

Orme, Gareth

From: Sondra Wolferman <jperrin21@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Orme, Gareth
Subject: Anthracite Ridge Wind Energy Project

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Dear Senator,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming virtual public hearing on the proposed Anthracite Ridge Wind Farm Project, which you will be hosting on January 28. I am a resident of Carbon County and a frequent visitor to the Anthracite region in Schuylkill County, where I enjoy hiking and visiting natural and historic sites in the region.

The proposed site of this wind farm project is a globally recognized migration corridor along the Atlantic Flyway for migrating songbirds, raptors, and other wildlife species of special concern in Pennsylvania. Moreover, it is among the most scenic, biologically diverse, and historically significant regions in the Commonwealth, visited year-round by thousands of tourists and outdoor enthusiasts who come here to hunt, fish, hike, birdwatch, and explore the region's history. These activities help to support the local economy.

The proposed layout of the industrial wind turbines as presented in a preliminary map of the project is shocking to me. The turbines could impact viewsheds and habitats over a vast region that includes such scenic and ecological gems as Weiser State Forest, State Game Lands 211, St. Anthony's Wilderness, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Clark's Ferry, Stony Valley, Fishing Creek Valley, and the abandoned Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad. The proposed industrial turbines could be visible from some of these resources, including the Appalachian Trail, presenting a major drawback for tourism and quality of life for residents who live in the area.

Despite proponents who claim that wind energy is a "clean and green" source of energy, the promotion of industrial wind projects is not an effective strategy for combatting climate change in Pennsylvania. It is true that when they are producing energy—which according to some experts is less than 50% of the time—industrial wind turbines generate little or no pollution. However, these same turbines generate significant amounts of carbon pollution during other stages of their "life cycle", beginning with the energy and raw materials (steel, fiberglass, plastics) consumed during the initial manufacture of components, followed by land development, diesel fuel burned by ships and trucks transporting turbine parts from factory to construction site, petroleum products used in maintenance and operation of the turbines, and ending with their eventual deconstruction for recycling or disposal. It is predicted that our

nation will face a major waste disposal crisis as more and more non-recyclable turbine blades come offline at the end of their 20-25-year lifespan. Most will end up in landfills, where they pose a threat of soil and water contamination.

When considering a project of this magnitude, it is imperative that we ask ourselves: Will the amount of “clean energy” generated by this project be sufficient to offset the environmental, social, and economic impacts, including deforestation and fragmentation of habitats for infrastructure and service roads, the potential harm to birds, bats, bees, and other wildlife, and the carbon emissions generated by the manufacture, transport, construction, operation, and disposal of waste material for this major industrial project?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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