

1.31.2018

RE: Wind Agreements in Henry County

1. Please stop defining crop-worthy farmland as Economic Revitalization Areas.
2. I firmly believe that wind farms will NOT spur economic growth –
 - a. Jobs created will mostly be very short term (construction period jobs), and permanent jobs will be few (based on newspaper accounts of existing wind farms).
 - b. Current “wealthy” residents will leave for better parts of the country. Who, if anyone, will replace them? The “non-wealthy” will be left with an even greater financial burden of sustaining the county.
 - c. New homes and new residents will be stifled—who wants to live in a utility scale wind farm with all the known and potential dangers?
 - d. New (and old) businesses will be stifled—without population growth, especially a population with disposable income, businesses will be harder to sustain.
3. The road agreements are necessary—there is no doubt that wind farm construction would tear up the roads. However, I have doubts about when and how the wind companies would reconstruct the roads--who is going to enforce the road agreement if/when the wind company decides they really don't want or need to live up to them? Court battles, if necessary, can drag on “forever” and in the meantime, residents would have to live with road conditions that are even worse than they are now.
4. Decommissioning agreements are necessary, too. However, past history has shown that large companies are willing and able to NOT uphold their end of the bargain, and counties were left to deal with the fallout—you likely can think of some in the recent past in Central Indiana and beyond. I am very concerned that these companies will agree to any decommissioning agreement, knowing that there will be loopholes plenty big for them to get out of honoring it, or knowing they can declare bankruptcy and get out of it.
5. Tax abatements – why give tax abatements to a type of company that is destroying our county (it's already created permanent rifts within families and between neighbors). The risks outweigh the advantages.

A few more thoughts in closing:

Just as it is best not to get involved in drug and alcohol abuse (even though there are ways out of addiction, and not EVERYONE abuses drugs and alcohol, and not every drunk driver causes an accident or death), the best thing to do would be to prevent the wind companies altogether. Yes, I am against change—change that I think is for the worse.

Unfortunately, since we (as a society) are willing to live with drug and alcohol abuse and its consequences, I'm afraid that elected officials believe it is okay to live with the detrimental effects of industrial wind farms. Or, they believe that there are NO detrimental effects, because the wind company could/would never lie, has no reason to lie, etc.

I have a bit of hope, fading fast, that you and the rest of our county officials will come up with a plan that really does help Henry County as a whole. I tell myself that you must have above average intelligence to have gotten where you are today, and that you care about the county—after all, you, your friends and family live here, too. I hope I am not lying to myself.

*Sincerely,
Sara Gray*