

State of Nebraska

Accountability and Disclosure Commission

P.O. BOX 95086
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
nadc.nebraska.gov



Centre Terrace, 1225 L St. #400
Phone (402) 471-2522
Fax (402) 471-6599

February 3, 2025

Steve Farris
17369 Road 54
Oshkosh, NE 69154

Re: Your C-2A filed on January 31, 2025

Dear Mr. Farris,

We are in receipt of a C-2A Potential Conflict of Interest Statement ("Statement") which you filed with the NADC on January 31, 2025. We thank you for your Statement, and we will address the question of possible conflict posed by it.

Facts. You are a Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission ("Commission") of Garden County. On Wednesday, February 5, 2025, the Commission will be meeting. On the agenda is a Moratorium to be voted on. As we understand it, the Moratorium would provide a period of time in which the Commission would not take action or make recommendations with respect to matters involving wind and solar energy.

You are a realtor, and you have certain interests in property in Garden County. We have had an opportunity to discuss the proposed Moratorium with you.

Applicable Law. As a member of the Commission, and Chairman you are a "public official", as that term is defined in the Nebraska Public Accountability and Disclosure Act ("NPADA"). Section 49-1443 defines that term to mean, "...an...appointed official in...a political subdivision [of the State]."

Section 49-1499.03 provides as follows:

"Any public official of any political subdivision not designated in section 49-1493 who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her official duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated,....shall take the following actions..."

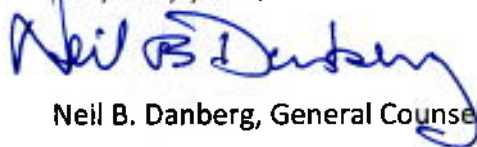
The actions include filing a Statement, as you have done, and requesting that the NADC provide a response to your Statement.

Analysis. We have discussed the nature of the Moratorium with you and with others who would be making a decision upon it. We have also discussed the Moratorium with the Garden County Planning and Zoning Administrator. We conclude that the Moratorium, which is essentially a standstill Agreement which will preserve the status quo for the period as prescribed in the said Moratorium, does not provide a financial benefit or detriment to you, and you would not have a conflict of interest in casting a vote on the Moratorium.

We thank you for presenting your Statement to the NADC in a timely fashion, and for seeking an opinion with respect to it. If any of the facts which we have cited above are incorrect or incomplete, please contact us, since this may affect the conclusion as stated in this letter. In the future, if there are other matters related to wind energy which you will be voting upon, consider filing a C-2A, and requesting an opinion from the NADC.

Please call me at 402-471-0846 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil B. Danberg", is written over the typed name and title.

Neil B. Danberg, General Counsel

**NEBRASKA
ACCOUNTABILITY AND
DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**
P.O. Box 95086
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-2522
<https://nadc.nebraska.gov>

BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM
READ THE FILING REQUIREMENTS
ON PAGE 3

**POTENTIAL CONFLICT
OF INTEREST
STATEMENT**

NADC FORM C-2A

POSTMARK
DATE

EW 1/31/25

OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2025

NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY
and
DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

- Any public official of any political subdivision must file this form if he or she has a potential conflict of interest. Additionally, any employee of a political subdivision whose annual salary and benefits exceed \$150,000 must file this form if he or she has a potential conflict of interest.
Exception: Public officials required to file a Statement of Financial Interests (Form C-1) should file Form C-2.
- This form should be filed with the person who normally keeps records for the political subdivision. The form may be filed with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission to request an opinion from the NADC.
- Persons who fail to disclose a potential conflict of interest or who otherwise do not comply with the law are subject to penalties.

ITEM 1 NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER

Name Farris Steve Matthews Telephone No 308-778-6705
Last First Middle
Address 17369 RD 54 Oshkosh NE 69154
STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE City STATE ZIP CODE

ITEM 2 TITLE, AGENCY, ADDRESS AND PHONE

Your Title Member Agency Garden County Zoning Committee
Agency Address _____
Agency Phone _____

ITEM 3 DESCRIBE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN DETAIL (Use Item 6 Continuation, if necessary)

Date action is to be taken or decision is to be made: 02/05/2025

Description of Potential Conflict: _____

If a Wind Farm will have a negative or positive affect on my business? I am a realtor with Live Water Properties, LLC based in Jackson, WY, licensed in NE and CO specializing in representing buyers and sellers of land. I also have a business named Farris Hunting Development, LLC whereby I am hired to do wetlands restoration and habitat improvements for hunting. I am also a musician that had success in the 80s and 90s and receive royalties for recordings. And lastly I run a small boutique Hunting club that is not open to the public, or take bookings. There is no website nor anything like it. Just people that know each other and write checks to help cover the costs of running it. So in Garden County there is currently a large wind farm to be constructed. And as always, in these things, there are people for it, usually those that are gaining financial financially (meaning those companies that build the wind farms, along with those people at least their land to them for such), and there are those against it, usually seems like a majority of the community and certainly does here. To be clear I am against wind farms, and for a number of reasons. But whether or not it has a direct effect on my business is unknown. We created a setback seven years ago when there was another potential wind farm to be built. And that setback protects three Game refuges in the county. Even talking to my attorney I don't believe I have a conflict of interest. I just know that I don't like them or want them. That is based on a number of reasons. And yes, there are many studies to show they are harmful to Wildlife. But there's another gentleman on our committee that will directly benefit without question. But I can't see that I have any measurable direct loss, or benefit from Wind Turbines, particularly if they are beyond the setbacks put in place. I just simply don't like them and believe they are only hurting the ecosystem, not helping it. But that is not a conflict of interest.

Revised July 2024

ITEM 4 PERSONS WHO MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT☒ You☐ Member of your Immediate Family: Steve Farris

NAME

Business With Which You

☒ Are Associated (See Definitions) Live Water Properties, Farris Hunting Development, LLC

NAME OF BUSINESS

ITEM 5 NATURE OF FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT**ITEM 6 CONTINUATION**

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

01/31/2025