

K. Statements Opposed to Code Changes

1. Shane Roche Email
2. Kelli Cooper Online Submittal
3. Brian Clark Online Submittal
4. Nicholas Leland Online Submittal
5. Art Swannack Letter
6. Maria Amonette Email
7. Tyrel Burnett Email
8. Tom Thompson Email
9. Seth Thompson Email
10. Steve Redinger Email

Megan Zumbuhl

From: Denis Tracy
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 10:05 AM
To: Megan Zumbuhl
Subject: FW: Required Aviation Safety Setbacks for Proposed Whitman County Wind Turbines and impact
Attachments: What the Evidence Says About Crop Dusting and Wind Energy_SEWC.pdf

From: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 5:06 PM
To: Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston_kane@hotmail.com>
Cc: Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>; Art Swannack <Arts@whitmancounty.gov>; Tom Handy <TomHandy@whitmancounty.gov>; Chad Whetzel <ChadWhetzel@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Required Aviation Safety Setbacks for Proposed Whitman County Wind Turbines and impact

FYI all.

Alan.

From: Shane Roche <shroc@vestas.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Required Aviation Safety Setbacks for Proposed Whitman County Wind Turbines and impact

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Alan,

Thanks for sharing. After reviewing their points alongside recent research and industry experience, we'd like to provide two key clarifications:

1. There is no documented safety risk—no pilots have died due to wind turbines.

Agricultural aviation and wind energy have safely coexisted for decades in states such as Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi. FAA regulations require towers over 50 ft to be marked for visibility, and modern GPS and precision-flying techniques allow skilled pilots to navigate obstacles effectively ([Southeastern Wind Coalition, 2024 – see attached report]).

2. Aerial application in wind projects is feasible and proven every day across the nation.

Crop dusting continues successfully around wind farms in multiple states. Videos such as [Flying Crop](#)

Dusters w/ Turbines and as well as Scott Palmer from Washington in Crop Dusting America where it features crop dusters flying through wind projects.

Additional Research and Context

- **Wake Turbulence:** Peer-reviewed research led by Dr. Jonathan Rogers (Georgia Tech) found that wake turbulence from turbines has minimal impact on small aircraft. Disturbances observed within six rotor diameters were comparable to light or moderate atmospheric turbulence—far below thresholds that risk loss of control (Rogers et al., 2024).
 - **Research:** [Effect of Turbine Wake Turbulence on Small Aircraft](#)
 - **Videos:** <https://zenodo.org/records/11085458>
- **Industry Practices:** Developers often collaborate with applicators and compensate for additional complexity, creating an economic benefit rather than a loss ([SEWC Report, attached]).

Wind energy development and agricultural aviation can and do coexist safely and effectively. Please let us know if there’s anything else we can do support on this.

Regards,

Shane Roche
Senior Development Manager
Vestas Military Veterans Founder

Steelhead Americas
503-446-7108 | shroc@vestas.com



Steelhead Americas is Vestas’ North American development arm.

Classification: Restricted

From: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Shane Roche <shroc@vestas.com>
Subject: FW: Required Aviation Safety Setbacks for Proposed Whitman County Wind Turbines and impact
Importance: High

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be careful with links/attachments

Shane,

Here is the email from the aerial applicators we just discussed.

Alan.

From: Shantyl Mc <sjmcguire1234@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 1:38 PM

To: Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>

Subject: Required Aviation Safety Setbacks for Proposed Whitman County Wind Turbines and impact

Dear Mr. Tracy,

We are the owners of McGuire Air Service, Inc., an agricultural aviation business serving Whitman County and the greater Palouse region. Our aircraft play an essential role in protecting crops from rust, insects, and disease—especially in short weather windows when ground rigs cannot access fields.

We are deeply concerned about the significant operational and financial harm that would occur if more industrial wind turbines are permitted within our current operating area.

Below is a clear outline of the direct impacts, financial losses, safety hazards, and service disruptions that turbines would create for our business and the agricultural community we serve.

We estimated **Loss of Revenue** (\$100,000–\$200,000 Annually). Based on our flight history, acreage serviced, and typical seasonal disease pressure—particularly during rust outbreaks—we estimate that wind turbine installations near Kamiak Butte would cause annual losses between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Fields around turbines routinely require 10% more flight time due to necessary detours. **Fields would become unserviceable**, reducing our ability to treat rust, insects, and other crop threats.

We are concerned that the proposed wind turbine setbacks in the **county's draft code do not reflect the real-world operational distances** required for safe agricultural air operations. The National Agricultural Aviation Association (NAAA) has documented that **agricultural aircraft require at least one mile—and up to 1.75 miles**—of lateral space to make safe turnarounds when working near obstructions such as wind turbines.

NAAA's research demonstrates:

- An AT-802A requires 9,585 feet (1.82 miles) to complete a standard agricultural turn based on a 145 mph working speed and a 45 second turn time.
- GPS-based turn mapping shows turn penetrations ranging from 0.43 miles (light non agricultural aircraft) to 1.73 miles (fully loaded aircraft).

These distances directly contradict the **current proposed setback of 4,200 feet**, which is **insufficient and unsafe**. Anything less than one mile does not allow adequate time or space for pilots to line up, stabilize, and execute precise application passes, our pilots confirmed this.

Mechanical turbulence Extending 1-2 Miles

Turbulence generated by turbines can extend up to 2 miles downwind and The Palouse rolling terrain amplifies turbulence intensity and unpredictability. The turbulence is powerful enough to destabilize aircraft operating at spraying altitudes, as a result, each turbine effectively creates a no-fly area with a diameter of 6,000 feet or more, depending on the wind and terrain.

Additional hazards:

Wind turbine projects routinely include **unlit meteorological (MET) towers** and new power lines. MET towers can be erected in a single day, are **nearly invisible** using guy-wires the size of a pencil lead, and are **one of the DEADLIEST hazards to agricultural pilots**. Turbines also bring new **power lines** and support structures that create further obstacles. The introduction of multiple vertical structures increases the overall obstruction density, making safe navigation very dangerous to the affected fields. Each turbine creates a circular no-fly zone with a diameter of 6,000 feet or more when factoring in

turbulence, turning space, and obstruction avoidance. When multiple turbines are placed together, **these no-fly zones overlap and eliminate entire regions from service.** This is not a theoretical risk—**our company already avoids flying near existing turbines for these reasons.**

There is a large impact on growers and Whitman County Agriculture

Turbine placement significantly affects grower when aerial treatment is limited or prevented:

- Rust, insect pressure, and disease **cannot** be treated in time.
- Ground rigs are often **unable** to access Palouse soils during these critical periods.
- Yield **loss** and reduced bushels per acre become unavoidable.
- The economic impact extends across Whitman County's entire agricultural sector.
- During a Rust run aerial application is not an option, but is critical to prevent massive loss of crop.

We Strongly recommend increasing the **required setbacks to reflect NAAA safety standards,** as well as including **compensation mechanisms from turbine developers to protect agricultural businesses and growers affected by turbine placement.**

As written, the proposed turbine setbacks present **significant danger to pilots, material harm to our business, and substantial economic loss to Whitman County growers.**

Sincerely,
Rob & Shantyl McGuire
Owners of McGuire Air Service, Inc.

Vestas will as part of your communication, interaction and business relationship with us collect and process personal data about you. You can read more about Vestas' collection and processing of your personal data and your rights as a data subject in our [Privacy Policy](#).

What the Evidence Says About Crop Dusting and Wind Energy

Feb 4 • Written By Jaxon Tolbert

By Jaxon Tolbert, Senior Program Associate at the Southeastern Wind Coalition



If you've spent time in the Mississippi Delta region, you know how essential crop dusting is to farming. Skilled pilots, maneuvering low over fields, play a critical role in producing crops and supporting the region's agricultural economy. But as wind farms spread across states like Mississippi and Arkansas, some farmers and pilots have raised a key question: **Can crop dusters and wind turbines safely coexist?**

The answer is clear: **Yes, they can.** With expert pilots, careful planning, and lessons learned from other states, the Delta region is demonstrating how agriculture and renewable energy can thrive together.

This isn't just theory—crop dusters have been regularly spraying fields without issue at Mississippi's first utility-scale wind farm, Delta Wind, since it began operations in

Built for the Job: How Crop Dusters and Wind Farms Work Together

1. Skilled Pilots Can Successfully Navigate Any Obstacle

Crop duster pilots are among the most skilled professionals in aviation. With extensive training in low-altitude flying, they expertly maneuver around obstacles like power lines, trees, irrigation systems, and even unpredictable weather. Wind turbines, while tall, are simply another feature of the landscape for pilots. Additionally, FAA regulations implemented in 2019 require any towers over 50 ft to be clearly marked, significantly improving safety for pilots.

With advanced GPS systems and precision-flying techniques, crop dusters adapt to wind turbines, ensuring uninterrupted farming operations.

2. Pilots Can Earn More for Flying Around Turbines

Wind farm developers prioritize collaboration with local farmers and crop dusters. This includes negotiating higher fees for more complex work. Spraying on farms with wind turbines requires adjustments on the part of pilots, **who can then demand more for their services**. These agreements recognize the important work that pilots do and provide an additional economic boost for communities.

3. Crop Dusting and Wind Farms Have Safely Co-Existed for Decades

The coexistence of crop dusting and wind turbines isn't new. States like Texas and Oklahoma have successfully integrated wind energy with agriculture for decades.

A 2019 survey by the National Agricultural Aviation Association highlighted that obstacles like wind turbines, power lines, and communication towers are manageable when developers and pilots work together. Meanwhile, studies from Europe show that

Clearing Up Common Concerns

When it comes to crop dusting near wind turbines, it is reasonable to ask questions. However, modern regulations, careful planning, and clear communication have resolved these issues, ensuring the safety of pilots and the farming communities they serve.

1. Is Wake Turbulence from Turbines Dangerous?

Wake turbulence from turbine blades might seem concerning, but studies show its impact on flight paths is minimal. Larger turbines, like those used in the Delta, spin more slowly, reducing air disturbance even further. Pilots maintain safe distances, making wake turbulence a non-issue.

2. Do Wind Turbines Blow Fertilizer Away?

There is no evidence that wind turbines displace airborne farming substances like fertilizer and pesticides. In fact, the presence of turbines can actually improve crop yields, according to a study conducted by Iowa State University. While they create small amounts of turbulence, wind turbines do not blow air– they capture it and turn it into electricity.

3. What Agency Do Pilots Have in the Planning Process?

Collaboration between wind energy developers and agricultural communities is essential for safety. Poor planning can create risks, but developers prioritize working closely with pilots and landowners to ensure turbines are strategically placed and highly visible.

For a closer look at how crop dusters maneuver around wind turbines, check out the video below:

Flying Crop Dusters w/ Turbines



—

The Southeastern Wind Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit advancing the wind industry in the Southeast, with a focus on supply chain growth, economic development, job creation, and developing wind energy solutions that benefit both industry and communities. Discover more about SEWC's mission and explore the story of wind energy in the Southeast at www.sewind.org.



Megan Zumbuhl

supports wind development

From: Denis Tracy
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:39 PM
To: Megan Zumbuhl
Subject: FW: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

From: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:30 PM
To: Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston_kane@hotmail.com>
Cc: Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

FYI.

Alan.

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:28 PM
To: Public Works - Contact Us <PW@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>; Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

This sender is trusted.

Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

First Name	Kelli
Last Name	Cooper
Email Address	kelli_kid86@wsu.edu
Subject	Planning Inquiry
Other	Renewable energy
Who would you like to contact?	Grace Di Biase, Alan Thomson

K-2

Message

I just wanted to take a minute to voice my support for renewable energy development in Whitman County. I believe that society as a whole needs to move away from fossil fuels which necessitates that we look to alternative sources to meet growing demand for electricity. In addition, investing in renewable energy in our county also means continuing, and perhaps more rapid, investment into existing infrastructure, while also bringing jobs and revenue. That being said, I would agree that reasonable steps/requirements/standards are necessary to ensure responsible development is just as important. I encourage working with the developer so that local concerns can be addressed without state oversight.

(Section Break)

This form submission, contents and subsequent communications may be considered public record and may be subject to disclosure under Washington's Public Records Disclosure Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW.

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Megan Zumbuhl

From: Denis Tracy
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Megan Zumbuhl
Subject: FW: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

From: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:10 PM
To: Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston_kane@hotmail.com>
Cc: Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

FYI.

Alan.

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:06 PM
To: Public Works - Contact Us <PW@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>; Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

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Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

First Name	Brian
Last Name	Clark
Email Address	bradams@mail.com
Subject	Planning Inquiry
Other	Field not completed.
Who would you like to contact?	Grace Di Biase, Alan Thomson

Message

I support wind energy development on the Palouse. We need a diversified and robust independent energy infrastructure. If we continue to resist development of non-petroleum energy sources our care for the beauty of the Palouse will be for nothing as climate change will destroy it.

(Section Break)

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Megan Zumbuhl

From: Denis Tracy
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:43 PM
To: Megan Zumbuhl
Subject: FW: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

From: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 11:59 AM
To: Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston_kane@hotmail.com>
Cc: Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

FYI.

Alan.

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 11:57 AM
To: Public Works - Contact Us <PW@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>; Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

This sender is trusted.

Public Works - Contact the Planning Division

First Name	Nicholas
Last Name	Leland
Email Address	nick.s.leland@gmail.com
Subject	Planning Inquiry
Other	Field not completed.
Who would you like to contact?	Grace Di Biase, Alan Thomson

K-4

Message

I strongly believe in renewable energy sources and their place in whitman county. Removing a potential source of high paying jobs from our community for flimsy reasons is nothing short of unconscionable. Please make the right decision and choose to allow an industry into our community that will do real good.

(Section Break)

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Arthur D. Swannack

Whitman County Board of Commissioners

400 North Main Street
Colfax, Washington 99111

Phone: (509) 397-5247
Email: ArtS@whitmancounty.gov
Cell: (509)-288-1684



December 16, 2025

To the residents of Whitman County,

Thank you for your messages regarding the proposed wind code amendments. I too value the views, beauty and rural nature of Whitman County and the lifestyle we have here. I believe you elected me to make decisions which are not reactive but are well thought out and to do my best to protect your interests and rights.

There is only one approach which would stop commercial wind energy projects in Whitman County:

Go to the Governor and Majority Party legislators who control Olympia and convince them to change the laws regarding their renewable energy mandates and EFSEC's authority. Otherwise, the playing field in the County stays the same as we face now, with a strong likelihood that commercial wind energy projects get built (as well as solar and battery storage), no matter what county code is adopted. The federal government doesn't have the ability to stop state mandates of this type.

I don't believe the planning commission's currently proposed commercial wind energy code will protect your interests or rights and I can't support it. Here is why.

The Governor and Legislature have created two separate but equal processes to permit renewable energy facilities (wind, solar or battery storage). The Energy Facility Siting Evaluation Council (EFSEC) process and the County process. EFSEC can override all county prohibitions and conditional use permit requirements. Applicants can apply "At the County" or they can apply "At the State", or the applicant can start "At the County" and move to the State. The County doesn't have final say regarding zoning and permitting renewable energy projects, no matter what the opponents of commercial wind energy facilities or advocates for an updated code are telling you.

I believe adopting the proposed update to our commercial wind energy facility code will drive every renewable energy project application to the State Government process at EFSEC. EFSEC's process is biased toward approval of projects and will decrease your influence on any renewable energy project's final design. EFSEC can perform the entire process from receiving applications to SEPA review and all the hearings, conditional use permit approval, oversee construction of a project as well as decommissioning the project in 20 or 30 years from now. Here's the RCW with EFSEC's mandates and authority: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=80.50.010>.

As shown by recent EFSEC project approvals for the Horse Heaven Hills wind project and the Klickitat County Solar project, EFSEC only examines a county's code to see if they consider it reasonable, they do not need to abide by it. If EFSEC believes County restrictions are not reasonable, they ignore the County code. They are required to maintain the economic viability of a renewable energy project and usually limit restrictions that would decrease that commercial economic viability of the project. The

K-5

State Supreme Court has upheld EFSEC's authority in 2008 in Kittitas County vs EFSEC and other more recent rulings and hasn't wavered since.

If the people of Whitman County want any local say in how wind projects are developed in Whitman County, the County needs to adopt a code which is restrictive but would be considered reasonable by EFSEC's standards and one which applicants/developers will utilize by applying at the County level. Our saying "NO!" in this situation (which is what I believe the current planning commission proposal does) won't work. It might make someone feel good for a few months, but in the end, developers will go to EFSEC, and our local concerns will be ignored. Again, this has been shown by the recent Benton County Horse Heaven Hills wind project and Klickitat County solar projects where Counties and Tribes had concerns, and both were essentially overridden. Tribes have a lot more political influence than individual counties on state policy and actions, but they didn't prevail.

I'll close by saying I have a lot of concerns regarding other issues brought up by the planning commission's process in creating the current proposed code and findings of facts. These include unprecedented restrictions on private property rights, the potential for future unintended consequences in other code creation matters unrelated to renewable energy projects, the quality of science used to back up the proposed restrictions and the use of blanket zoning restrictions rather than approved mitigation strategies.

Washington State has recently passed many laws requiring more renewable energy. It has mandated all Utility company power be 80% carbon neutral by 2030 and 100% renewable by 2045 (Clean Energy Transformation Act). It requires the only new cars sold after 2035 to be electric cars and the State created the Clean Building Act which requires all commercial buildings over 20K square feet, with human occupants, be converted and heated by electric heat pumps or similar non carbon emitting heat systems rather than natural gas. These mandates are going to take a lot of electricity, and the latest estimate is we need 2 Bonneville Dam equivalents of useable power (2400 MW) added to the state system in the next five years just for new data centers and chip fabrication plants. Unless state laws are changed, the push for wind, solar and battery storage systems is not going away.

Again, I value our way of life and everything we hold dear here in Whitman County. I'm sorry we face a state mandate that could significantly affect our view and lives, and the County isn't empowered to actually stop. But I would be doing you a disservice if I didn't give you frank, honest answers regarding my assessment of this situation, our limitations, my concerns and why I can't support the proposed code amendment in its current form.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Art Swannack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Art Swannack
Whitman County Commissioner

PTO

Denis Tracy

From: Alan Thomson
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:10 AM
To: Denis Tracy; gibney
Cc: Mark Storey; Grace Di Biase; Bill Meyers; Brian Davies; Chris Melhus; Dave McKeirnan; Dean Kinzer; Julian Matthews; Tami Southern; Weston Kane
Subject: FW: Wind Farm opinion

More for the record.

Alan.

From: Maria Amonette <tmamon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 8:23 AM
To: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: Wind Farm opinion

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Dear Mr. Thompson and members of the committee,

I am writing out of concern about the proposed wind farm near Kamiak Butte. First, as you know, this area is a favorite local hiking destination and a very popular recreation spot in the county. It is the only forested public park land in the area and is much beloved by so many. I loved taking my children there when they were young, and they continue to hike there with friends now that they are older. Our area is known for its natural beauty—a previous article in National Geographic called it a paradise. Why does a wind farm need to be placed near this beautiful landmark and mar the landscape? Our county is large—why there?

Of course, a company based outside of the area can't be expected to understand the opinions of the locals and maybe hasn't tried. I read that they have complained about negative feedback from the community biasing the commissioners. Actually, I haven't talked to anyone among my friends and acquaintances who supports this project. Taking the case to the state level, as the company has threatened, would be disrespectful to the people of our county by taking the decision out of the hands of voters and elected officials. It shows bad faith.

In addition to these concerns, on a practical note, research shows that while much of decommissioned turbines can be recycled, if companies are interested in doing so, the enormous fiberglass blades (6-14 percent of their weight) generally wind up in landfills, creating unforeseen costs, both real and environmental (Hidden Costs, Rusting Relics: Decommissioning Wind Turbines in the US, Ariel Cohen, *Forbes*, 12/23/24).

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter. I hope that restrictions can be put into place that will protect the beauty of this place that means so much to people in our area. Thank you for all your hard work.

Best,

K-6

Maria Amonette
Pullman
Follow

PTD

Amanda Pelissier

From: Denis Tracy
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 11:02 AM
To: Amanda Pelissier
Subject: FW: Whitman County Commissioners

From: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:03 AM
To: Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>
Subject: FW: Whitman County Commissioners

More for the record.

Alan.

From: Tyrel Burnett <tyrel_burnett@selinc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 8:11 PM
To: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Cc: Commissioners <commissioners@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: Whitman County Commissioners

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Dear Whitman County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the revised wind energy code. While I do not view wind power as the most sustainable energy source compared to other viable options, I appreciate the effort to craft regulations that balance diverse interests within the county.

One of the proposed sites is near my home. My wife and I worked for 14 years to achieve our dream of owning a home in the country, and we value the beautiful scenery that drew us here. Our primary concerns are the potential impact of wind turbines on the viewscape and the possible effect on our property value. Additionally, we have a lifetime subscription to Life Flight, and I am concerned that turbine placement could interfere with emergency air access in critical situations.

I encourage the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners to approve the revised wind code and to consider further refinements that address concerns like those outlined above.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Tyrel Burnett

K-7

970

Denis Tracy

From: Tom Thompson <tommyt1976@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2025 5:04 PM
To: Alan Thomson; Mark Storey; Grace Di Biase
Cc: Chad Whetzel; Tom Handy; Art Swannack; Denis Tracy; gibney
Subject: Revised Wind Code for Whitman County

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization. [Allow sender](#) | [Block sender](#) | [Report](#)

Greetings Planning Department,

Please enter this statement into the public record. I believe that the revised wind code being worked on by the Planning Commission is essential to protecting the way of life, the heritage, and the well being of the environment and people of Whitman County.

I urge the Planning Commission to approve the revised wind ordinance which incorporates greater protection for the county via increased setbacks, and exclusion zones for Kamiak, Steptoe, and Palouse Falls.

The change requiring the developer to install fire prevention/suppression and to have a mitigation plan with surrounding fire districts is essential also.

If any additional changes were to be made, the setbacks for property lines should extend out to 1.5 miles to accommodate aerial application and greater protection for health and viewshed.

We are not helpless, hopeless, and hapless victims that are powerless before EFSEC or the State. It is up to Whitman County to make the ordinances that befit Whitman County and then adapt, improvise, and overcome as life comes our way.

In closing, I would like to thank the Planning Commission for all their efforts and time spent on revising the wind ordinance. Hopefully it will be time well spent and be incorporated with the increased protections we have up to date. Afterall, as per Dave Phillips from Steelhead Americas, who told me in person, "**they came here because of the substation close by and Whitman County's Wind Ordinance was favorable to them**".

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Tom Thompson
415 SE Crestview Street
Pullman, WA 99163

K-9

neutral

Amanda Pelissier

From: Denis Tracy
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 11:02 AM
To: Amanda Pelissier
Subject: FW: Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

From: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:09 AM
To: Denis Tracy <DenisT@whitmancounty.gov>; gibney <gibney@pullman.com>
Cc: Mark Storey <Mark.Storey@whitmancounty.gov>; Grace Di Biase <Grace.DiBiase@whitmancounty.gov>; Bill Meyers <myers@stjohncable.com>; Brian Davies <bdavies.cvs@gmail.com>; Chris Melhus <chrismelhus@aol.com>; Dave McKeirnan <dmckeirnan@yahoo.com>; Dean Kinzer <kinzerdd@gmail.com>; Julian Matthews <protectingnimiipuu@gmail.com>; Tami Southern <tamisouthern1@gmail.com>; Weston Kane <weston_kane@hotmail.com>
Subject: FW: Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

More for the record.

Alan.

From: Kelly Keane <kellykeane.kmk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 7:58 AM
To: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Cc: Commissioners <commissioners@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: Wind Code Public Hearing Comment

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Greetings - I am strongly in favor of wind power development where it makes sense and trust that you all are seriously protecting the county by ensuring common sense provisions regarding setbacks, underground cabling, and decommissioning.

My comment is that I'd like you also to ensure enduring economic and financial benefits for county residents. In consideration for using our beautiful land and changing our vistas, Whitman County should demand the following of developers:

- **Revenue Sharing:** Direct payments or tax contributions to local government/residents.
- **Local Jobs:** Prioritize hiring local workers for construction, operations, and maintenance, with training programs.
- **Infrastructure:** Upgrades to roads, emergency services, and internet access.
- **Support Local Business:** Fund local initiatives, events, or businesses.

Too often we let developers do whatever they want without thoughtful and meaningful consideration for the welfare of local residents. I know you'll come to smart decisions regarding environmental requirements; please don't forget the long term economic considerations we merit as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kelly Keane
1530 NW Nicole Ct
Pullman WA 99163
(925)667-7663

PTD

Denis Tracy

From: Alan Thomson
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 12:29 PM
To: Denis Tracy; gibney
Subject: FW: Proposed wind ordinance
Attachments: 1000002260.jpg; 1000002261.jpg; 1000002253.jpg; 1000002257.jpg

From: Steve Redinger <sdredinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 11:07 AM
To: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: Proposed wind ordinance

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County planner and commisioners,
One question I would like you to ask yourself is how close you would like one of these to your residence. I have traveled to Japan and Australia. In Japan they place them in industrial areas not residential areas. (See attached photo)
In Australia they are having more resistance to the locations of the wind farms trying to keep them away from there scenic areas and national parks.
Not totally against renewables but there are places in the western part of the county where they wouldn't be in the middle of residences and close to scenic parks.
Also the removal of all the structures and roads when they are disabled must be assured.
Also Tom Lamar a Latah County commissioner testified in favor of the project, but ask him if he would be in favor of one in his county on Paradise Ridge.
Kind regards
Stephen D Redinger
Colton Wa

K-10

pro

Denis Tracy

From: Alan Thomson
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 11:45 AM
To: Denis Tracy; gibney
Cc: Mark Storey; Grace Di Biase; Bill Meyers; Brian Davies; Chris Melhus; Dave McKeirnan; Dean Kinzer; Julian Matthews; Tami Southern; Weston Kane
Subject: FW: Wind Farms

One more for the record.

Alan.

From: Thompson, Seth (sthompson@uidaho.edu) <sthompson@uidaho.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 11:42 AM
To: Alan Thomson <Alan.Thomson@whitmancounty.gov>
Subject: Wind Farms

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Hello,

I am voicing my support for any and all limitations on wind farms in this region. I hope you place an emphasis on restricting wind farms near landmarks, such as Kamiak or Steptoe.

Seth T.

K-9