



26 January 2006

Dear Governor Manchin:

Just last year at about this time I wrote to you asking for your help in our struggle against the wind turbines. In that letter I mentioned the comments you made about the unspoiled, spectacular scenery of Pendleton County when you had attended the Democrat rally at Thorn Spring Park the previous fall. You graciously replied to me and, with the caution of a newly inaugurated governor, passed my letter on to Ms. Timmermeyer, who passed it on to Mr. Spence, whose response indicated to me that his knowledge of wind turbine issues had not gotten beyond face-value acceptance of "Big Wind's" promotional hype.

Luckily for us in Pendleton County, the firestorm that erupted when we found out about the closed-door deal the Commissioners had made for using eminent domain to benefit a private developer, quickly brought about a withdrawal of Liberty Gap's application to the PSC.

This past year you have amply demonstrated that you know how to get things done in the legislature. Liberty Gap is back and West Virginia is at a critical turning point in deciding how to treat its most precious natural resource: the scenic splendor of its wild and wonderful mountain ridges.

I implore you to take the time to read the two enclosed copies of letters that I recently sent to the PSC and to the *Pendleton Times*, our local newspaper. I especially call your attention to item 5 in the PSC letter of 18 Jan. 2006. We need a moratorium now to buy us some time before irreparable harm is done to our beautiful county, to our beautiful state.

Many Pendletonians feel this way. I urge you to visit [www.protectpendleton.com](http://www.protectpendleton.com) and read all the letters people have sent to the PSC. I urge you to come or send a trusted aide to attend a public meeting in Franklin on 1 February where Liberty Gap is supposed to answer (pre-submitted) questions about the project. Find out what the people of Pendleton County think. I have included a print-out of the questions submitted by the Citizens Alliance to Protect Pendleton. Please look at question #17 as it pertains to the issue I am raising.

We're counting on you to twist some arms and coax the legislature into action on this issue. West Virginia cannot afford to be the poster child of yet another industrial desecration of our natural heritage. Our economy depends on it. If I can be of any help, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Arthur Hooton

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