

I am contacting each of you concerning the proposed changes to the Davison County Zoning Ordinance. I would request that my email be made a part of the official record for the March 8, 2017 meeting.

I have researched some of the discussions and meetings for the surrounding states to get an idea of what is happening in the area of wind farms. There seems to be much concern about them that is the same as was heard at your previous hearings for a conditional use permit for Juhl Energy. I have also looked at both the Letcher Township ordinance and the Lincoln County ordinance. I believe that both of those entities have put together a good ordinance concerning wind farms. I ask that you support making changes that would correspond to both of those ordinances for Davison County. I believe that the setback from a non-participating building be a minimum of 1 mile (5280') which can be less with written approval of the owner. I am also concerned about the noise requirement as these towers aren't like traffic or machinery doing fieldwork – the towers make noise 100% of the time that they are running while traffic or machinery are temporary. And as far as the field work noise, we are talking about areas that are designated Agriculture so those of us living in this Agriculture area need to accept that. I know that supporters contend that property values are not affected by the towers. I do not believe that to be true here in our county. I know there are no historical numbers to go by as we haven't dealt with issue but I know how people feel about living next to high traffic areas due to the noise of constant traffic. I say it would be no different with wind towers. I am also concerned with the fact that many residences are in the rural areas of Davison County because of the serenity and openness of the area. A wind farm will create an eyesore for those people that don't want to look up and see a group of towers across the horizon. I firmly believe that there are plenty of lower inhabited areas of the state in which wind farms would be more acceptable. If a wind farm is such a good investment then there should be no reason that a more isolated area could be used as electricity is easily transmitted to those areas that need the power.

An additional concern of the proposed ordinance is the decommissioning of a tower. There needs to be a requirement to guarantee that funds will be there to remove the structure as required, such as a bond for each tower that will be such to cover that cost if owner can't. An amount needs to be set that takes into consideration inflation as the years go by.

In summary, I would like to see the things I have mentioned be looked at and incorporated into the amended ordinance at the upcoming meeting. I believe that Letcher Township and Lincoln County got it right in their ordinances and ask that you seriously consider their parameters.

Thank you for taking on these immense challenges and listening to the opinions of the residents.

*Sincerely,*

*Glen Lowrie*

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