



The University of Oklahoma

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

22 June 2001

email: dmock@ou.edu

Mr. Mike Bergey, President and CEO
Bergey Windpower
2001 Priestley Avenue
Norman, OK 73069

Dear Mr. Bergey:

I write today in response to your request for a letter of assessment on how your wind turbines have affected the population of birds we have been studying on North Base. As you know, my wife (Dr. P.L. Schwagmeyer) and I put up nest boxes in 1993 and have been maintaining an individually-marked population of house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) for the eight breeding seasons since. With a number of able field assistants, we spend literally hundreds of hours capturing, banding, marking, and re-sighting these birds every summer and have built a multi-year data set that has included several thousand of these small songbirds. To this day we have no records of any of our birds having been harmed in any way by the Bergey Windpower turbines, nor by the vertical shafts that support the blades. These structures are within 150' of the nearest nests. Most of the sparrow mortality we see on North Base has come from predatory birds of other species, most notably European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*), and loggerhead shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*). The very presence of these birds suggests that your operations are not harming them, either.

Please let me know if you need any further details.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas W. Mock
Professor