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PAGE 4A

## Community left out?

**Dear Editor:**

Two hundred plus people sat and stood in the Williamsburg Community Building to hear a presentation by a representative of Invenergy. In attendance were Jesse Guills, Tom Campbell, and Ray Canterbury, as well as a representative of Nick Joe Rahall. It is unclear if a member of the County Com-

mission was present.

Invenergy plans to build a wind farm on numerous ridges spanning Trout, going onwards for 15 miles. The proposal has not as yet been submitted, yet three meetings, including last night's, have already been held for information sharing and the expression of concerns of members of Greenbrier and surrounding counties. Once the proposal is submitted, if it is, 270 days are allowed for public comment, etc.

The meeting was orderly. Presentations were made on both sides of the proposal. A question and answer period followed. Unfortunately, the representative from Invenergy had a significant number of "I don't know" responses to many reasonable questions raised. Benefits to the community suggested by the company were refuted point by point by a local team giving well-researched data applying to the local environment, community, tax base, etc.

Several issues regarding potential and real environmental impact have not as yet been fully researched by Invenergy. As a physician, I am well aware

of what a lengthy process sound research is, and the time it takes to tabulate unbiased findings.

I cannot help but wonder what the outcome would be had all the parties interested in the current Bond issue been allowed to participate in forums such as the above. I cannot understand why the Bond issue has come up with such speed, relatively unannounced, and with minimal input from community members. (Letters to the Editor and Guest Commentaries really do not do much to promote the democratic exchange of information.) What is the need, and whose, that drives this vote to be held in such a manner?

I am not suggesting that a 270-day comment period be allowed. I am suggesting that however this vote comes out the parties on one side or another are going to believe themselves to have been left out of the democratic process. From where I sit, it is the community members who want to "Save Our Schools" who will be correct in being left out.

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