

Keith and Julie BOUGOURD  
15 La Besse  
Videix, 87600

bougourdjulie@gmail.com

Siège Social  
Valeco,  
Montpellier

For attention of: Mme Blandine BOYEAU

16 Avril 2019

Bonjour,

### **Proposed Wind Farm at Videix.**

We have been advised to notify you in advance of planning permission being sought or obtained, that the proposal to install a Wind Farm just 500 meters from our home, and businesses will contravene our Human Rights and Civil Liberties.

We are making this declaration before planning applications have been submitted, since it is then deemed that the development company and your Offices have been given sufficient notice to research alternative locations or make significant changes to the proposals so that we will not be irrevocably and detrimentally affected.

The issues are as follows:

Gites:

1. We run a successful and profitable Gite business, being accredited 4 and 3 epis. The two gites are located just 500 meters from the closest boundary in La Besse. As mentioned, the gites have been accredited with classified 'meublé de tourisme' status through Gites de France, whose policy is clear, in that they will NOT award accreditations to premises located near Wind Farms.
2. The gites only have windows to the front of the properties, which face directly towards the proposed site.
3. The noise from the turbines at just 500 meters will be unacceptable, especially during the summer months when windows must be left open due to the high temperatures.
4. The flashing red lights at night again, being only 500 meters from the facing bedroom windows, will not be acceptable or tolerable to paying guests. A lot of our guests marvel at the night skies; we are fortunate not to have any light pollution so the skies are quite spectacular. We have also invested in a telescope so that guests can enjoy the experience.
5. The strobe-light effect from the sunset through the blades will be straight into the gardens, and the gite living and bedrooms. As above, the only external light sources are facing the proposed site.
6. The building of the infrastructure prior to the installation of the turbines could last up to 2 years. At 500 meters our guests would be entitled to refunds or compensation since they would be severely inconvenienced by the noise and disruption when they come to this "peaceful, rural retreat". See our website [www.giteslimousin.com](http://www.giteslimousin.com)

We have had guests visit us from 8 different countries; and we already have several repeat guests, some have returned for the 4 years we have been open. We will be contacting

guests to obtain testimonies as to why they choose to return to this particular location and why the tranquility of the surrounding area is so important to them.

Self-employment:

1. Both my husband and I work from home; the studio is located just 500 meters from the proposed site. We would therefore be subjected to 24-hour sound and infrasound disturbance.
2. We have to work with the doors and windows open in the summer due to the high temperatures; so would be subject to the increased, irregular sound disturbance of the turbines, and the infrasound effects on health and well being.
3. The studio has only one directional source of external light; the strobe effects caused by reflections or shadows will be a constant distraction from the intricate and skilled work undertaken. Shutters, blinds or curtains are not an option; daylight being a fundamental source of light for this type of work.

Income:

With the UK currently withdrawing from the European Union, as British citizens, we are obliged to apply for a Carte de Sejour in order to have the right to remain legally in France. One of the stipulations for the Carte de Sejour is a specified, guaranteed income. We currently meet that income level and with the recent opening of our second gite in 2018, our forecasts can only increase.

The gites have been accredited with classified 'meublé de tourisme' status through Gites de France; at a cost to myself. This status allows me certain tax advantages as well as a clientele that is reassured of the quality of the product they are renting. With the installation of a Wind Farm at just 500 meters from my premises, Gites de France would strip me of these accreditations. Not only does this mean we will lose our clientele, but also the direct cost of our business in terms of tax and social contributions will double. Your proposals to build a wind farm just 500 meters from this thriving gite business would irrevocably deprive me of my income; rendering me financially insecure. We would no longer be able to meet the requirements to remain in France, in our home.

It is highly possible in this scenario that my husband and I will have our right to reside revoked and would no longer be able to live in our home or work here.

Property:

We bought this property over 5 years ago using all of our life savings; we have built it up from a shell to a successful business; whilst also generating a worthwhile income via tourism, to this very rural area of France. Supporting local businesses, leisure industries, shops and restaurants in the area. This is our only property, we do not have a 'second home' back in the UK; we have spent every penny of our life savings here and on the renovation of our home and businesses.

Our properties combined are currently valued at \*\*\* € which is not much more than we have invested into them. However, with the installation of the turbines as close as 500 meters to us our properties immediately devalue from anything between 30 and 50%. We did not move here to "make a profit" on our home; we moved here to live and work, and make our life here. We cannot accept being forced to move, at a significant loss to ourselves (that is if we could find a buyer) due to the installation of a Wind farm that is proven to be detrimental to health and well-being; as well as abhorred by tourists.

You would therefore not only put us in the position of not being able to meet the requirements to remain in France, in our home; but also in the position of not being able to sell our property.

We fully understand that this letter has no current legal significance, but it may afford us recourse after the event should you proceed with your plans to implement the wind farm just 500 meters away from our home and businesses. It has been explained to me that now that you are in possession of the facts, you will knowingly be violating our human rights.

We remain at your disposal, kind regards

Keith BOUGOURD

Julie BOUGOURD

CC: Le Maire, Videix

*Droit à la vie, à la liberté et à la sécurité de la personne (Article 3 de la DUDH: articles 6 et 9 du PIDCP; C155 de l'OIT)*

*Droit à un niveau de vie suffisant pour lui-même et sa famille (DUDH, article 25; PIDESC, article 9)*

*Droit à la santé (PIDESC, article 12)*

*Droit à un recours effectif (DUDH, article 8: articles 2 du PIDCP)*

*Droit de participer à la vie culturelle, de bénéficier des progrès scientifiques et de protéger les droits de propriété intellectuelle (DUDH, article 27; PIDESC, article 15; OIT C169)*

*Droit de propriété (Article 17 de la DUDH)*

*Right to Life, Liberty and security of person (UDHR Article 3: ICCPR Articles 6, 9; ILO C155)*

*Right to adequate standard of living for self and family (UDHR Article 25; ICESCR Article 9)*

*Right to health (ICESCR Article 12)*

*Right to an effective remedy (UDHR Article 8: ICCPR Articles 2)*

*Right to participate in cultural life, benefit from scientific progress, and protect intellectual property rights (UDHR Article 27; ICESCR Article 15; ILO C169)*

*Right to own property (UDHR Article 17)*