

## Letter of Memorandum

Date: 2-July-2025

To: Whitman County Planning Commission

From: Tom Thompson, Pullman, WA

Subject: Articles for Consideration Regarding Setbacks and Social Justice for County Residents

I've compiled for the commission a number of articles of regarding health issues and social justice for the county residents. The commission should not be in a rush to codify the ordinance, but rather instead make sure they understand the long-term implications of having Industrial Wind Turbines (IWT) in the county, so as to craft an ordinance that protects all residents. That includes the property rights of both participating and non-participating residents.

**Article 1) Peer Reviewed article dated 6/16/2025 from the SCIREA Journal of Clinical Medicine authored by Ursula Maria Bellut-Staeck: A fundamental basis for all living creatures, mechanotransduction, is significantly endangered by periodic exposure to impulsive infrasound and vibration from technical emitters - in particular cardiovascular and embryological functions**

This study focuses primarily on the infrasound emitted from biogas plants, heat pumps and large industrial wind turbines, which negatively impact tissues at the cellular level, causing a number of health issues. An actual PDF is attached; link is below:

<https://article.scirea.org/pdf/321372.pdf>

**Article 2) Wind Turbine Noise and Human Health: A Four-Decade History of Evidence that Wind Turbines Pose Risks (Revised 2016), authored by Jerry L. Punch, Richard R. James**

This study shows that not only audible sound from Industrial Wind Turbines can cause adverse health effects, more importantly, infrasound causes adverse health effects

<https://hearinghealthmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/16-10-21-Wind-Turbine-Noise-Post-Publication-Manuscript-HHTML-Punch-James.pdf>

**Article 3) Health Effects of Wind Turbines: Testimony of Ben Johnson versus MidAmerican Energy (Madison County, Iowa), authored by Sherri Lange 2019**

The Madison County Board of Health passed a resolution recommending that any future turbines be built at least a mile and half from non-participating homes. Dr. Ben Johnson is a Cardiologist/Electrophysiologist from Des Moines, Iowa

<https://www.masterresource.org/wind-turbine-noise-issues/health-effects-of-wind-turbines-testimony-of-ben-johnson-versus-mid-american-energy-project-in-madison-country-iowa/>

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**Article 4) Dr. Ben Johnson's 2020 presentation before the Kansas Legislature: Assessing Adverse Health Effects-(Confirmed and Potential) from Industrial Wind Turbine Noise Immissions**

This is the original presentation w/out a narrative from the author, but it provides a lot of good data and helps explain the biological issues with wind turbine noise. The author recommends setbacks of 1.25 miles (2km) to compensate for infrasound.

[https://www.kslegislature.gov/li\\_2022/b2021\\_22/committees/cttes\\_utils\\_1/documents/testimony/202207\\_01.pdf](https://www.kslegislature.gov/li_2022/b2021_22/committees/cttes_utils_1/documents/testimony/202207_01.pdf)

**Article 5) Open Journal of Social Sciences, 2021, 9, 447-486, authored by Alan Whitely and Anne Dumbrille: Ontario's Green Energy Policy vs. Social Justice**

This study documents the overreach of the Ontario government in forcing wind turbines upon the population despite opposition and the resulting negative impacts upon health, safety, social well-being, the economy and the loss of property rights. Lessons for Washington State and Whitman County to heed.

<https://www.scirp.org/journal/paperinformation?paperid=106868>

**Article 6) Authored by Jim Luce, former chair of EFSEC for 10 years, Washington State Standard, 10/10/2024: Energy projects, preemption and politics**

This article by the former chair of EFSEC points out the mistakes over the years in granting preemption to EFSEC and the governor. This policy allows developers to play the local government against the state, weighing the scales in the developer's favor over the local government.

<https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/10/10/energy-projects-preemption-and-politics/>