

CHARLESTON GAZETTE
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Wind turbines will destroy Highlands

Editor:

West Virginia's Potomac Highlands are about to be devastated by wind-turbine developers. Hundreds of these 450-foot-tall monsters

will soon be strung along the ridgelines of many of our wildest and most scenic mountains. Visible for miles, they will dominate the horizon.

These huge turbines will produce negligible amounts of electricity, employ only a handful of low-wage workers, drastically lower the value of all property within their view shed, and pay very little in taxes. However, due to absurdly generous federal tax subsidies, they will become fantastic tax shelters for out-of-state developers.

First attracted to the East Coast, where strong winds are more prevalent, these developers were rebuffed by wealthy property owners who had the means and political connections to stop them. They then turned to West Virginia, believing that we are too poor, unsophisticated and apathetic to fight them. The developers have become adept at conning state and local officials, claiming they will reduce global warming from coal-fired power plants. This is absurd: Thousands of wind turbines would be needed to replicate the output of a single coal plant. Why would we allow the destruction of our mountains for virtually nothing in return? Are we that stupid?

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