

February 5, 2012

Wasco County Board of Commissioners
c/o Wasco County Department of Planning and Economic Development
205 East Second St.
The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Dear Wasco County Commissioners:

In regards to the proposed changes to the energy ordinance, I am writing in support of setbacks from residences to wind turbines of at least 1.5 to 2 miles in all zones. As this is a health and safety issue, all residents deserve equal protection as opposed to having safe setbacks for some.

In Europe, when wind turbines are sited on land, 1.5 mile setbacks are routinely used with greater setbacks in mountainous terrain, especially in areas with long parallel ridges and valleys, similar to what exists in the Mosier area. Around 2008, European countries started siting wind turbines offshore as an alternative.

Allowing the granting of waivers for lesser distances would enable residents who didn't care what the effects would be to have a lesser setback while not forcing it on others. Waivers would also protect Wasco County from future litigation and problems resulting from inadequate setbacks.

Once wind turbines are installed, developers are reluctant to do anything that affects the operation of the turbines due to the loss of production tax credits and the negative effect on investors. When noise becomes an issue and mitigation measures fail, removal of a turbine is not a realistic option.

It would better for everyone involved to prevent problems on the front end through proper siting and adequate setbacks.

Proper siting will also avoid adverse impacts to protected areas such as the National Scenic Area.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dooley

816 E. 13th St.

The Dalles, Oregon 97058

