



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Office of the Governor

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

January 21, 2016

The Honorable Donald M. Scothorn, Chair  
Botetourt County Board of Supervisors  
1 West Main Street  
Fincastle, Virginia 24090

Dear Chairman Scothorn and Members of the Board:

I am writing in support of Apex Clean Energy's application for permit and a special exception permit for Rocky Forge wind farm.

If approved, this site would be home to the first wind farm in Virginia and would mark a huge step towards the Commonwealth's renewable energy goals. Additionally, Jerry Fraley is currently in discussion with the U.S. Forest Service and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to preserve his 9,800 acre property in perpetuity. This conservation easement would be the second largest in the state, a considerable accomplishment in its own right.

I have personally visited the proposed site and met with Mr. Fraley. Having toured his property, I can attest to both its beauty and ecological significance. We are grateful for Mr. Fraley's vision, his devotion to his land, and his commitment to stewardship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Ward".

Molly Joseph Ward