

Open letter to the new administration,

STOP THE RUSH TO INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES

Don't allow the Big Wind Industry to overrun the Allegheny Highlands the way the coal industry has overrun the rest of the state. Can't one area of West Virginia remain free of blight? Can't we have a sliver of wilderness left?

If wind power would stop mountaintop removal, I could understand why people would be for it. But wind will never provide more than a fraction of our electricity needs in the east no matter how many ridges are ruined with towers. To replace the summer output of the 10 largest Nuclear and Coal fired plants in neighboring Virginia with wind turbines would require 32,693 of them spread over 3,277 miles of ridge tops.

Mountain ridges are not desert. They are not barren. The rain forests of eastern West Virginia have more value than anybody could imagine. The area is a natural watershed. Water is released slowly, providing water that flows to cities. The oxygen is breathed by millions. The forest is home to amazing creatures and plants that exist nowhere else in the world.

Listen to Senator Lamar Alexander when he says that "At a time when our country needs large amounts of dependable inexpensive energy, wind power provides puny amounts of undependable expensive energy."

Get smart America! Efficient conservation techniques have been our greatest new source of energy for the last thirty years. Do more with less! Avoid costly wasteful practices like clearing sensitive high-elevation mountain tops hundreds of miles away from where the energy is needed. It's inefficient, destructive, and dumb. You can retrofit city buildings to capture much of the energy you need right where you intend to use it, but you can't have the Allegheny Highlands.

Change has come to West Virginia!

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