

Not in My Backyard

Back Country Camping
Going Back to the Land
Back to Reality
I've Got Your Back
Let's Go Back Home
Take the back Roads
Can't Get It Back
Stabbed in the Back
There's No Going Back

Dear Editor:

My backyard WV is your backyard. Stop and think what made this state so unique and beautiful. It isn't the stoplights, quickie marts, and fast food restaurants; the whole urban sprawl. Why can't we see that our treasured mountains are too precious to sell to the next big land speculator or energy giant?

Almost Heaven West Virginia has been our calling card for 40 years or more, yet during that time we've seen a quadrupling in the destruction of the mountain landscape—our backyard. When do we say enough is enough? Can we at least draw a line and say this is where we must compromise, leave us with some backcountry, backwoods, back to nature. It is your backyard and mine.

Can we stop before the cell phone towers are replaced with wind turbines, which are three times taller and uglier? They're coming closer to you everyday! If this happens the skies will be filled with industrial blight. Red lights will compete with the stars at night and we'll hear a grinding hum instead of a gentle wind rustling the leaves. Sound pollution, blinking lights, unsightly machines will replace tree lined mountain ridges.

Of all the beautiful places in WV, you must admit Greenbrier County is one of them. Here the eastern edge of the coalfields begins about 4,000 ft. along the ridges of our county. Stripped

early, these ridges have bounced back. Timbered heavily, the forests have returned. Now clear-cutting has done its worst. What's next?

Western Greenbrier County is the site of a new coal power plant. Large-scale stripping operations are planned. Now, to top it off, a Chicago (the windy city) corporation would like to put up over 100 giant wind turbines (as tall as 40-story buildings) blinking and twirling for all to see, across the highest, grandest mountain ridges of our state.

Our high mountains overlook beautiful rolling farmland that can be seen from historic Lewisburg and far beyond. They are a link to a chain of mountains including Droop Mountain, Cranberry Backcountry, Snowshoe, Spruce Knob and Dolly Sods. What happens here could easily expand to other majestic windy mountain ridges. This same area is enjoyed by hunters, backpackers, sightseers, mountain bikers, four-wheelers and fishermen. This natural game preserve is where rogue bears from around the state are released back into the wild. At least seven trout streams have their headwaters on the site of this proposed wind plant. Flying over this area at night no lights can be seen for almost 20 sq. miles. This is everyone's backyard.

Please let the Great Plains have the wind turbines, let the trout and black bear have the mountains. Maybe I'm being selfish, but let my children and their children have what Mother Nature, what God, has graced West Virginia with be preserved. It's time to take a stand.

Grif Callahan
Trout