

FILE

17-2295-EL-BGN

18-1607-EL-BGN

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Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Mr. Matt Butler,

Please submit these articles from the Advertiser-Tribune for public record for

18-1607-EL-BGN EMERSON CREEK  
17-2295-EL-BGN REPUBLIC WIND

Thank You,

Deborah Weisenauer  
Norwich Township, Bellevue, Ohio

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# Outdoors

# BATS

The Advertiser-Tribune

Tiffin, Ohio Saturday, October 26, 2019 - 7B

## DeWine proclaims Bat Week

COLUMBUS — Bats are important to Ohio's economy and ecosystems, which is why Gov. Mike DeWine has proclaimed Oct. 24-31 as Bat Week to highlight the need for bat conservation, according to a news release from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. "Bats contribute substantially to our

economy by protecting our forests and agriculture from crop-damaging insects and pests," said Mary Mertz, ODNR director. "It is critical that we continue efforts to promote the health of bat populations here in Ohio and across the nation."

Unfortunately, the release said bat populations in Ohio are declining because of a combination of threats from disease, land development and contamination from pesticides. Studies have shown the loss of bats could cost the nation's agricultural industry more than \$3.7 billion per year because of the pest-control benefits they provide. With almost 14 million acres of agricultural land in Ohio, the release said bats have an important role in our state.

ODNR is encouraging Ohioans to celebrate Bat Week by doing something positive for the winged mammals. People can help by building artificial bat roosts, planting native vegetation to attract insect prey for bats, or educating people on how important bats are, the release said.

"Bats are amazing creatures that are vital to the health of our natural world and economy," said ODNR Division of Wildlife Chief Kendra Wecker. "The recent decline of many species of bat populations due to white-nose syndrome and other factors highlight the need for public and private partnerships to work together to restore bat populations."

At least 10 species of bats are commonly found in Ohio. Two species - Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats - are federally listed, the release said. The remaining species are all protected under state law.

Bat Week is an international, annual celebration designed to raise awareness about the need for bat conservation. The Bat Week proclamation was backed by the Ohio Bat Working group and the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association.

For more information and ideas on how to get involved in bat conservation, visit [batweek.org](http://batweek.org).

Why are out of state industrial wind companies even being considered to construct enormous 652 foot tall industrial wind turbines in Ohio that kill thousands of bats each year?

## Regulators deny rate hike to fund solar project

COLUMBUS (AP) — An electricity rate hike that would have funded a solar farm in southern Ohio was denied by state regulators Thursday.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio voted to deny the application saying American Electric Power hadn't proven a need for the 400-megawatt Highland County project.

Ohio law requires the commission to determine whether a proposed project to generate electricity is needed. The Columbus Dispatch reported.

The company argued customers want more renewable energy and that the project would bring jobs.

The commissioners said there's already renewable options for customers in the state's current electricity market.

A typical customer would have paid 28 cents per month initially.

*Why does Ohio need industrial wind turbines?*