



Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Blvd.
Charleston WV 25305

21 February 2006

Dear Gov. Manchin:

As a resident of Pendleton County and opponent of the Liberty Gap wind project it has become apparent to me that the PSC does not have the expertise or resources of its own to thoroughly review the siting applications for wind turbine facilities. Partly, this is so because giant turbines are new to West Virginia and we have little experience with them. If Tucker County is any indicator, I think the state would be wise to take its time and carefully evaluate the long-term consequences.

As a stopgap until the PSC does acquire the needed expertise and resources I request that you issue an administrative order to the PSC to avail itself of the resources and personnel in the DNR, the DEP and the Division of Culture and History in its evaluation of current siting certificate applications. And if you have the authority to do so, I request that you impose a moratorium on the PSC with regard to taking any action on wind turbine projects until revised and improved standards are in place.

You need not send this letter on to the WV Development Office for a courtesy reply. The mission of the Development Office seems to be solely focused on bringing new businesses to West Virginia without any regard for the harm that will occur, for example, to the thriving vacation home construction and real estate market that exists in Pendleton County. The Development Office is doing a disservice to West Virginia if it brings in new businesses that result in net economic loss by destroying already existing valuable economic activities.

Sincerely,

Arthur Hooton

Cc: Jeff Herholdt