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Facts, analysis, exposure to industrial wind energy's real impacts

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Tipton County Indiana Commissioner voted for "wind farms," now lives with regrets

Huntington County Concerned Citizens - Jane Harper - March 15, 2015

Impact on People Indiana

The following letter was written by Jane Harper, Tipton County Indiana Commissioner from 2009-2012. In addition to dedicating part of her life to public service, Jane is also a farmer. She originally wrote this letter to warn the Howard County Indiana officials about the many pitfalls of wind energy development, but it's message is equally applicable to Huntington County as well. This letter was also read directly to the members of the Huntington County Plan Commission on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, by HCCC Attorney Steven Snyder. Huntington County Commissioners Larry Buzzard and Rob Miller were also in attendance, and heard this letter read into the official record.

Dear Howard County Commissioners and Council Members;

I am writing to you all as a former commissioner colleague who aided in the negotiations and agreements with E.ON Climate Renewables with Tipton County in 2011. From the onset, I was open to windfarm development in a small section of Tipton County because the commissioners had received no opposition and I felt that the landowners wanted it. My own family was offered an opportunity to lease land to E.ON and we declined because my husband did not care to farm around the towers, and I just didn't want to look at them. I set my own personal views aside and made decisions based on what I felt the majority of the public wanted. I was outspoken enough, however, to say that I would never support a plan to cover a large portion of the county with wind turbines. As it turned out, the problem was that when the decisions were being made to build "Wildcat I", the commissioners were not hearing from the "majority". People really did not know this was happening, or if they did, they did not perceive it to be as "invasive" as it was. As you know, public notices are small and often overlooked in the newspaper, so not much resistance was present.....until the towers went up, and people saw how enormous and intrusive they were. The red blinking lights even disturb my own summer evenings and my home is 6 miles from the closest tower..... !!!! You don't have the time to read what all I could tell you, so in a nutshell I just want to say that I wish I had the knowledge then that I have now. However, what I can do, is to try to pass some of what I know onto the elected officials in the neighboring county so that perhaps you can gain some wisdom from what I learned in the school of hard knocks.

In Tipton County.....my 83 year old mother is mad at me (since I signed the agreements) because she no longer has colorful birds coming to her feeders.....my brother's view from his family dining room table used to be a vast expanse of crops and natural habitat.....now that pristine 'vista' is forever marred by giant metal

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