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Letters to The Editor: *The opinions expressed in the Letters to the Editor are those solely of the write and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper.*

Turbine Turbulence

This is a letter I agree with.
Sincerely
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I need to respond to the Anti-Wind Union. I have taken their claims and tried to find non-biased information to satisfy my curiosity of truth or fiction. This is what I have found.

An article in Inside Climate news which is a non-partisan, non-profit news organization, which provides some good information. Mark Jacobson, a Stanford University Environmental Engineering professor states that wind power footprints do not stop at no carbon emissions, but also has the smallest imprint on land use no carbon emissions for the air we breath and the land used for food for our tables.

He also found that the argument that turbines endanger too many birds did not pan out. The upper estimate for birds killed by existing turbines is 40,000, a figure dwarfed by the 100 million to 1 billion birds killed by flying into windows. If enough turbines were installed worldwide to eliminate all carbon emissions, (2.2 to 3.6 million) the number of bird deaths would still be less than 1% the number currently killed by human activity.

There also is a paper published by The American Wind Wildlife Institute that is a summary of research results. They note that the newer turbines speed of rotor revolution has significantly decreased from 60-80 revolutions per minute from which most information has been collected to 11-28 RPM. With the larger turbines, less are needed to produce the same amount of energy.

Even though fatality monitoring for birds and bats has been conducted for many years, substantial uncertainty remains about the ability to predict risk. They also state that fatality rates at currently estimated values are unlikely to lead to population declines in most bird species.

A third publication I found was a research paper by a student at Ashford University. She researched four of the issues that are of concern. The first one was wildlife. She found a study by the USDA Forest Service which compared causes of bird mortality, found that the largest man-made causes are from buildings and windows. Wind turbines are least likely to cause bird deaths. The same findings that are in the previous two papers. That is strike three for the Anti-Wind Union.

Noise pollution is another issue. The early model turbines emitted much more noise than the newer turbines today. The newer turbines have become more efficient by converting more of the wind into rotational torque and less into acoustic noise. In a report done by Science Based Medicine, the questions are asked, "how loud are wind turbines"? This all depends on the model and how fast the wind is blowing off course. The existing turbines in use generate about 105 decibels at the source. This compares to a lawnmower. As is with any noise, the further from the source the intensity of the sound decreases. At 330 feet the sound is down to 50 decibels, about the same as a window air conditioner. At 1000 feet it can be compared to a typical refrigerator. I believe I will still hear the crickets at night.

The visual impact and the effect on property value's I believe are the two biggest concerns of the Anti-Wind turbine supporters. In a paper by the Society for Wind Vigilante, which I have to believe is anti-wind, they state a bad view out of a window increased the risk for depression. Now who determines what a bad view is? The old saying is beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If I had to look out my window at a strip mine, yes maybe. If I had to look out my window at smog so thick, I could not see clearly two blocks away, yes maybe. If I have to look at a turbine 1000 plus feet away producing clean energy...NO WAY!

In the Science Based Medicine paper they reviewed four different studies. Their findings found that there were some increased odds of annoyance. They also found subjects were more likely to report negative symptoms if they found wind turbines annoying, if they thought they were an eyesore and if they did not gain any economic benefit from them. In the research paper by the Ashford student, found no concrete evidence that wind farms actually do reduce property values. I made a call to a Van Wert realty office and asked of their experience of property around the turbines. This realtor replied that she had not seen any change in appraisal values and had just sold a house with a turbine in the background. Property values fluctuate with what people want to pay. One of the considerations younger adults make on buying a house is the school system. The Emerson Creek Project is estimated to generate $55 million over 35 years toward the schools. A quality school system can only help property values.

It is a tough task to sort out what information is put in front of you is genuine or by people who have ties to fossil fuel. The anti-wind group claims they are not against green energy, but their stated goal is to shut this project down. Every time I see the steam coming up from Davis Besse, I think what if. What if a nuclear accident were to happen? What if I could out run it? Would it make more sense to try and reach a compromise if they were truly in favor of green energy? I do know this. The weather patterns are changing. The last four to five years it does not just rain, there torrential downpours. Look at our recent weather, -7 degrees one day, 50 degrees the next. Is it climate change or are we in a cycle. I do not want to wait to find out it was climate change. An article in the USA Today by Matt Fitzpatrick of the University of Maryland says current green house gases from fossil fuels if left unchecked will create a major climate change. If you were to drive 600 miles south that is the weather to expect in the next 60 years.

The positives, no carbon emissions, less water usage, less disturbance of the land, the financial impact for our schools and township's and a cleaner world for our children and grandchildren definitely outweigh any negative.

Are the anti-wind advocates telling us the whole truth? I don't think so! Just enough to make good people make bad decisions. I have been in Lyme Twp all my life as are most of the people around me. The last thing we want is to disrupt a way of life, but to preserve it. There are no turbines projected on my property.

I would hope that our elected officials will do the right thing and not buckle to the threats of not being re-elected.

Bill Dillon. Bellevue

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