

## Shari Moore - Hearing tonight on Metro State Wind Turbine Proposal

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**From:** <rgymbenson@comcast.net>  
**To:** <Kathy.Lantry@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Date:** 4/4/2012 1:38 PM  
**Subject:** Hearing tonight on Metro State Wind Turbine Proposal

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Dear Kathy,

I'm contacting you to express my opposition to Metro State's wind turbine project.

Aside from the fact that this project was rejected by the District 4 Council and the St. Paul Zoning Commission, I'm incredulous that Metro State and the Planning Commission are still determined to push this project forward, despite the fact it will accomplish absolutely nothing. According to Metro State, the reason they accepted the funding for this project from Xcel is to add additional exterior lighting to their campus, which would appear to defeat the whole purpose of energy conservation. Since we live in the neighborhood, we can and do observe their campus at night. They have plenty of exterior lighting.

Additionally, this project does absolutely nothing to benefit the surrounding neighborhood. Homeowners in the Dayton's Bluff Historic District have to fight tooth and nail to make any changes to the exterior of their homes, whether it's paint, siding, windows, or a new roof. This project is industrial in nature and has no business being located in a historic residential area as it would create an eyesore and would disrupt the migratory pattern of eagles, hawks, owls, herons, and other species of birds. The suggestion was made that Metro State locate the wind turbine on their property at 6<sup>th</sup> St and Mounds Blvd, but evidently Metro State doesn't think that location is aesthetically appropriate. So the location of the turbine is aesthetically more pleasing a stone's throw from our neighborhood???

Finally, it's not like we haven't already had difficulties with Metro State. For years we've had to put up with their students and faculty using every single available parking space on our streets, so much so that homeowners have been forced to park 1-2 blocks away simply because Metro State parkers refuse to use the lot provided by Metro State. It's also impossible for residents to have visitors during the week because there's no place for them to park! Ten years later, Metro State has finally decided to include the \$2.50/day parking fee in their tuition...something the neighborhood suggested at least five years ago...and construction of a parking ramp. Another eyesore to be sure, and it's still a few years from fruition, but at least someday the neighborhood might get its streets back.

It's apparent that our neighborhood has become the favorite location for social experimentation in recent years. Because we're located on the east side of St. Paul it seems various organizations (People, Inc., Lutheran Social Services, and now Metro State) have made the mistake of assuming they could impose their will on our community without opposition. Ask People, Inc., and Lutheran Social Services how that worked out. We are a vital and cohesive neighborhood that has had to fight to preserve the character and unique qualities that make our community such a great area in which to live and raise families.

I add my voice to those of my neighbors in opposing this latest “social experiment” and I strongly urge you to vote against this project and for the city’s neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Vickie Benson  
657 North St  
St Paul MN 55106