that limit at 39 dB(A) and whether
36 or not there is a legal issue with respect to whether or not all industry out in the county needs to have the
37 same criteria, and that is an issue they really need to look at, not just necessarily applicable to wind, a
38 particular industry, and whether or not there are some legal ramifications that might come as a result of
39 that. He said there is lots of open space in this country, there is a lot of wind in this country, and there are
40 probably better places, and it's not that he is against it, but with the population density they have in this
41 county, it puts a lot more people at risk. He said dealing with corporations, because he spent 40 years of
42 his life in the corporate world and he knows how that works, it's all about the money, it's all it is about.
43 He said that if they could ensure that they operate as good corporate citizens, that would be nice, but there
44 have been too many times in the past 50 to 60 years that he has watched them where they have not in too
45 many aspects of their economy. He said that he would leave it at that and that is his perspective on where
46 to go with this; if it doesn't work here, it just doesn't work, but there are lots of places where it will and
47 that is where it should go.

48

1 Mr. Elwell thanked Mr. Wood and said he sees their role as the ZBA is adjudicating land uses, variances,
2 and especially the text amendment coming from the elected officials that are surrounding them right now.
3 He said that his personal thoughts and feeling are that he is a small government kind of guy, and he would
4 prefer to have everyone be good human beings, but he knows that is not always going to be the case and
5 that is why their Board is here. He said personally speaking, he didn't think that the current ordinance was
6 broken and to his knowledge there has been no, and maybe Mr. Hall can update this, but as of last meeting
7 there were no complaints about the California Ridge Wind Farm. He said for the chairperson that was
8 sitting in his position when these original ordinances were being drafted, he could only imagine there was
9 quite a bit of labor, quite a bit of testimony that was digested, and there was this much passion for property
10 rights and stuff like that. He said honestly he doesn't know the reasons why this was wanted to go back to
11 the ZBA, but it was. He said the other thing is, last night his Chesapeake Bay Retriever was on his bed
12 snoring, and he has an app on his phone, and he is not a scientist when it comes to acoustics or whatever,
13 but his phone said he was snoring between 40 and 41 dB(A). He said he didn't like that, and he kicked
14 him off the bed and it was still at 40 dB(A). He said that he honestly doesn't know too much about
15 infrasound, he was not on board with adding that type of language and he didn't feel comfortable even
16 knowing what he was asking for, but the one thing that he does support is the role of their ZBA and it is
17 to take the information that was provided to them and to listen to the people that have taken the time. He
18 said there was an overwhelming amount of information that supported an increase in the setback distance.
19 He said increasing it to the 39 dB(A), and if there was any he doesn't remember and he could be corrected,
20 but he doesn't believe there was any person that testified to, like all the evidence was on one side of the
21 pendulum and there was nothing on the other side. He said he is the type of person that he wants everything
22 out in front of him, and he wants to know what he is putting on his plate and then let him decide. He said
23 from the information that the ZBA did receive, it was on one side or the other and when they made their
24 recommendation to ELUC, apparently it wasn't the recommendation that was liked to have been heard he
25 guesses. He said this is the reason that they are having this informational meeting, is to be able to give the
26 insight of the evidence that they have heard, and to give the insight of what the Board had to say and what
27 their deliberations were. He said that he knows Mr. Thorsland knows quite a bit about how much work
28 goes into the ZBA, and he would have to say he is not quite as familiar with the amount of work that goes
29 into ELUC, but he could only imagine that it is quite a bit as well. He said there was quite a bit of work
30 that went into this, and he doesn't want this to be brushed off, so thank you very much for their time and
31 he greatly appreciates the interest in hearing the ZBA out. He said they certainly don't have a voice here
32 and they don't have a vote here, but he really does appreciate them taking their time and listening to all of
33 them, and he thanked Mr. Thorsland.

34
35 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Elwell and said he wanted to provide some background before he turns it over
36 to ELUC members and then members of the County Board that are here present as well. He said yes, he
37 is very aware of what goes into a wind farm ordinance, because he had to act as the chairperson of the
38 ZBA when he was a young member of it – at some point he was young. He had a letter of agreement with
39 the wind farm company and therefore had to abstain from the meetings, so he was put in the role of running
40 those public hearings for the original ordinance in Champaign County. He said it was mentioned earlier
41 on that he felt theirs was one of the more restrictive ordinances at the time; the counties around them in
42 particular knew California Ridge was coming. He said that Vermilion County had no ordinance, and this
43 was a very common thing 12 or 13 years ago, there was just basically building permits, they made a deal
44 with the landowner and there was no real guidance, and the wind towers started to go up. He said in that
45 respect Champaign County put in a lot of work and they know the work the ZBA does and therefore they
46 know the work that staff does, and an amazing amount of work that staff did to gather all the information,
47 and they had lots of public hearings. He said if he recalls he thinks there were five or six meetings that
48 were long four hour meetings. He said that he didn't do any discussion until after at least four or five of
49 those meetings were all public input and as they know they let everyone speak in ZBA as long as they

1 want to, and they took all that into consideration and they came up with the original ordinance. He said
2 that not long after that Invenergy applied for California Ridge under those guidelines and eventually they
3 went through those public hearings, and all the work that the staff did and all the work that ZBA did, and
4 it went through ELUC and the County Board, and it was passed all the way through. He said that ordinance
5 worked as evidenced by the 30 towers and there have been relatively few problems with it. He said if the
6 ZBA had noticed that a lot of public input and testimony that came before them had talked about other
7 counties like Douglas, Vermilion, and Ford County, which they had a lot of problems up in Ford County.
8 He said that they didn't hear a lot about Champaign County, and they also didn't see a lot of new
9 applications and there were a couple reasons for that, and they were all because of the ordinance. He said
10 that it is true that wind power is subsidized, but it is not subsidized like the fossil fuel industry is and it is
11 not subsidized like ethanol energy is, but it is subsidized, and those subsidies went almost completely
12 away unlike the fossil fuel industry, so wind companies didn't want to invest and so they didn't see a lot.

13
14 Mr. Thorsland said the impetus to send to the ZBA was ELUC's idea to update it and he apologizes,
15 because he thinks they sort of gave the ZBA a very blank slate and with that and the public input, and a
16 blank slate with the words unlimited tower height were probably frightening and more frightening than it
17 needed to be. He said there is a physical limit to the height of these towers mechanically and maybe the
18 technology will be different in the future, and they will be taller, but there is a physical limit to a monopole
19 wind tower and the metal that makes the tower. He said that they will not be two miles high he doesn't
20 think ever in their lifetime, they may be 600 feet height, which is about 100 feet over their limit. He said
21 California Ridge wants to put new blades on at some point and they will violate their ordinance, because
22 they will be above the 499 feet height limit, and they will have to do a waiver that will have to come
23 through the ZBA if that is to be successful. He said that ELUC sent it to the ZBA with some things and
24 some guidance, which they adopted and they have no complaints about the advanced lighting system and
25 he thinks it is an upgrade that they needed in their ordinance; it came from the FAA and they put limits
26 on tower heights, but they put different conditions on the lighting for towers and that is one of the reasons
27 that they didn't put a height limit, because they thought the FAA guidelines showed what they had to do
28 if they went higher and maybe they should have sent it to the ZBA with more guidance there. He said that
29 he personally thinks that they have the separation from participant and nonparticipants, and he thinks that
30 was a good thing, and he honestly doesn't think they were as far back as they know better now and he
31 doesn't think they should be as far back as what came from the ZBA recommendations, but there is some
32 ground in between those where he thinks it is realistic and they wanted to get input on where they should
33 go with that especially if the towers get higher. He said they always looked at it as a factor of tower height
34 versus distance; bigger tower, further distance. He said some of the advantages of bigger towers besides
35 the fact that some of the companies don't want to come in and do them, they make more energy, which
36 means there are fewer of them, which may make siting easier. He said the ZBA was given by ELUC
37 maybe too blank of a slate, and they didn't give them enough parameters that they were really concerned
38 about, and they kind of just said here it is, they know it's old, and he thinks it is 12 or 13 years old. He
39 said that it is obvious like a phone or car that maybe they need to update this a little bit, and they talked
40 about farm equipment getting better, these towers getting better, and energy needs getting bigger. He said
41 they talked about the need for more energy that doesn't make it hotter, so they need more energy, because
42 it got hotter. He said that ELUC should have done a better job of giving the ZBA maybe a tighter set of
43 conditions to work on, of things to consider, of what ELUC thought they needed rather than just dumping
44 it all onto ZBA and saying okay, their turn, listen to the public and come back with what they did, and
45 they have.

46
47 Mr. Thorsland said that he is going to submit some things later on, because they will not finish this tonight
48 he is sure, that have to do with infrasound, studies including the study they have, and he has a copy of the
49 Health Canada study in here. He said that he wants to point of some very basic things; the Health Canada

1 study talks about, and he will read really, really briefly what their conclusions were when they did a self-
2 reported study, and people will say okay well this is the beginning of it and later on they have some other
3 recommendations, but the following were not found to be associated with wind tower noise exposure:
4 self- reported sleep disturbances, medically diagnosed sleep disorders, self-reported illnesses such as
5 dizziness, migraines, headaches, and chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes,
6 and self-reported perceived stress and quality of life are in the Health Canada Study. He said he has studies
7 about infrasound, critics and people laughed before, but he will mention that in fact they talk about bird
8 death, bat death and things. He said the biggest problem with bird death is commercial agriculture, it's not
9 because it kills birds, but it kills their food. He said while farmers are growing food for everyone, they are
10 killing their food, which is bugs mostly. He said there are a lot of farmers that don't use a lot of pesticide
11 anymore; there are still enough who do. He said that towers with glass windows kill more birds than wind
12 towers do, and this study is weighted, it's not because there are fewer wind towers than there are glass
13 towers. He said that domestic cats are a huge problem for birds and anyone who has a cat knows that. He
14 said there are concerns, there was one farmer who came who said they were doing a bird study at the tower
15 near his house, and the tower wasn't turning. He said that he hasn't been able to find out to verify that,
16 but that would be a very interesting thing to know. He said what he does feel will need to be worked on
17 are a couple things, the map that Mr. Hall gave them that he corrected, this is the revised California Ridge
18 wind farm, and he thinks everyone has this in their packet. He said the X's mean that with the current
19 recommendations from ZBA, there would be zero of these in Champaign County. He said again, they have
20 been there for about ten years, and there have not been a lot of problems. He said the wind company came
21 and showed them that this is what they get, the red means they can't, and it's all red. He said that protects
22 everybody from perceived and actual effects of wind power; it does nothing to generate energy and it does
23 nothing for the landowner who may want a wind turbine, and he knows there is a proposed process where
24 they could go and get good neighbor waivers and things. He said during the original ordinance he would
25 get talked to by the farmers, but not in this room, he couldn't leave the parking lot for a long time and so
26 none of it was on the record. He said that one farmer told him to give him as many wind turbines as long
27 as the blade tips don't hit, because guaranteed revenue on a quarter acre of land out of production that
28 brings a farmer \$8,000 to \$12,000 dollars every year for the next 30 years, and again this was ten years
29 ago. He said whether it rains or doesn't, whether the farm gets the beans in or not, they wanted the wind
30 turbines, but they didn't want to go on record for it, so there is support, but the support is quiet and the
31 ZBA found this out in their public hearings. He said nobody came to talk about wanting wind turbines and
32 nobody came who was in negotiation with a wind company right now, he imagines. He said that they got
33 the people that didn't want the wind farms or wanted very big setbacks, and the ZBA reacted, and they
34 did what they should do based on the input that they got. He said that they see now that the issues before
35 them, that more people have come forward including the Laborers Union, Electrical Union, and the people
36 who work on these things, and he hopes to hear from people who actually want one. He said that people
37 say okay, well Mr. Thorsland lives in town; well, he lived for 20 years in rural Newcomb Township, 480
38 County Road 2500 North, and he would have put as many wind turbines as he could on the 40 acres that
39 he owned if he was allowed to, but no one proposed and no one approached, but he would have done it
40 within the parameters of the existing ordinance. He said he could just barely fit one wind turbine and
41 would have been happy with it. He would love to see a wind turbine in West Side Park, Hessel Park, or
42 one on top of his house, but it is probably not structurally sound. He said that Mr. Wood is right about
43 solar energy being a great thing too, and they will need all of it, and the ZBA listened and the people who
44 lived there came and spoke, but ELUC has to look at their constituents as well as all the county
45 constituents, and they have reps from the area here including Stan and Jim, who are at two opposite ends
46 of the county in the rural areas and he looks forward to hearing what they have to say. He said that this is
47 how the ZBA got what they got from ELUC, and they should not be mistaken that they don't appreciate
48 all the work the ZBA put into it, and they don't respect the decisions that they came to and how they
49 arrived at those, but they are here as a study session to see if there is a way they can come to a position

1 where wind energy is a little more feasible and where the map isn't all X's in the future. He said that if
2 there are people that are agreeable to wind energy who want them, that they make it possible in Champaign
3 County, they are an attractive place for it, because the wind blows and they have the grid to support it,
4 which isn't the case everywhere in Illinois or in the country right now. He said the more robust the grid
5 gets, the more they will see them move away, the more robust their energy supply, the less likely they will
6 see rolling brown outs and energy shortages. He said that he is going to open up discussion to ELUC
7 members for either comment or questions to the ZBA if they are willing to answer those, so he is not going
8 to pick on names and he is going to let a hand come up.

9
10 Mr. Esry thanked Mr. Thorsland and said that to him the crux of the reason they are here tonight is because
11 staff does not believe that ZBA would recommend approval should a new wind farm come before them
12 under the current ordinance. He said that the ZBA, comprised of seven members of the unincorporated
13 part of Champaign County, took testimony over four meetings and he made two of those. He said the
14 recommendations that ZBA sent back to ELUC are based on what they heard from the citizens of the
15 unincorporated part of Champaign County. He said that there is a definite reason that the ZBA members
16 are from the unincorporated parts of Champaign County, because the incorporated part of Champaign
17 County has their own zoning. He said that quite frankly he is not sure with the makeup of the County
18 Board, that the recommended ordinance changes that came from ZBA will pass muster, but he is also far
19 from convinced that the ZBA can't do their job, and should a wind farm come before them under the
20 current ordinances, they can't do their job and say yes, they can put the wind farm in. He said the ZBA
21 did the public hearings as they were asked, they made their recommendation for increased setbacks and
22 strengthened noise ordinances, in other words less noise at the property lines. He said that there are plenty
23 of studies he would say on both sides, so who do they listen to; he has heard Ted Hartke give his story
24 multiple times, and he has absolutely no reason to not believe him. He said has he grown tired of hearing
25 Mr. Hartke give his story, yes, he'll admit, he has, and sometimes does he feel like his presentation could
26 probably be better, yes. He said Mr. Hartke said he feels like a lightning rod; he is, but he has absolutely
27 no reason to not believe his story, that is his story, and that ties in with Mr. Wood saying that different
28 people react and can be affected differently. He said that he can easily believe Mr. Hartke and his family
29 were affected, and he could easily believe that maybe Mr. Hartke's next door neighbor that let's just say
30 lives 100 feet closer, 100 feet farther away, or let's just say 100 feet closer to the wind turbines, they aren't
31 affected. He said that people react differently just like some people are more prone to skin cancer than
32 others, and some people are just prone to cancer more than others. He said what the ZBA has
33 recommended is what they are hearing from the people who live in the area that will be affected by these
34 ordinances. He said that ZBA was presented with testimony that he believes except for what he has heard
35 if this is correct there is only one wind turbine that is floating out there for a potential new wind farm
36 south of the Sidney area, Philo area, and southern part of the county. He said there is only one wind turbine
37 sited on land that is owned by someone who lives in the area but mind you that person doesn't live on that
38 piece of land, they live he doesn't know, he is going to say maybe a couple of miles away from that piece
39 of land. He said otherwise, all the wind turbines are proposed to be sited on absentee landowner parcels
40 of land. He said that right there, to tie in with what has been said sometime before about business practices
41 tell him a little bit about the business practices. He said why do they make the concerted effort to put
42 possible wind turbines on absentee landowner parcels instead of going up to say a Mr. Leerkamp, and
43 saying hey, you have 80 acres here, we'd like to put a wind farm in the middle of your 80 acres. He said
44 the current ordinance was working, he supposed, but it doesn't hurt necessarily to go back through and
45 update; things do change. He said granted, we are supposed to be only talking about the three issues, but
46 other people have mentioned other issues than what is listed on the agenda. He said the idea of the fees
47 came back unanimously from the ZBA to increase the fees; well heck yeah he'd agree with that, in today's
48 age, the fees for getting the wind farm approved, for all the work that the P&Z staff has to do and the
49 County has to do. He said he'll end by saying he's not sure where this ends up. He said the most he sees

1 happening is maybe we just live with what we have for right now. He said as far as the setbacks and the
2 noise limits, however, that is not what the County is hearing from the people who live in the county in the
3 possible area that would be affected. He said they are saying they want increased setbacks and sufficient
4 noise protection, be it infrasound or audible. He said the citizens have spoken; he thinks it's pretty clear
5 that is what they want. He said the ZBA responded accordingly in his book. He said for the County Board
6 or even ELUC to send back because ELUC is the policy making organization, ZBA basically does the
7 dirty work of the hearings. He said for the present way that ELUC and the County Board as a whole are
8 made up, he is not sure the recommendations from ZBA will ever get sent back to them to go through
9 another hearing or hearings, however many it takes, but the ZBA did what they were supposed to do and
10 he is ok with that. He said he is ok with the idea that we should go to these increased setbacks and
11 strengthened noise regulations. He said those are his thoughts at this point at time, and said thanks.
12

13 Stephanie Fortado said first, she appreciates the work of the ZBA and everybody who came out here today
14 to talk about their thoughts on this issue. She said she likes what Mr. Esry said about how the ZBA has to
15 do the dirty work but then ELUC has to come up with the policy. She said she thinks any time you think
16 about a policy like this and the many factors you have to weigh, the expectations of local residents, in her
17 opinion, is one of the greatest crises of our time: climate change; how you navigate that and what their
18 responsibility is as elected officials. She said she thinks what it comes down to is that their responsibility
19 as elected officials is to try to do the most good for the most people, and to mitigate harm to people in the
20 minority. But it's important that we mitigate actual harm, not perceived harm. She said she appreciates
21 that the Board only heard evidence on a particular side of the issue, but for her, she has reviewed
22 everything the ZBA has looked at, looked into the people that they're citing in this. She said that actually
23 analyzing what you're getting is incredibly important, and she provided an example that she finds is the
24 most egregious. She said in the PowerPoint that is from Dr. Punch, he relies heavily on Nina Pierpoint's
25 2009 study about wind turbine syndrome that has since been widely debunked in the scientific community
26 and was not properly peer reviewed. She said that Ms. Pierpoint did not actually talk or visit with anybody
27 in person who she said had all of these negative impacts. She said that study is the rubric by which Dr.
28 Punch is doing his analysis, and if one just gives a cursory analysis of the actual scientific basis, there is
29 some disagreement, but it is not widespread disagreement. She said what we have before us is cherry-
30 picked evidence on a particular side, and that could be the responsibility of the fact that other members of
31 the public didn't come, only paid consultants relying on science from a particular viewpoint, but some of
32 it has just been debunked. She said if you want to know what Nina Pierpoint is up to now, she is out there
33 basically questioning the efficacy of COVID vaccines, and is being used widely on internet conspiracy
34 theory websites. She said if you go back and look at some of the other studies, that's what they're basing
35 it on. She said that she gets that the ZBA heard a lot of evidence, but they also have to look at the weight
36 of that evidence. She said she was really glad we had to have this conversation, and particularly the
37 infrasound piece. She said she appreciates that Mr. Elwell said that was the piece that gave him the most
38 pause because that is the piece that gives her the most pause. She said she definitely doesn't want there to
39 be harm to our rural communities, but we have to have a real conversation about what is the harm. She
40 said if you look at lawsuits around health issues, they've been dismissed; if you look at actual studies
41 about property values, they do not reflect the perceived fear of what people are saying. She said at some
42 point, does she have to weigh the perception of harm, or actual harm, and it's our job as people in these
43 positions to figure out is there actual harm, and there just isn't. She said she lives two blocks from West
44 Side Park, and would absolutely put a windmill in West Side Park if somebody would let her. She said
45 she just wanted to share about her opinion and what her thoughts were on these kinds of things, but she
46 thinks it's very important when we have a conversation about harm that we ground it in actual discussions
47 of things that exist in the world. She said she doesn't feel like sometimes the conversations we have do
48 that. She said if there is not actual harm, then in her opinion, and this is actually not something from her
49 side of the aisle, she thinks that property owners should have the right to do with their property what they

1 want if there is not actual harm that is going to come from those decisions. She said she does not think it
2 is the job of government to intervene in situations that do not cause actual harm. She said despite the fact
3 that she has read the packet and gone online to read many of the things that have been put online, she does
4 not think they have provided evidentiary proof that there is actual harm and it is therefore not our business
5 to regulate harm that simply does not exist.
6

7 Mr. Thorsland asked if there were any other members of ELUC who would like to speak. Seeing no one,
8 he asked if there were members of the County Board who would like to speak.
9

10 Stan Harper said he's sure they have heard where he stands on this issue and as Mr. Bates mentioned, he
11 attended at least two of the hearings, listened to a lot of testimony but not as much as the Zoning Board
12 did, so he'll keep his comments simple. He said there are two things: in the whole scope of agriculture,
13 when you take into account the research, the seed, the universities, the unions that produce our products,
14 and manufacturers, Teamsters, and all this, agriculture has been and always will be the economic driver
15 of this county, and these people don't want wind farms in the middle of it.
16

17 Mr. Thorsland asked if there were any other members of the Board who would like to speak.
18

19 Jim Goss said he could probably talk for the next three hours about the evil of wind farms, because he has
20 clients that are property owners and they have chosen wind farms. He said he has managed farms with 14
21 wind turbines on them. He said he could tell them that there were a bunch of very smart attorneys in Ford
22 County who thought they could beat the wind farms; they wanted production leases because they thought
23 the wind farms were going to take the money away. He said what happens there is if these wind farms are
24 such a great thing, why in the world is he getting less money each year than he would have gotten
25 originally. He said because when they can't sell the energy that's needed supposedly, they turn the turbines
26 off. He said they are all computerized; they turn them off because they are not going to let them spin out
27 there. He said it's a business, he gets it, but don't tell him that there's this unbelievable shortage. He said
28 he was just through Paxton the other day, and probably one-third of the turbines were shut off. He asked
29 why that is; they can't all be under maintenance, and if they are, there's a problem with that. He said
30 California Ridge is a classic example; he's never seen a wind farm that has more turbines down all the
31 time. He said he saw one where it looked like the blade was wrapped around the turbine; he doesn't know
32 if the brakes failed in a storm, he doesn't know what it was. He said he has seen blades thrown over there;
33 he doesn't know how far it threw the blade because all he saw was drug back up by the turbine post. He
34 said he doesn't know how far out they found that in somebody's field. He said he sure as hell wouldn't
35 want to live next to them. He said he doesn't have any desire to live next to them. He said in those 14
36 turbines, he can hear them from half a mile away when he is out walking scouting corn on a windy day.
37 He said mind you, almost all of his are less than two megawatts – 1.65 because they are all the old McLean
38 County ones. He said even the ones in Ford County might be 2.3; they were really early stuff, and you can
39 hear them from half a mile away when he is walking through corn over his head. He said don't tell him
40 that 1,200 feet is enough; it's just not, it's ridiculous. He said he agrees, the fact that ELUC even sent
41 something that had an unspecified height was ridiculous, it's lazy, it's dumb. He said we are talking about
42 600 foot turbine tip heights now in McLean County; that jumped in the last two years. He said he hopes,
43 like Mr. Wood said, that the technology gets a lot better, he hopes that they can go back to something that
44 is reasonable, because this is not reasonable. He said these people that don't want to live there. He said
45 unfortunately he manages property for absentee owners, but he has not once, in working with a local
46 attorney and spending \$25,000 in legal fees, not once have they been able to come to a reasonable lease
47 agreement because those leases are one-sided as hell, they protect the wind companies, they do not protect
48 the land owner or the leaseholder. He said your protection is you get paid. He said you don't have good
49 response; they had two family members that changed from a family limited partnership and when mom

1 and dad both passed, they got all the estates cleaned up, they wanted to split out. He said the son got one
2 wind tower, the other son got another wind tower; that transfer happened in 2020. He said they have been
3 holding wind payments since then because they haven't done the legal work. He said he is paying probably
4 \$50 per month for an attorney to call them every single month to do their job, and all they have to do is
5 switch. He said they were in the family limited partnership, were named in the family limited partnership,
6 and they haven't done their job. He said that is the response you get from wind companies; they show up,
7 they blow in there and they blow out of there. He said the people that build them are never to be seen
8 again, they sell two or three times, they sell again because it's an economic factor. He said it's all an
9 algorithm; one runs it for one period of time, somebody else buys it at some point, discounts it, sells it,
10 that's the way, you're never going to have the same owner. He said it's ridiculous at the way they
11 bastardize the rural community. He said if the people do not hire attorneys and spend tons of money, and
12 oh, the wind companies will offer you \$750 – that covers two hours of legal fees – it's absolutely
13 ridiculous. He said that Mr. Esry said exactly what he thinks; ZBA is there for zoning the rural areas, those
14 who live in town have their own zoning. He said there is a reason you don't have a wind tower in West
15 Side Park; there's a reason you don't have one on the quad – because it's not going to be allowed, your
16 municipalities won't allow it. He said the ZBA did their work, he thinks we need to respect that, and we
17 need to respect the citizens that live in the rural part of this county because they're the ones that are putting
18 food on your table.

19
20 Mr. Thorsland thanked Mr. Goss and said he appreciated his input. He said he'll remind people that the
21 ordinance does nothing between the personal negotiations between a land owner and the wind companies;
22 that's not an area that we do anything with. He said it was a little off topic from what we're talking about,
23 but he knows where Mr. Goss was going with what he was saying, sort of to point of character. He said
24 we're trying to stick to these particular things.

25
26 Chris Stohr thanked Chairman Patterson and the people serving on the ZBA. He said given the long
27 meetings and difficult considerations, he appreciates every one of them and the work that they do. He said
28 he agrees with his colleague Ms. Fortado that the ZBA gets to do the dirty work – hold hearings. He said
29 he too has been getting feedback from colleagues seeking advice. He said he didn't really like most of the
30 papers that he read on this; it doesn't seem like good engineering studies to him. He said to Mr. Goss's
31 point, he has heard complaints similar to what he said about the sales and sales of contracts and the
32 difficulties with that, but to Mr. Thorsland's point, that is not the purview of our committee. He said one
33 thing that did kind of raise his attention and has to do with the three points actually, is that we are looking
34 at how the noise might affect human beings, but we have had at least on one occasion and possible two
35 had a veterinarian come here and talk about effects on animals, which is something unknown. He said that
36 is something of a matter of concern for him, because unlike many of the folks who grew up in Illinois, he
37 grew up in Missouri and they don't really do corn and soybeans, they do cattle, chickens and hogs. He
38 said those critters do suffer things differently than humans do and it's kind of difficult to tell how these
39 noise values are going to affect them. He said one of the early folks here talked about the problems of the
40 wind turbines interfering with the ability to spray and seed fields. He said this is also kind of something
41 that was not specifically addressed in the matters that we're considering but is definitely going to have an
42 effect on the management of cover crops. He said looking at the literature such as it is, at least one writer
43 from the Denmark study said that they could find no human health effects that could be attributed to the
44 wind turbines; they found that there was annoyance, but not a health effect. He said that is an important
45 distinction. He said an annoyance that prevents you from sleeping might be called a health effect but
46 mostly these were annoyances and if it's not something as Ms. Fortado said that is affecting health, an
47 annoyance is just that.

48
49 Mr. Thorsland asked if there was anyone else from the Board or ELUC who would like to speak.

1 Mary King said she would also like to thank ZBA for all the work they did on this; she knows that having
2 to listen to hours and hours of testimony is never very much fun because people who usually come to talk
3 to you don't come because they're happy or agreeable with what's happening. She said she knows it takes
4 a lot out of you. She said basically what she wants to say is to get back to the actual discussion of what
5 we're trying to amend here, the authorization. She said what she worries the most about is if we can't
6 come to some kind of agreement or an ordinance that allows for both people to feel like their needs are
7 being met and for wind farms to feel like they can come develop, then this is just going to accelerate the
8 State of Illinois making an overarching law and taking it out of the County's hands entirely. She said if
9 the County of Champaign can't come to a reasonable wind ordinance, then who can. She said she thinks
10 that is something to really keep in mind here, that as it stands right now, we're saying that wind cannot
11 come to Champaign County, and if that happens, the ability for us to make those decisions will just be
12 taken out of our hands.

13

14 Mr. Thorsland asked if there was anyone else from the Board or ELUC who would like to speak.

15

16 Stephanie Fortado said she thinks Ms. King brings up a really important point; there was already a bill in
17 the last cycle to take this decision out of our hands. She said she personally submitted a witness slip against
18 that bill even though that bill would promote wind in the state and in our county because she thinks those
19 decisions should be done locally; she thinks those decisions should be done locally as much as possible.
20 She said however, if a county like Champaign cannot come up with an ordinance that actually balances
21 the need for renewable energy and the property rights and lived experiences of people in the rural
22 communities, that decision is going to be taken out of our hands. She said it is; the righting is on the wall.
23 She said she is just going to be blunt; the recommendations of the ZBA do not get us there. She said no
24 matter what you say, you could go negotiate individually with property owners, this will be read on a state
25 level, it will be understood as us putting out a sign that says, "wind don't come here." She said she really
26 thinks it will be a step closer to that decision being taken out of our local community's hands. She said
27 what we're going to end up having is that we're not going to be able to have meetings like this anymore
28 because it's going to be decided at a state level.

29

30 Mr. Thorsland said the ZBA members have a three hour time limit, and we've approached that. He said
31 he doesn't want to stop this meeting in a screeching halt right now because he thinks we need to make a
32 decision about when the next one will be, because clearly we'll probably have another one. He told Mr.
33 Elwell that it's his Board, and asked if he was willing to stay another 15 minutes or so.

34

35 Mr. Randol said 15 minutes wouldn't solve anything.

36

37 Mr. Elwell said 15 minutes would give us an opportunity to chat about the next meeting date. He asked
38 Mr. Thorsland if we could do it in 10 minutes.

39

40 Mr. Thorsland said he thought we could do it in five minutes. He said unless there is a Board member here
41 tonight who has no ability to ever come back, raise your hand and do your five minutes; if not, he thinks
42 we need to look at scheduling another joint meeting because he thinks we've had good dialogue here
43 tonight. He said we've got a lot of rationale from the ZBA and hearing from where ELUC is coming from
44 and we can try to work together to resolve this in some way that is acceptable to everyone including
45 everyone in the room. He said Mr. Hall has the calendar out, and Mr. Thorsland said he would start with
46 the caveats that we don't have typically anything but a County Board meeting in July, and that's because
47 staff and Board members and everybody doesn't want to do this three or four times a month every month.
48 He said he would suggest, since we have an ordinance in place, that there's not a rush to do this and
49 interrupt people's summertime, so maybe we want to look at September.

1 Mr. Hall said that September 1 is an open Thursday.

2
3 Mr. Thorsland asked ZBA members if that would tentatively be an open time for them. He asked Mr. Hall
4 if that was not a ZBA regular meeting date.

5
6 Mr. Hall said correct.

7
8 Mr. Thorsland said that's an open Thursday. He said he would defer to Mr. Elwell; if he would rather do
9 a joint meeting on a ZBA night that they would normally meet anyway, depending upon what the case
10 load is, and he knows that fluctuates this time of year. He said rather than adding a meeting to the ZBA
11 schedule, ELUC would be adding one to theirs, but they're happy to do that. He asked Mr. Hall what the
12 next regular ZBA available date would be.

13
14 Mr. Hall said it would be September 15th.

15
16 Mr. Thorsland asked Mr. Elwell if he would want to do this on what would be a normal ZBA meeting
17 night, and it would be run the same way if they can handle the ZBA caseload. He said that way they're
18 not making the ZBA folks come and listen to ELUC on an extra night.

19
20 Mr. Elwell said personally he thinks this needs to be the focus of the meeting. He said September 1st
21 sounds like a good time to continue with this conversation.

22
23 Mr. Thorsland said his only worry is that is Labor Day weekend. He said for September 15th, everyone is
24 back in school, we're not harvesting yet unless it's a fantastically great year, or your wheat is really late,
25 so he would lean to the 15th because everyone is settled into their fall schedule and this doesn't add an
26 extra meeting for ZBA.

27
28 Mr. Elwell said so there's nothing on the docket for the 15th.

29
30 Mr. Hall said correct.

31
32 Mr. Elwell said his opinion is still that this needs to be the sole focus of the conversation. He said he
33 understands about the holiday and if there's nothing on the docket for the 15th, he thinks that would be a
34 good date.

35
36 Mr. Thorsland said we'll tentatively schedule the next joint meeting. He asked the audience to fill out the
37 attendance sheet if they haven't already so they will be notified of the meeting date and time. He said it
38 would probably be very similar to what we've done tonight, we'll allow public input, we'll try to allow
39 people to only bring new things forward. He said we hear and understand what has been said, some of us
40 have heard it more than once, but this will give people the chance to be before and watch the process of
41 both ZBA and ELUC together. He thanked everyone and said he really appreciated everyone who came
42 and spoke tonight, he appreciated the ZBA coming and putting up with an extra night of this. He said we
43 would see everyone on September 15th.

44
45 Mr. Elwell thanked Mr. Thorsland.

46
47 Mr. Thorsland adjourned the meeting at 9:40pm.

48
49