



North American  
Platform Against **Windpower**

Letter to Chairman, President and CEO, Ginni Rometty  
IBM Corporation  
New Orchard Road  
Armonk, New York 10504  
C.c. Board of Directors

IBM Non-Management Directors  
c/o Chair, IBM Directors and Corporate Governance Committee  
International Business Machines Corporation  
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(Please forward to Executive Directors, and Board)

September 10, 2014

Dear Ms. Rometty,

NA-PAW (North American Platform Against Wind Power) is an umbrella organization representing over 350 North American groups opposed to industrial wind power proliferation. We liaise with many other European organizations, whose numbers are in excess of 800 member groups. We are extremely concerned about the foundation of mythologies that have led to the proliferation of an energy industry that is not viable without massive subsidies, and which has infiltrated policy and law at every level, universally, with serious negative repercussions for economies, the environment, and human health.

We regret that we must address a few concerns about an IBM employee currently working in Singapore, whose extracurricular writing and activities may pose a conflict of interest, or be problematic in his adequate and fair representation of his roles and responsibilities for IBM. We are also concerned about a possible conflict of interest in the well-known and self-admitted taking of other contracts, that he is solicited for, that may be in conflict with standards or ethics your company business mandates for employees.

<http://www.ibm.com/investor/att/pdf/BCG2014.pdf>

We wonder if you are aware of Mr. Mike Barnard's apparent significant use of time, while working for IBM, to brandish slander against wind turbine protestors, against physicians, researchers, acousticians, and any one really in the path of exposing what most now see as a corrupt and vast empire of scheming to obtain lucrative subsidies, tax credits, loan forgivenesses, at the expense of wildlife, human health, and certainly economies, without providing society benefit, or any of the other fantastical claims of the industry.

Unfortunately, Mr. Barnard slips into slander, and outright misrepresentations at every turn. This is widely understood, and it must not continue. We are requesting that this behaviour stop, and that your organization, his workplace, immediately investigate his slander and gross misrepresentations, befuddlements, or worse, and either reprimand or suitably address the taint he is placing on IBM worldwide.

I would point you to [this article](#), by J.A. Rovensky, which is now circulating around the world. The writing of Mr. Barnard is less than objective, and he has as noted, been retained or engaged to promote wind turbine development, and to obviously provide this industry with fodder for maintaining its obfuscation, because that is the only thing it does well.

“Mr Barnard, and those whose commercial interests he is working so hard to protect, is involved in a grubby, dishonest, misinformation and vilification campaign, as part of a global defence strategy for the global wind industry. This industry has been well aware of the problems directly caused by wind turbine noise since 1987, when Dr Neil Kelley's research [12] establishing direct causation of annoyance symptoms from infrasound and low frequency noise was presented at the American Wind Energy Association conference.

Mr Barnard and his associates' behaviour is further eroding the personal and professional reputations of all those involved, and eroding the reputations of the companies and organisations they work for, including in this instance IBM.”

We do not believe IBM welcomes the extra-curricular efforts of an employee speaking out on issues where he a) has no suitable training, and b) uses very primitive ad hominem to promote and stabilize an industry that has always had trouble looking facts in the eye.

Further: Mr. Barnard's assertions that victims of wind turbines are manufacturing a NOCEBO effect, and leaving homes for no reason, or malingering over countless ailments, is shattering to people who have in cases lost their health, their most valuable assets, their homes, their community vibrancy, and even sometimes, their lives. Perhaps this is the most uncomfortable, dominating feature of the bullying and manufacture of the Barnard "reality." Please note the [article outlining the Danish High Court's ruling](#) recently to compensate victims of wind noise.

We note in your "[Conflict of Interest](#)" pages of your Employee Standards documents, that:

**"A conflict of interest** occurs when you advance a personal interest at the expense of IBM's interests. Some conflicts of interest can be avoided through careful foresight and planning. Others are unavoidable. In some cases, the mere potential for or perception of a conflict can be problematic. It is up to you to avoid situations in which your loyalty may become divided."

We are unclear as to the nature of Mr. Barnard's time and professional arrangement with IBM, but suggest that his copious writing and work in other areas to promote wind power and denigrate professionals engaged in seeking the truth and protecting innocent victims, may be in conflict with the business and ethical framework of IBM.

We also question the promotion of wind power from any one of your employees. IBM is in the business of promoting business efficiency, and increasing profitability and economic advancement. The wind industry is literally a killer of jobs. Ontario Canada has lost 340,000 jobs in the last 8 years, and experts attest to the contribution of the high subsidies for wind and solar, that drive out manufacturing jobs. Please also note [the studies in Spain](#), conducted by Professor Alvarez at Ray Juan Carlos University, where it is estimated that 2.2 jobs were lost for every so called "green" job. This study further references that the US should "expect" 9 job losses for every 4 created, due to renewable energy mandates.

"This (the renewable energy frenzy) came at great financial cost as well as cost in terms of jobs destroyed elsewhere in the economy." And, "The study calculates that since 2000 Spain spent €571,138 to create each "green job", including subsidies of more than €1 million per wind industry job."

Mr. Barnard seems to be diametrically in opposition to the business model of IBM, which again, is to promote robust and efficient economic advancement.

In Section 5.3, you outline:

**“Public Service and Political Activity**

IBM encourages all employees to pursue personal interests, including active participation in their communities. While the vast majority of such interests pose no particular concerns for your IBM position, some do. **Certain off-the-job activities can affect your IBM position, or can otherwise reflect negatively on IBM (our emphasis).** In cases where there is doubt, you must decide whether you can avoid harm through careful management of your conduct, or whether harm is unavoidable, and therefore the activity must be avoided.”

We respectfully suggest to you that IBM is being immeasurably harmed with the slanderous and incorrect environmental assertions re wind power that Mr. Barnard perpetuates, apparently at his own admission, for contracted fees. We again ask that all of these activities immediately cease, and that a public apology be given to various prestigious scientists and researchers, etc., whose names have been egregiously slandered by Mr. Barnard. [Some of these apologies](#) would be aimed at: Dr. Sarah Laurie, AU, Dr. Nina Pierpont, USA, Dr. Robert McMurtry, Order of Canada, and esteemed orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Michael Nissenbaum, radiologist, Bill Palmer, Nuclear Safety Expert and P. Eng., Lori Davies, MSW...the list goes on in astonishing rumble of misrepresentation and slander. The Barnard assertions about the failures of legal challenges to wind projects are astonishing in that everyone knows legal frameworks have carefully been crafted worldwide, and policy driven relentlessly toward the promotion and safe sail of wind developers. (It would take us a much longer essay to address Mr. Barnard’s twists on facts.)

We recognize that IBM has high environmental standards. We do not believe that IBM promotes wind power, and we have not witnessed indulgence in advertising for wind power. NA-PAW and other agencies and individuals recently contacted FORD Motor Company, Canada (by phone and emails), which was using wind turbines as a backdrop for a few TV ads. Their corporate commercial branch responsible for advertising immediately pulled the ads. The public outrage was extremely widespread and vocal, relentless, until those ads were gone.

Industrial wind, widely promoted by Mr. Barnard, creates immense environmental problems from carbon fibre blades that are now mountains of junk that cannot be recycled, to toxic rare earth elements in the magnets, to habitat destruction, and loss of wildlife, birds and

bats mortality measuring in the millions, even to the complete near extinction of some species, as well as invasive cement [intrusions into water systems, which problems](#) are now being recounted in various parts of the world. Ironically, industrial wind is an eco-fringe activity, not viable, always needing back up from gas, coal, nuclear, hydro, and costing economies to catapult, and driving industry out or to bankruptcy. Spain is now crawling back from its subsidy hell, and near bankruptcy, and demanding retroactive returns of the high level subsidies that drove unemployment to record highs. Magna, the largest car parts manufacturer in Canada, recently indicated they will no longer invest in Ontario, as the cost of power is untenable: the INCREASED cost of power for Magna during ONE year, 2013-14, was 30 million, just in the normal course of business. This is due mostly to the huge subsidies given to wind developers and preferred access to the grid, on the backs of ordinary citizens' hydro bills.

The largest irony is that this industry which promotes itself on environmental benefits and lower GHGs, is actually the worst, and produces no savings in GHGs at all, but actually increases them, and contributes less than half of one percent to the world's power: net zero!

It is our view that Mr. Barnard is actively tainting the wonderful reputation of IBM worldwide. There are obvious legal ramifications to Mr. Barnard's slander. The "perception of a conflict" is now widespread, and we ask respectfully that you act immediately on this information.

Thank you kindly. Please respond in writing at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Sherril Lange  
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