From:
To: Committee, EC (SEN)
Subject:
Date:

To the Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications.

Dear secretary,
I have been made aware of a campaign to further restrict wind farms on the false basis of problematic noise.
I ask that you visit a wind farm on a windy day and assess the noise characteristics of turbines for yourself. The anti wind frm lobby is driven by fossil fuel interests and fear for the future of carbon intensive energy. Their actions are a betrayal of the national interest, which is served by a rapid drawdown of CO2 from the atmosphere.
I do not support the adoption of the excessive noise bill for the following reasons:

1. Current noise guidelines work well and are already very restrictive
2. The bill seeks to apply an arbitrary and unscientific noise limit to wind farms
3. Noise guidelines should be part of state planning regimes and not imposed by the federal government
4. Wind farms are good for regional economies and create jobs

On a larger scale, Australia has a vast resource potential for wind energy and currently has 59 wind farms, consisting of 1,345 wind turbines with 2,480 megawatts of capacity. In addition to over $7 billion of direct investment, a recent independent report by consultants SKM[1] indicates that wind farms generate significant extra funds for local suppliers, contractors, shopkeepers, community facilities and more, with up to 12 extra ongoing jobs created as a flow-on effect of having a 50 MW wind farm locally.

Wind farming can help farmers generate vital extra income, make better use of marginal farming land, and insure against market downturns. Hosting five wind turbines for the Capital Wind Farm near Lake George in New South Wales has made it possible for Peter and Bev Keatley to stay on their property and make it viable to pass on to their son. Peter is proud of his role in providing clean energy, and calls the wind farm income - $10,000 per turbine per year - 'my super'[2].

[1] Available at:
www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/cec/misc/gwd<http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/cec/misc/gwd>

[2] Country Style magazine, January 2012