

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

TCC  
Pre-Filed Testimony  
Phyllis Riikonen  
EXH-5603\_R

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
ENERGY FACILITY SITING EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of the Application of:

DOCKET NO. EF-210011

Scout Clean Energy, LLC, for  
Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC,  
Applicant.

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF TCC  
WITNESS PHYLLIS RIIKONEN

**WITNESS**

Q: Please state your name, employer (if relevant) and home address.

A: Phyllis Riikonen, Self-employed (Realtor), 52123 E Taggart Pr SE, Benton City, WA

Q Please briefly describe your work experience and qualifications.

A: I have been a licensed Realtor in Washington state for 18 years. I have resided in  
and practiced real estate in the Tri-cities area for almost 4 years.

Q: Please state how long have you lived at this address and why you chose to live  
here.

A: My husband and I purchased this property primarily because of the incredible  
views. When we built our home, it was positioned with intent and has large picture

1 windows to enjoy the scenic views of the Horse Heaven Hills. We have been living in  
2 our home since May 2022.

3  
4 Q: Please describe your opinion on the effect this project will have on property value  
5 of your home and other homes in the area.

6  
7 A: I believe that having a wind farm with windmills disrupting the beautiful views from  
8 our home will have a great impact on the value of our property as well as the other  
9 homes in the Tri-Cities area that have views of the Horse Heaven Hills. As a realtor,  
10 being able to state that a listed property has a view provides cause for added value.

11  
12 There is no one who would give added value to have a "view" of windmills and, in fact,  
13 the presence of windmills may greatly deter buyers from even considering such a  
14 property. There are a number of reasons why I feel a windmill farm would reduce the  
15 value of properties - less than desirable view, health concerns, problems reselling the  
16 property in the future - to name a few.

17  
18  
19 Q: Please describe your opinion of any other issues or concerns you have about the  
20 project.

21  
22  
23 A: Besides the property values being affected by the potential windmills, I have a great  
24 concern for the wildlife in the Horse Heaven Hills. For example, I have witnessed the  
25 migration patterns of both Canada geese and snow geese as they pass through our  
26 area on their journey to the north in the spring and south in the fall. There have been

1 hundreds of geese at a time that have rested overnight in the farmland behind our  
2 home. Geese taking off from the valley floor have flown up the ravine right near our  
3 home and over the fields as they gained elevation and maneuvered into their "V"  
4 formations. None of this could possibly take place if the proposed windmills were  
5 there.  
6

7  
8 Another concern is the lack of choice or voice the local community has had in this  
9 situation. It is our community and the citizens of the Tri-cities and surrounding areas  
10 who will be impacted if this project moves forward should absolutely have had a right  
11 to vote on the matter.  
12

13  
14 I am voluntarily supporting and coordinating with the local community non-profit  
15 organization Tri-City CARES. I am here to share my concerns about the impacts the  
16 Horse Heaven Hills Project will have on my home, property values, and the other  
17 homes in my neighborhood and other similarly situated neighborhoods in Tri-Cities. I  
18 acknowledge that I may be cross-examined during the adjudication hearings.  
19

20 I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that  
21 my testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
22

23 Signed this   2   day of July, 2023, in   Benton City, Washington  .

24 Phyllis Riikonen \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Printed Name Signature  
26