

From: [R Sarge](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven EFSEC Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:05:11 PM
Attachments: [EFSEC Comments.docx](#)

Informational Meeting Comment #IM0101
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Here are my comments. I appreciate this opportunity and thought you did well given all the unruly interruption.

Richard A Sargent
Richland, WA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Richard Sargent, I am a lifelong Columbia basin resident and currently reside in Richland.

This is an extremely large project 1,000 MWs (72,000 acres) far beyond any energy needs for the localized area which brings the questions where is this energy going and who are the off-takers. Is this energy being used to benefit our region, is it even being used in Washington State? Is it to be used in the energy imbalance market where it may be used far out of our region (California)?

The applicant has discussed the future needs of energy and the need for energy adequacy in our region quoting the North West Power and Conservation Council. All true but the energy deficiencies coming in are caused by the loss of baseload facilities not necessarily growth though growth is a small part. The Energy adequacy benchmark test is called the **loss of load probability** calculation. This calculation forecasts when energy resources fail to meet highest demands of the region. The generation profile of wind is one of the worst types of generation types to use to improve adequacy or reduce the loss of load probability. To use wind to minimize the adequacy concerns and loss of load probabilities would require a tremendous overbuild of wind generation that would dramatically increase the costs of energy throughout our region and be extremely wasteful of resource.

Our region already has a large amount of wind energy and for certain seasons an over-abundance of energy called over generation. This over generation requires other generating facilities (dams and CGS) to moderate their generation to allow the excess wind causing additional maintenance and wear to those facilities. At times, the dams cannot reduce generation due to fish passage requirements and minimum turbine flow requirements and by adding additional wind in this region we will exacerbate those over-generation events.

The benefits that I hear from the development are about economic benefits. That is important but let us understand, currently the Tri-City region is one of the highest consistently growing communities in the state and that growth and improving economic benefits is not from the result of wind farms. I have not heard any visitor stating "Wow" look at the beautiful windmills on the ridge. I have though been to several wineries where visitors have looked across the valley and up to the Horse Heaven hills marveling its view.

The applicant has discussed visual simulations and has mapped out visualizations. Those visualizations mostly show the effects from a rural view. From Fields and county roads. I strongly opposed the comments stating that the views affects are minimal. But there is a large number of residential areas which will have full view of these turbines. I encourage all committee members to go to the newer hillside- southern facing residential sites in South Richland. These new homes and all the future proposed homes in those areas will have full view both day and night of this facility stretching across the ridgeline. Perhaps a visualization from one of their back yards, dining rooms or bedrooms should be included in the application.

Lastly, the Tri-Cities is and has been one of the strongest growing areas in the state. Not due to the wind farm employment and its tax base. We do not need the taxes from this project. Taxes from other new businesses whose products will stay in our immediate area will provide replace these amounts.

Richard A Sargent
526 Clermont Dr.
Richland, WA 99352

From: [Greg Gales](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:13:19 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #IM0102
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To whom it may concern:

I was called upon to speak tonight but was unable to speak due to Internet issues.

My Name is Greg Gales I'm the President of the Ironworkers Local 14 in Tri Cities, Wa. I represent about 450 members in Benton County and surrounding areas. We are in support of the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project. It would create jobs and increase demand for local business that provides construction materials , equipment and supplies, as well as lodging, food and fuel. The local business are in need of that due to the pandemic.

Thank you
Greg Gales
President
Ironworkers Local 14
Cell 509-845-5226

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jason Walker](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farm Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:14:15 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #IM0103
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I would like to voice my opinion on the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm project. My wife and I are residents of the Tri-Cities. We recently purchased a piece of property in south Kennewick. We are proposed to this project as it will negatively affect the property value of our property and all of our neighbors. We don't want this in our back yard. We purchased our property because of the view and the future property value. This proposed site is in the urban growth area of the Tri Cities. I think there would be better options available if Scout energy would approach the Benton County Commissioners directly and work with them instead of going directly to EFSEC and the Governor.

Thank you,

Jason Walker



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Denise Christensen](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: HORSE HEAVEN WIND PROJECT
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:20:29 PM
Attachments: [EFSEC Horse Heaven Wind March 30 Comments.docx](#)
[Fish & Wildlife Ferruginous Hawk.pdf](#)

Informational Meeting Comment #IM0104
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Please find attached my written comments for the EFSEC Public Meeting of 3/30/2021. Thank you.

John Christensen
509-531-0057
cjcfarms@msn.com

March 30, 2021

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Dear EFSEC;

I am a lifelong resident of Kennewick and property owner in the Horse Heaven Hills.

To be clear. Scout Clean Energy should not construct a Wind Farm at this location.

Scout Clean Energy (SCE) cares nothing for our community as evidenced by their proposal to scar over half the width of Benton County, destroying our beautiful landscapes and scenic skylines for generations. Also, they chose not to listen to the voice of the community, rather they bypassed the county level and applied directly to the state. SCE's agenda is to produce the energy, market it out of our region, and collect huge PTC subsidies while Benton County and generations of our residents are left with the permanent impacts.

Our local utilities have chosen not to support this project. Their decisions are based on "The Science" They have no agenda. The decisions made are only based on what's best for the region.

It then follows, with only a 30% efficiency, idle when they're most needed, and at highest efficiency when our Hydro power is at its max, Wind Farms are not a good option for our region.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

1. Visual pollution of our landscapes
2. Decreases in economic development.
3. Decreases in tourism industry.
4. Lower real estate values.
5. Increased percentage of unreliable intermittent energy.
6. Increased potential of future blackouts.
7. Energy sprawl 30 to 40 times that of Small Modular Reactors (SMR).
8. Decreased water quality due to forced dam "spilling" during spring run-off periods affecting salmon recovery.
9. No net decrease in climate change or carbon emissions.
10. 6,500 acres lost of irreplaceable agricultural lands. This proposal is in violation of Benton County's Comprehensive Plan Update, specifically Land Use Designation. Benton County has designated these lands as GMA-Agriculture and is supported by the Growth Management Hearings Board decisions.

11. Intrusion into USDA/WDFW Priority area. This Wind Farm proposal is in violation of a wildlife Priority area. It is within the boundaries of the USDA Ferruginous Hawk SAFE Program (See attached.) This is an area in Benton County created to address Priority Natural Resource concerns. Primarily the Ferruginous Hawk whose populations continue to decline. On the federal level this is a species of "Special Concern"--- Washington State considers the Ferruginous Hawk as "Threatened" but the Fish and Wildlife Commission is seeking to change status from "Threatened" to "Endangered."

Obviously, you should not, you cannot, construct a "kill zone" line of Wind Turbines in the midst of this Priority Area. Any deaths to this Ferruginous Hawk "Threatened" species within this area and attributable to Wind Turbines is completely UNACCEPTABLE and cannot be mitigated.

In conclusion, you cannot mitigate to non- significance the visual pollution of a 24-mile line of 500' high wind turbines with nighttime flashing lights and daytime flickering blades located within sight of 300,000 community residents. You cannot violate county Land Use Designations to permanently impact valuable and irreplaceable Agricultural Lands. And you cannot locate 244 wind turbines inside an area designated for the protection and resurgence of a "threatened" or "endangered" species.

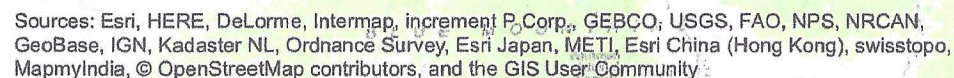
Let the science prevail, wind farms are all about subsidies, grants, and PTC tax credits and come at a huge expense to the taxpayer. Without these, benefits would rarely exceed their cost. Having less than 30% efficiency, wind farms are not suited for the Northwest. They are expensive, inefficient, unsightly, unreliable, and have a short lifespan. Energy dollars spent on nuclear SMR's would be a much better choice.

Finally, to construct a 24-mile, 500' high spinning picket fence of Space Needle sized wind turbines demonstrate little regard for local residents. The Tri-City metro area has the most rapid economic growth in the state. The Tri-cities is also the 3rd largest population area in Washington. This 24-mile project is UNACCEPTABLE here just as it would be from Spokane to Post Falls, Seattle to Everett, or Seattle to Tacoma.

My vote is to NOT bring another wind farm project to the Tri-Cities. Our community contributes more energy per capita than any other area in Washington State. As such, we should be able to choose which projects are acceptable, and other areas need to step up and contribute to the energy pool based on population as well.



John Christensen
3802 W 43rd Ave
Kennewick, WA 99337
509.531.0057
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From: [Derek Kolar](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hill Wind Farm Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:21:31 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #IM0105
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

EFSEC

Subject:
I am against the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm

Questions and Concerns:

- Per the presentation provided from March 30th, shared there is still unknowns of full scope
- Was not clear on Tax Revenue based on Property Tax, not production
- Would like a full ROI for operations over the 35 years of operations
 - Tax Revenue
 - Will Washington State receive any of the revenue from power sales? or is only the land revenue? If no from Power sales, why not?
 - 950 jobs x \$80K (salary) = \$74.4M What is the schedule/duration for this scope
 - Is this clear it is short term and require specialty labor, not a high percent of local union
 - Will this type of labor be outsourced from out of area union/non union labor
 - What local companies has Scott been working with i.e. Union Halls, Lampson Cranes, Supply companies that may have vested interest?
 - 56 full time jobs x \$80K (Salary) = \$4.5M a year
 - Unknowns
 - Other operational costs Rentals, Lease, equipment, PUD Operations, Battier disposal, Access Road Maintenance, State, Local and US Tax
- Disposal Cost of blades, who will cover this, what State will accept this hazardous waste?
- Lithium Batteries have a shelf life approx. 15 years, however were will these be disposed, who will cover the cost, again hazardous waste
- Yes, this is farm land, farm owners will receive review from lease for over 35 years and will not be allowed to repurpose the land until end of cycle, is this clearly understood were mentioned to keep the land for the family for generations, but hands will be tied
- Tri-Cities over the last 40 years has expanded exponentially, east of Tri-Cities is the next expansion. Realestate is on a continued state of clime, with expanding south, do the Farmers understand short term vs long term value of land usage? i.e. housing development
- The Horse Heaven Hills are a heavy wind area, will the Turbine be equipped with Fire Supression system so when a Turbine may spark/catch fire will not cause major fires. i.e. Scott is introducing a higher risk to the area etc. This would not be good for our local fire departments even though they would receive a percent of tax revenues.
- It was not clear on the scope of connecting to the Bonneville power grid of what if's.

Has the Bonneville Power Administration bought into this?

- What role will the Local PUD's be supporting and what will be their operational cost increase and/or recovery to support the administration of this for the 35 years.
- Will this be subsidized similar to Columbia Generation Station by Bonneville in order to maintain the Scott Operations Project?
- Once in operations, it was not clear on who will receive the energy i.e. who will the power be sold to? will this be 100% supporting Washington State? since it will be built and operated in Washington?
- How will the power be juggled with current full time Hydro and Nuclear if Turbine/solar is 30% efficient i.e. not stable etc. Storage capacity for battery is only short term i.e. usage etc. Can you provide in real term understanding of Capacity usage in MW and what does a local community use.
- I was not

Other thoughts

- Western Washington was many Mountains that Turbines can be installed including solar including on the West Coast that would have a higher percent of providing a steady wind source. This would cover the initiatives in place by the state for renewable energy use.

For Solar - if trying to push this to Eastern Washington

- Require all Tri-City Home Owners to install the solar panels on their homes, good for 15 years, owners are liable for maintaining the panels and battery storage and only be able to use 4% of the energy and the remainder to be used out state and tax the owners.
- This could also be required in the Seattle and Western Washington, it may not be full time source do to weather, but they would be included and/or impacted such as what Scott is forcing on Tri-Cities
- I believe this would be a great usage and requirement to force Washington Residents to achieve the State Requirements of going green. It would reduce need for Turbines

What's' in it for Washington

- Let our State, Local PUD's assess create and RFP to build SOMETHING and be run and support Washington and have full control of Revenue from Power Sales, Jobs, manager the operations and power adjustments required to coordinate Hydro/Nuclear that would include Turbine/Solar

Nuclear Considerations

- Is EFSEC reviewing the NewScale small proposed Nuclear Production Units? this would be continued power needs but with long term disposal impact
- With Hanford Reservation in down sizing, there is much acreage that may be used. With nuclear hazardous waste in burial sites, the option to build Solar Panels over the

unusable areas and in multiple clean areas that would provide ample space to build on the 586 square miles. This would be more than sufficient of acres vs Horse Heaven Hills.

- This would be a controlled area, plenty of Labor Support and lower Risk/Impact and scalable
- This could also be leveraged with Pacific Northwest National Labs/Battell etc. for current and future technology designs

again, I am for the future planning of going green, but appose of having an outside entity driving requirements for our state and community.

Derek Kolar

Cell: 509-528-3673

[Email: kolarbear13@gmail.com](mailto:kolarbear13@gmail.com)

From: [Patrick D. Grengs II](#)

To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)

Subject: EFSEC Meeting - Horse Heaven Wind Project - Public Commentary

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:28:06 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #IM0106
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Commentary regarding the new Horse Heaven Windmills:

- Each wind turbine requires 2500 tons of concrete for the foundation. The amount of CO2 generated to produce the concrete is enormous. The rate of CO2 production in terms of windmill installations around the world would place this among the top CO2 producing countries were it measured as such. Insisting that windmills are somehow Green is a blatant scam.
- Turbine blades wear out due to stress fractures and must be replaced over their operating lifetime (20-35 years). The blades are similar to airplane wings – they develop micro-fractures during use. There is no current cost-effective method for recycling the wind blades – in spite of the quote from Cynthia Langston of Casper Wyoming Solid Waste Management.
- Some may find the appearance of the turbines to be attractive (thinking only of the instantaneous electricity produced). Others, look at the turbines as pollution – destroying the clean open spaces. The Columbia River Gorge has already been desecrated with these eyesores.
- Wind turbines change the wind velocity to such an extent, that in the larger wind farms, the rows of turbines at the trailing end of the wind vector move much more slowly as a result of the momentum of the wind being significantly dampened by the turbines on the front of the wind wave. In short, the actual amount of power produced is significantly less than the calculations from the models.
- When you have over 260,000 wind turbines, around the world, that directly change the climate via significant reduction in surface convective air currents which dampen advective atmospheric mixing, and nobody from the Sierra Club, Earth First, the IPCC or the Friends of Global Progress is even bothering to wave a flag of concern, then you can be

assured that Climate Change alarmism is less a matter of science and more a matter of politics and taxpayer financed corporatism.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our commentary.

Patrick D. Grengs II / West Richland, WA

From: [J.L.Banning](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Project Opposition
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 8:49:26 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #IM0107
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I strongly oppose the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm project.

My husband and I have been residents of Kennewick, Washington (Benton County) since 1998. We raised our two daughters here in this desert-style small town atmosphere. We stayed because of the community and unobstructed views of the hills and ridges. The open air and vast views are highly desirable to even those who are moving here currently from California and other areas. While we've seen many changes and a lot of growth recently; we do not believe this wind farm is in any way a "good" idea. It will permanently change and litter this beautiful landscape.

Wind farms create very few local jobs if any. Not only that, they will definitely not benefit any community in which they are installed. Landfills are full of blades and materials from wind turbines. This is not beneficial to any environment. They create more garbage not to mention affect tourism negatively. This side of Washington State relies heavily on vineyards. We are in the middle of wine country. People travel here to visit and tour our amazing wineries and views. These would be destroyed with this project. We have such beautiful local birds and habitat also that would forever be negatively impacted.

In a time where our concern is the earth, I see nothing positive coming out of this proposed wind farm.

Sincerely,
Jackie Banning
Kennewick, WA

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [Frank Kliewer](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: We must save the Horse Heaven Hills AVA
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:08:35 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

Informational Meeting Comment #IM0108
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

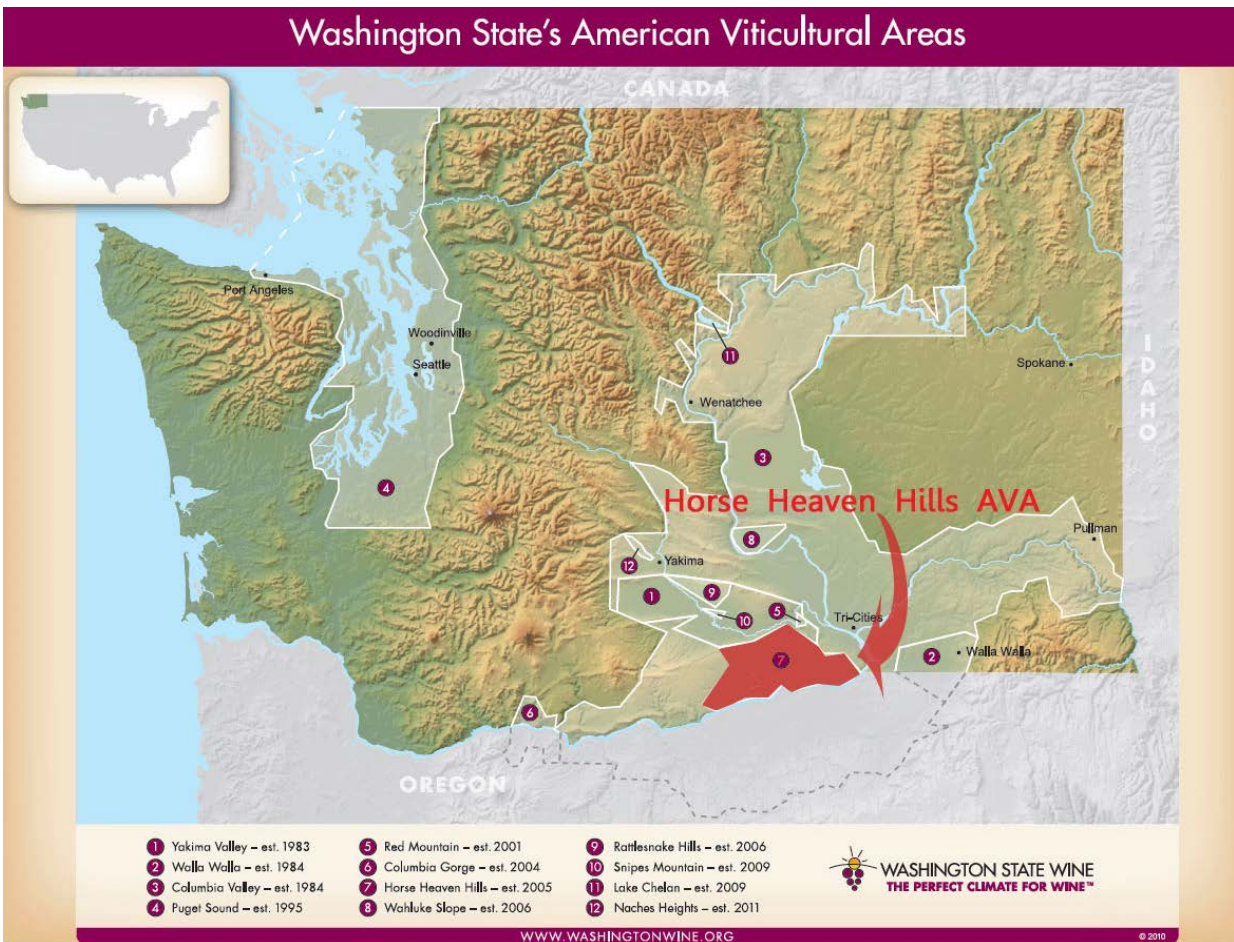
EFSEC Committee Members and Staff,

The Horse Heaven Hills American Viticultural Area (AVA) has the single largest wine making facility in Washington State, the Columbia Crest Winery owned by Chateau Ste. Michelle. Washington is seeing a growing economic benefit from the grapes grown in the extremely special soil and environment of the Horse Heaven Hills AVA. How special is the soil? Wikipedia: "The sandy loam vineyard soils create a nearly inhospitable environment for the phylloxera louse, which may be one of the reasons why the phylloxera epidemic has not ravaged the Washington wine industry as it has the Californian and French wine industries in the past."

Woodinville, Bothell and other Western Washington cities have seen over 100 new wineries and tasting rooms open up over the past few years in a move that could eventually unseat California as the top producer of the best wines in the US, thanks to our Eastern Washington grapes. The Cabernet Sauvignon grapes grown in the Horse Heaven Hills include vintages which scored the rare 100-point rating from Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*. Only 15 other wines in the US, all from California gained that prestigious score. Wine business owners in Western Washington refer to the Horse Heaven Hills as if it were some sacred place one would take a pilgrimage to and enjoy the best of what they have trucked yearly to their wine pressing facilities for bottling in Western Washington.

Why would we even consider putting a wind/solar farm within the Horse Heaven Hills and cast massive shadows from the 500 foot and higher monstrous bird-killing wind machines over a 20+ mile stretch and cover thousands of acres of the best south-facing precious land with black plastic panels, roads and unsightly infrastructure? Why would we even consider effectively taking away massive amounts of the best unique land from the future of our wine industry as vintners ramp up for more production over the coming decades? Wind/solar farms want what grapes like, wind and sun. But it is the soil of the Horse Heaven Hills AVA that makes it so special for the grapes and other similar agricultural products, while it is meaningless for a wind/solar farm. There is no compatibility between massive wind/solar farms and premium vineyards and agriculture. So, there is no mitigation of this fact except to find another location for the wind farm, like offshoring the turbines as President Biden wants to do, and using land that is not in our precious Horse Heaven Hills AVA for solar installations.

What is the best-use future of The Horse Heaven Hills? It is a small, yet extremely important sliver of land in Washington State.



Governor Inslee should use tax credits to boost the vintners and new business owners so they can spread out on the best of the precious open plantable land available in the Horse Heaven Hills sooner rather than later, boosting the economy for the benefit of all Washington taxpayers and the creation of thousands of long-term jobs throughout the State. Wine businesses from around the world could be drawn to this special area adding even more of a boost to the Washington State economy.

Imagine a future for Benton County and Washington State with entrepreneurs developing new vineyards and elegant wineries highlighting and adding pastoral beauty in our treasured Horse Heaven Hills. Governor Inslee could become known as a wise visionary protecting our natural resources while creating economic growth and strength for the entire State of Washington.

Thank you for your consideration,

Frank Kliewer

Kennewick

Cells: 509.405.2800

From: [Christy](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#) Informational Meeting Comment #IM0109
Subject: March 30-Public Comments on Scout Wind Turbine Project in Horse Heaven Hills Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:10:14 PM Docket #210011
Attachments: [EFSEC-HHH Pubic Comments-Scout Wind Project-03-30-21.doc](#)

External Email

Hi! I attended the public comment meeting on-line and wanted to wait to submit comments by email in case other's comments prompted additional comments to my presentation. I am attaching my comments by word document attachment, because there are photo visual aids present, which did not want to "cut and paste" directly into the body of this email. I appreciate you taking time to consider my and all other's comments in this process.

Thank-you,

Christy Hembree

Hello,

My name is Christy Hembree. I am a native Richland resident, and I am writing to you today to submit comments in strong opposition to the Scout “Clean” Horse Heaven Wind Turbine Project. I appreciate you taking the time to consider my comments, along with others’ protests against the project, as this is a project that affects all Tri-Cities residents, residents of nearby towns, as well as visitors who value our area’s unspoiled beauty. The company Scout Energy is trying to by-pass local input and rush this project through in Olympia, thereby skipping the input of the people who will be affected most, and have the most stake, in the effects and outcomes of the project.

I have put the “Clean” in Scout “Clean” Energy in “air-quotes” because I and others strongly believe that not only is this supposedly clean, green energy source not as “clean” as it contends, but it is also not a clean and clear benefit for our Tri-Cities and surrounding areas, as I hope to show here.

Far from being the purported “clean energy answer” Scout Energy would have us believe, the Horse Heaven Wind Energy Project represents a very real threat, to our local environment, to our economy, to the general public’s and to other species’ health, to our tourism industry, and to public enjoyment of our local ridgelines in terms intrinsic value and recreational uses.

To understand these multi-layered threats, it helps to start by understanding the ridges and ridgelines, in their natural state. Our ridges are home to rare plant and animal communities and provide

vital habitat for local and migratory species of birds, mammals, butterflies, bats, and many others. Visiting our ridges, one may experience species-rich native plant and animal communities; that have all but disappeared in their natural states in our valleys. In my lifetime, I've seen many of our local native wild lands fall prey to development. Our ridges are like the last line of defense for many of the native species, who call them home; as well as great resources for students of ecology, biology and botany, and natural history. They provide a plethora of recreational opportunities. They are source of solitude & enrichment for those who take time to seek out their natural wonders.

One argument against development and in favor of preservation our ridges from wind farms, can be exemplified by a species found there: the little orange-red flower in the lower right corner of picture is *Balsamorhiza rosea*: Rosy Balsam.



Rosy Balsam is listed by at least one source as Critically Threatened in its range in Oregon, Imperiled in Washington State. This charming little plant goes through the color spectrum during its blooming cycle, from yellow through orange to deep red hues, earning it the nickname "Rosy Balsam." It grows on the tops and sides of the ridgelines, in the rocky soil region known as "lithosoil" and is often in the path of destruction from off-road vehicle use. Rosy balsam, and the other species of native plants that make up the ridge top ecosystem, and the sagebrush-bunchgrass ecosystems on the sides of the ridges, provide an important herbicide & pesticide-free food resource to local and migratory pollinators, such as butterflies of many species, bees, insects, and even hummingbirds and bats.

The Spotted bat, unknown in eastern Washington until 1991, uses hillside habitats including cliffs and talus slopes; habitat that is found on our ridges. Falcon and Hawk species, including state threatened Ferruginous Hawks, can be found nesting on Cliffside escarpments on our ridges as well. On any given hike you might see deer, elk, coyotes, hawks, falcons, ground-nesting birds, rare native plant species, butterfly and insect representatives and other local native species. Right now, in the spring, you'll hear the distinctive cries of the Sandhill Cranes, and see their V-formations flying over, as they follow long-established yearly migration routes, using the ridgelines' thermal updrafts for propulsion along their migratory flyway routes.

Windmills have been shown to wreak havoc on human hearing and equilibrium. Think how much worse it will be for bird hearing and bat echolocation, to say nothing of direct physical damage to local and migratory bird, and bat species in and around the wind towers, if the Scout Wind Farm Project is allowed to proceed. Bird and bat species deaths have already been studied, and well-documented, in other areas with wind towers. In all cases, wildlife is the clear loser,

and wildlife species deaths are documented at numbers exponentially higher due to wind turbines, in relation to similar areas without wind towers. These threats are real and well-known, and have not been adequately redressed or remedied in other areas. How can we justify introducing that problem here?



SandHill Cranes using thermal updrafts from Horse Heaven Hills Ridgeline to “hop” over towards well-known Columbia River stopover sites. These crane migrations themselves are huge tourism draw, bringing thousands of people from around the state and country to view them. Disrupting bird flyway with a giant industrial windfarm complex would be catastrophic to cranes and other local and migrating species.



Sandhill Cranes using thermal updrafts from Horse Heavens and Rattlesnake Ridge during their long migration journeys. These same updrafts are also known and used by other species of birds like hawks and falcons, for hunting and travel, as well as recreationally by hang-gliding and paragliding enthusiasts.

Wind Turbine's spinning blades kill over half a million birds per year and more bat species. Scout Energy claims their wind farm project is a boon for the state, yet it will directly cause many annual bird and mammal deaths, disrupt bird flyways, degrade intact shrub-steppe ecosystems, and create wind turbine syndrome in humans and nearby livestock, (and by extension, in wild animals living there). Clearly, saying the Scout Energy Wind project benefit our area is a downright lie.

Windpower is being marketed as "green" and an answer to Washington state's 100% clean energy goals, but windpower actually necessarily contributes to more CO2 emissions, rather than less. In "slack times," it is often necessary to rely on coal and other green-house gas emitting energy sources to take up the slack of

unreliable wind energy. Calling it “green” if it depends on coal during wind slack times is another outright falsehood. In our area, it would be displacing the hydro/nuclear energy suppliers, which are already in place, virtually carbon neutral and do not threaten the ecologic integrity of our local ridge lines.



Bright Blue Skies and Native Flowers: A heady combination. Native plants and animals belong on our ridgelines. Wind turbines do not.

In addition to the wind project, an add-on solar project has been proposed for this area in conjunction with the Horse Heaven Wind Farm. Solar representation would be better suited by giving homeowners (and renters!) better incentives to put rooftop solar on their dwellings, and by supporting R&D that is finding ways to make solar smaller, longer-lasting and affordably suited toward single dwellings and small businesses, not to mention recyclable at the end of its use cycle. Ravaging local native shrub steppe communities and arable agricultural lands is an example of the wrong way to push

green energy in our state, and an inexcusable, thoughtless waste of those lands.

When pondering the wise-use of Eastern Washington lands, Energy Northwest and others considering this Wind Project, might be better off voting in favor of the proposed modular reactor project, which would be located near or on Columbia Generating Station's already existing footprint, and create more power, in a smaller area, and a with a better fit for our already existing hydro/nuclear energy grid.

Nuclear power in the state might not be perfect but its already well-established, virtually carbon-free, and produces a lot more energy from just one plant than the ungainly, sprawling Horse Heaven Wind Project will ever produce. Nuclear plants are also built with a remediation plan at the end of their life-cycles, which incidentally can also be extended through upgrades and mods to the original plants, virtually indefinitely. Scott's "Clean Energy" Wind Project comes with no guarantees, implied or stated, once these towers, with their relatively short life-cycles, start to degrade. These wind towers are not recyclable either, and often end up in landfills.

Tourism is a 300 million dollar industry in our area, and a lot of that is due to locally, easily accessible recreation. We have the Columbia, Snake, and Yakima rivers in our back yards. We have a ridge system complex that offers endless recreation opportunities and gives nature lovers of all types unparalleled adventure opportunities, right here at home, and close to town.

We are living in an age where we need to be smarter and more discerning about the choices we make on behalf of the planet. Economic Growth and conspicuous consumption, strictly for its own sake, have created our current predicament, in terms of global

warming and climate change. Embracing clean energy in general is good, but should not come at the cost of protecting natural areas, wildlife, and open spaces that are becoming more endangered all the time. Instead of pushing this industrial scale wind energy down the public's throat at the expense of our beloved recreation spaces and biodiversity, why not encourage rooftop solar and single-family dwelling wind devices, and incentivize them so that families can afford those clean energy device investments and upkeep? Thus putting the clean energy devices at the source where they are needed, and saving open and arable lands for recreation and agriculture. Giant wind turbines sprawled along our ridgelines are not a wise choice in terms of supporting green energy.

From a distance our ridges might seem brown and lifeless and empty to the uninitiated. Driving by in a car, with out ever getting out in them, they might seem overlooked and forgotten; deemed the “perfect location” to locate wind turbines, by a company with no local stake in our communities.

West-siders and recent transplants from the greener side of the state and back east, might be forgiven for seeing all that open space and thinking that if trees don't grow there, than nothing much else does either. But one cannot truly see our ridgelines and the rich and varied ecosystems there unless one truly takes the time to get out in them.

To take a walk along the ridge lines during springtime's unfolding pageant is to discover a landscape in miniature, perfectly adapted to a volcanic rocky substrate, and harsh, dry often windy conditions there. Not unlike the alpine gardens of Mt Rainier, plants here complete full life cycles there often by staying small, having “hairy” leaves to help prevent evaporation, shorter blooming seasons, and a

number of other adaptations that make them perfectly suited to their unique locale. Walk a few feet to either side of the ridgeline and you see this trend change, as plants make use of deeper soils, relatively more protected hillsides, north facing aspects, etc.

If you have the time to make several trips throughout the spring growing season you will see a story of plant life unfolding from smallest and most modest plants like Desert Parsley and Yellow Bells, Shooting-stars, to mid-season blooms like Brodiaea Species, Cushion Daisies and Pussy Toes, to later, showy, larger species like Lupine, Larkspur, Penstemon, and Balsam root Species. Even these have different species representatives depending on where you are at: on the very tops of the ridgeline, more demure lupine and balsam flowers bloom, like the Rosy Balsam and Cushion Daisy, in the first picture shown.

As the flower season unfolds on our ridges, many migrating and local pollinators make use of the pesticide free havens, to sustain themselves. Bees, Butterflies and Bats are among the many who rely on these ridgeline gardens' beautiful spring bounty. Lizards and ground nesting birds make their homes here. In the rocky cliff outcroppings, nesting hawks and falcons raise broods. Ravens play on the thermal updrafts created by the ridgelines and migratory bird species like Sandhill cranes depend on these ridges to aid their travel, on their way to stop over spots along the Columbia river. Deer and Elk rely on these ridges too, as grazing lands in the valleys becomes more and more fragmented and scarce. Lifecycles unbroken, from long before this land was settled by immigrants, play out here, as they have for thousands of years. Unbroken, but now threatened by development, like the Scout Energy Project.



Lupine and Balsam root flower with Mt. Adams at sunset on the Horse Heaven Hills. Is this view worth sacrificing for a Windfarm project that doesn't even benefit us locally. Scout Energy seems to think so, but they do not live here. Why aren't locals being given the right to decide?

Our ridges are well-loved by local residents: maybe a little too well loved in places, as ORV tire tracks, target shooting shells, targets and clay pigeons, and litter have become a perennial problem.

Unfortunately not everyone who love recreating on the Horse Heaven Hills and other ridgelines in our area, are aware just how fragile the shrug-steppe, and especially ridge-top plant communities, are; and how susceptible to harm by vehicle use, litter, and heavy traffic.



An example of “light traffic” off-road vehicle use by vehicles driving where they are not supposed to be. The permanent destruction by a large scale wind farm project will be catastrophic in comparison.

This is a problem that is solvable and can be remediated; and is nothing compared to the destruction that will be caused by Scout Energy’s large-scale wind turbine project. A wind farm of this scale will be catastrophic, unrecoverable, and untenable. And for what? For a small contribution of electricity that will not even benefit the Tri-Cities area. For a small boost of jobs during its building phase, most of which will be eliminated soon as the installation is finished. The Horse Heavens Wind Farm Project will create a trail of destruction on the local hillside wild lands; with no guarantee of remediation once the short life cycle of the wind turbines is completed. And then the wind towers will become derelict eyesores and a reminder of a project that never should have been approved in our area.



Many flower species provide pesticide- and herbicide free food sources for bees, butterflies, insects, and other pollinators during the spring season as well as inspiration for hikers along the Horse Heaven Hills.

To get an idea of just how pristine our ridge lines really are, one only has to visit hillsides or sagebrush-bunchgrass communities that have been disturbed by fire, development, agriculture, overgrazing, etc. There one sees erosion, invasion of exotic and undesirable species like tumbleweed, cheat grass, thistle, puncture vine, and the like. One also notices the dearth of native plant diversity and cryptogamic crust. That is the microphytic crust layer, made up of lichens, algae, cyanobacteria, and fungi. The crust preserves soil moisture and creates small open spaces between native grasses and shrubs. This microphytic crust layer is not unlike the good-bacteria in your gut. Losing the good bacteria in your intestines creates all sorts of health havoc in your body. Similarly, once the microphytic crust layer is gone from the ecosystem, invader species get established and create a stranglehold, and native plants soon perish and ecosystem integrity is lost. This will happen with a Wind farm

installation on the Horse Heaven Hills and our other ridges.

A good, intact patch of native plant community on the ridge-line looks like a Zen garden in miniature, made up of many species, interconnected, each with its role to play. A disturbed portion looks like a motley, overgrown weed patch.

Conservation Director for the Nature Conservancy of Washington, Curt Sopher, publisher of the book *Singing Grass, Burning Sage*, likens Washington's Shrub-steppe to Old Growth Forests, saying, "Shrub Steppe is every bit as rare, just not as well known." Our local ridges and ridge tops, easily accessible to residents of the Tri-cities and surrounding smaller towns, are an even more rare and special component of these already rare shrub-steppe landscapes. They offer accessibility to a variety of unique micro-ecosystems, proximity to wildlife, a rich spectrum of native flora and fauna, solitude and recreation possibilities, all very literally in our back yards, and on a scale and richness that is largely disappearing from our Lower Mid-Columbia Landscape. In one 24-hour period, you may see recreational visitors to our ridges as varied as native plant enthusiasts, bird watchers, hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, hang-gliders and parasailers, photographers and astrophotographers, amateur astronomers and sky watchers, and people just wanting to unplug and enjoy all of the benefits that our ridgelines have to offer.

On any one day in the spring, one might see diverse native plants and animals; from the tiniest plant species, to a deer or elk herd. One might cross paths with coyotes, ravens and hawks, or see a rarer sighting, like that of migrating Sandhill cranes or the rare golden eagle visitor. I have seen all of these there and many more on our ridgelines. I have laid on my side taking close up flower pictures only encounter rare butterflies or tiny horned lizards ("horned

toads”). I have experienced hundreds of other plant sightings and welcome wildlife encounters. These can never be seen until one gets out of the car, or off the trail and out into the landscape. Our hills give you the opportunity to cultivate stillness in a way that even a meditation or yoga class rarely can, if you let them. They have a rhythm and a purpose and a depth, that we, as harried 21st century humans, rarely glimpse, much less fully understand. As this diversity is being lost throughout much of the world; it needs protecting, for its precious rarity.

We are at a cross-roads in our human history: an age agreed by many scientists to be the Anthropocene, the human-caused sixth mass-extinction event of our time. Plant and animals species are being lost forever at unparalleled rates, unmatched by any other of the major extinction events of our planet, and its human caused. We are in the process of destroying our planet’s diverse ecosystems, turning them into homogeneous landscapes for the use of only a few species, at the expense of our planet’s very survival. We are discovering, almost too late, that these diverse ecosystems being lost actually hold the key to our planet’s survival: acting as buffers, carbon sinks, and shields against climate change. And that not only are we losing irreplaceable, individual species, but we are risking the survival of life on earth as we know it. It is not an exaggeration or hyperbole to propose that our local ridges contribute far more value in terms of ecosystem stability and biodiversity buffers; and thus fight climate change better in their natural state, than they would housing Scout Energy’s relatively short-term, no-benefit wind farm project. Like the sky islands of the Arizona desert, our ridgelines are islands of species diversity and ecosystem wholeness, which largely disappearing from the surrounding landscapes and communities.

We are at this point in our history because of a polarization of views that has created an Us against Nature, and a development at the cost of the planet, mentality. Now, here locally, we are at a similar polarizing cross-roads. Fossils versus green energy. With Scout Energy misrepresenting itself as the Green Energy Solution. And people are ready to leap on the green energy bandwagon, carte blanche, without really investigating whether this particular project is actually creating more benefit versus loss. In the case of the Horse Heaven Wind Project, the Loss side of the development equation far outweighs the Benefits side. Not only in terms of habitat loss and destruction, disruption of migratory bird flyways and bat movement, and other local species not able to pick up and move their homes when the bulls dozers arrive. But also in terms of a healthy local tourism industry. In terms of Human Health and Well-Being. And, according to Benton PUD, the Scout Energy Wind farm project will not only NOT answer our need for energy during winter and summer crunch times, but will cause rate hikes, disrupt the grid, and create havoc in an already good balance of Hydro- and nuclear-power supply that is according to them, 93% non-emitting.

There is also the question of disruption to our tourism industry. According to a source from the Tri-Cities Visitor Bureau, visitor spending in 2019 was 560.2 million dollars, creating at least 6320 jobs, in Benton & Franklin Counties. Many visitors from the Westside and beyond, come to enjoy our sunny weather, golf, visit wineries, and enjoy the unspoiled panoramas of our ridgelines, whether from a distance or up-close.

Is it really worth it, in terms of disruption to our largely carbon-

neutral Hydro-Nuclear energy combo? In terms of disruption to our lucrative tourism industry? In terms of the sacrifice to human health and happiness? In terms of ecosystem diversity and stability? Just to create a paltry possible 16 permanent jobs, and a possible 2.4 million per year revenue from the Wind Farm project? Again cost versus benefit really falls short in terms of the benefits to our area and to the state, when considering Wind Energy for our Columbia Basin area.

I am sure better minds already have and will weigh in against the Scout “Clean Energy” Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project. I have gotten some of my information directly from the websites saveourridges.org and hiketricities.com, which if you check their visitor ratings, will shed some light on the level of interest of those already aware of this project.

I submit, though, that there is a much greater portion of the public, who, if they fully understood costs vs. gains to our economy, environment, public health, etc., would voice opinions strongly opposed to Scout Energy Wind Farm project. I also submit, that Scout Energy is purposefully by-passing local public input, and trying to rush this project through in Olympia, specifically because informed local opinion would be overwhelmingly against it. Scout Energy must know or suspect, that if local public opinion were considered, with the precise pro’s and con’s of the project adequately spelled out, and not hidden behind Scout’s Campaign of Public Obfuscation Propaganda, locals they would rally firmly in opposition to the project.

I only recently found out about the project by accident, after a hike to Horse Heaven Hills above Benton City showed survey stakes and more vehicle traffic tracks than usual and a visit to hiketricities.com

and saveourridges.org websites confirmed my worst fears. I believe Scout Energy is counting on local public not being well-informed of the project in time to weigh in against it. I further believe Scout is hoping Westside NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) mentality will influence them to greenlight this project for the Eastside. I strongly urge not only that the consideration of informed public already weighing on the Scout Windfarm Project be considered. But that our local public in general, needs and deserves, the time and opportunity to be informed and given an honest and forthright appraisal of the project that will affect lives here in the Tri-Cities and surrounding communities on so many levels. And I strongly implore that they should be allowed to contribute to the decision against or in favor of such a development. Further I strongly urge against allowing Scout energy to be given the ability to by-pass input on the local level and be allowed to foist the project on the Tri-Cities without our local consent.

I appreciate you taking valuable time to consider my comments today, as well as the comments of other informed locals, who truly understand the scope of the project, and who fully realize exactly what is at stake, and what we stand to lose, if Scout Energy is allowed to push their Horse Heaven Wind Farm project through.

Sincerely,

Christy Hembree



Horse Heaven Hills, after a rain, with Lupine at Sunset. Horse Heaven's and other ridge complexes in our area represent the heart and soul of our wild shrub-steppe landscape and are beloved by many visitors and residents alike.

March 30, 2021

The above was written for the Benton County Commissioners Townhall meeting public comments. Over-all after hearing public comments tonight I submit the above comments with a few short bullet points to add:

An Independent EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) is needed. Scout doing its own survey, which from what I heard was inaccurate and not complete, is a direct conflict of interest in this process. Of course they will try to minimize the impact when they are not the ones who live here or are at all concerned with local ecology. Specifically comments stating no large game animals would be affected was incorrect. These ridges are now much needed wildlife corridors as more and more of our native shrub-steppe wilderness disappears.

Another concern that became obvious to me after listening to statements, was that these “wind farms” are not actually farms at all but large-scale sprawling industrial projects. Farmers are saying they should be allowed to use their land as they choose but these industrial wind tower projects seem inconsistent in every way with land zoned for “agricultural use.”

“Jobs” keep being cited by people willing to sacrifice long-term livability and ecosystem stability for the sake of a short-term project and then very few permanent jobs. Again, it seems like a conflict of interest to give more weight to the few, mostly out of state, who stand to gain, from this development project.

Also, this short-term thinking in terms of development at all costs, is what has gotten us to this place where people are “screaming” for green-energy development at all costs, and willing to green stamp any project that on the surface, seems to fit the bill. Please don’t let a wolf in sheep’s clothing, passing itself off as a “green project,” overwhelm common sense and good judgment for the long-term sustainability and quality of life of our area, as well as health of our ecosystems and wildlife.

From: [Denise Hagood](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: HHH wind farm = VISUAL MISERY
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:21:26 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0110
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

The HHH wind farm is a HORRIFIC plan!!

The region will be reduced to an INDUSTRIAL WASTELAND.

It will inflict NEVER ENDING VISUAL MISERY on many thousands of residents.

The immensity and location of the project so CLOSE to the Tri-Cities community is
UTTERLY WRONG!

This is NOT what a clean energy future should look like!!!

Denise Hagood
1608 Lucca Ln
Richland

From: [Eleana Pfleeger](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Against Horse Heaven Hills Wind Turbines
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:25:26 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0111
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Hello,

I strongly oppose the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Project. In addition to the many concerns about the environment, wildlife habitats, the health of nearby residents, and pollutants, I am also concerned about our tourism. The tourism industry is one of the lifelines to our local economy. Permanently changing the landscape and viewscape cripples any growth in our local tourism related to our unique soil that is ideal for wine grape growing.

The project would provide only TEMPORARY and BRIEF jobs for our locals should it be carried out. The project would PERMANENTLY and IRREPARABLY alter our tourism industry - which in our region is the sustainable source of income we need.

Turbines only last 5 years and are unnecessarily filling dumps. There are better options!

Take the time to drive to Walla Walla at night to look at the awful red flashing lights. They're hideous, confusing, and would detract from any sort of ambiance any business owner would be trying to establish, not to mention decrease home/property value if within sight of a home.

There have to be better, more environmentally friendly and secluded options.

Thank you,

Eleana Pfleeger

From: [Michael slaugh](#)

To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)

Subject: Comments

Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:38:05 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0112

Horse Heaven Wind Farm

Docket #210011

External Email

My comments are simple, wind turbines are not something we want in the Tri Cities.

Michael Slaugh

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Watson](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:44:15 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0113
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Thanks for the meeting and materials provided for tonights virtual meeting on the subject project.

Have a few questions and observations:

1. Is there a project schedule available including the environmental and regulatory reviews and approvals including the SEPA process?
2. Has there been any assessment of potential impacts to birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act associated with the operation of the wind turbines? Will obtaining a Take Permit" be necessary?

From: danwen90@charter.net
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:47:11 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0114
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

We do not support the Horse Heaven Wind Project nor do we know anyone who does. There are other areas in the mountains or west side they can be placed if those areas support this type of project.
Dan and Wendy

Sent from my iPhone

From: [PCO Karen](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Will.McKay@co.benton.wa.us](#); [Jerome.Delvin@co.benton.wa.us](#); [Shon.Small@co.benton.wa.us](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:55:33 PM

External Email

At first we were told: "The Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is a project planned by Scout Clean Energy of Boulder Colorado. The wind farm will be on 60,000 acres of farmland consisting of up to 244 wind turbines, each one from 500 foot to 671 feet tall. The turbines will be in up to 6 rows along 24 miles of our Western [Southern] skyline.

"EFSEC [Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council] is the state board charged with the siting of major energy facilities, and will review the application for environmental, social and fiscal impacts [these words disappear in any further communications]. The review process will ensure robust public involvement opportunities and participation by Benton County, who will also review the application for consistency with local land use and zoning laws."

But since the underlined sentence is a lie you removed it from your proposal;

1) social and fiscal impacts - have never yet been discussed by anyone and even the environmental impacts appear to have been laid aside without consideration.

2) Fiscal considerations should include the fact that the state is stealing one tenth of our agricultural lands to destroy it for any future use. That means one tenth of the county's agricultural profits [1,005,288,000.] are permanently destroyed. That leaves the county short a hundred thousand dollars each year. Your payments will not make up for the permanent losses to one of the major sources of livelihood for the county. (Further I do not believe it will ever be decommissioned because we have NEVER seen any windfarm decommissioned and instead we see, at every windfarm remnants of the fourteen thousand non-functioning turbines remaining without any cleanup done. These are then left to contaminate the soil and groundwater.) Plus creating 732 blades the size of these huge blades and with NO possible way to recycle or dispose of them is criminal in itself. Catch technology up to reality, then build these monsters.

3) These are some of the ways your project completely disregards our zoning laws.

a) You are breaking the law and constitutional requirements by refusing to recognize private property rights, especially by creating undue adverse economic impacts and restrictions on the use of private property. This includes the fact that for miles surrounding the project housing will lose value in the market.

b) Your project will forever eliminate the planning for Urban Growth Areas as required by law.

c) You are eliminating long term protection of our county's agricultural economy.

d) You are stealing agricultural land to build an industrial complex too restrictive of nearby city housing.

e) You are breaking all rules for noise and light containment next to housing.

f) You are ignoring the fact that not all soils in Benton County are suitable for structural development because of such things as geo-hydrology, pockets of sandy soils and fines and being very susceptible to wind erosion.

4) You told us that you discovered eight different species of bats by using a couple of different high frequencies to call them to you for counting. But you failed to confess to the fact that your machines make those same high pitched sounds which call the bats and some birds

straight into your machinery.

5) Like most American wind turbine makers you fail to mention the harm done to animals and humans by the infrasound your machines cause. However, coming out of Europe there is plenty of studies already done about the harm done and even the fact that the US military has already done much research in using infrasound as a weapon. I am only a mile and a half away from your nearest turbine and I am doubting that anyone will want or be able to live in this house.

6) It is plain to citizens in Benton County that we do not need these or any more wind turbines. We understand the scope of this project is an untried and extravagant challenge and will, if ever used, be a challenge to the stability of our Northwest grid. If someone else needs wind turbines it is wrong to destroy our county to send more electricity from here. Furthermore we know that if California needs more electricity the intermittent electricity will only be the detriment to them because of causing unstable grid problems. Please listen to Benton Public Utilities and do not purposefully cause these unnecessary problems.

7) According to the Benton Power Administration the wind factor here is less than 30%. With such a low wind factor in our county, you are throwing out a lot of wasted money to site a windfarm here. Why go to so much expense to accomplish so little. Are you deliberately trying to destroy our county?

8) There is really **no** good reason this should happen and we don't want it.

Karen Batishko

pco1365@gmail.com

From: [Frank Dunn](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: I support the horse heaven Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 9:56:49 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0116
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I live 90130 Summit View Drive in Kennewick and I like the energy the windmills provide and do not believe they ruin the view

Thank you

Frank Dunn 509-460-3483 Sent from my iPhone

From: [nick childers](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: proposed wind farm
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:02:08 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0117
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear County Council,

I was unable to attend the meeting last week about the discussion re the wind turbines project. As a citizen of Benton County I wanted to voice my opposition to this project. This will negatively impact winery tourism, the skyline, and the environment (there is no way to recycle the materials these monsters are made from once they die. They end up in huge landfills.)

Please prevent the harm to our area by preventing this company from out of state and their "wind farm" from "planting" in the Tri Cities.

Sincerely,
Leland and Cherelyn Childers

From: [H. Fink](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:13:20 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0118
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Another sample letter to EFSEC:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in opposition to the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Project. I have many concerns about what this will do to the environment, wildlife habitats, the health of nearby residents, and the pollutants from running the turbines.

I am also very concerned about our tourism. The tourism industry has become one of the lifelines to our local economy. Something we have all worked hard to grow and nurture so we are not only dependent on Hanford for our economic stability. Our small wineries and business count on things like the views and the open beautiful sunsets we happen to have in this area. Permanently changing the landscape and viewscape cripples any growth in our local tourism related to our unique soil that is ideal for wine grape growing and areas where we now have a large population hiking, riding bicycles, and sponsoring races I.E. Candy and Badger Mts. The project would provide only TEMPORARY and BRIEF jobs for our locals should it be carried out, thus creating an economic vacuum similar to Hanford's job cuts when they go. The project would PERMANENTLY and IRREPARABLY alter our tourism industry, hampering a sustainable source of income our region desperately needs.

Thank you for your time,
Heather Fink

From: [Nancy](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:15:27 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0119
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

My name is Nancy Richter and I am opposed to wind turbines in the Horse Heaven Hills.

From: [Alan Atkins](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Horse Heaven Hills Windmill Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:16:09 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0120
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Hello,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Scout Clean Energy project in Benton County. This project would deprive Kennewick with potential residential growth areas, ruin the skyline, and only offer a handful of permanent maintenance jobs. Our area would not benefit directly from the windmills, as we already have hydroelectric power and a nuclear generating station. While a few farmers and the county may make money from leasing the land and taxing Scout Energy, it would not offset the eyesore of being surrounded almost in a 180 degree semicircle by these behemoth windmills. Please reject this proposal.

Best Regards,

Alan B. Atkins, PMP

From: [Richard Richter](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Scout Clean Energy Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:26:12 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0121
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I am opposed to the Scout Clean Energy Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm project. The unspoiled views of the of the ridgelines and surrounding hills are an important draw for thousands of visitors to the Tri-Cities and surrounding areas. The long-term adverse effects to the tourism industry (35-year operating life according to Scout Clean Energy) and the millions of dollars and thousands of jobs that tourism generates annually for our local and regional economy will not be offset by the benefits of the 930+ short term construction jobs, the 56 long-term maintenance jobs, or the annual 7.5 million dollars of increased tax revenue Scout Clean Energy projects the project will create. In addition, the negative aesthetic impact to the view shed will diminish the quality of life for the majority the Benton and Franklin County residents.

Richard W. Richter
146 Henley Drive
Pasco, WA 99301

From: [Shane Kirkwood](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:32:07 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0122
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To whom it may concern,

I oppose the installation of the wind and solar project in the Horse Heaven Hills for several reasons. First, there are numerous studies about the impacts to wildlife and ground temperatures that are coming to light that show the negative effects of these installations. These studies have shown for years what is happening to wildlife and are just starting to show the ground temperature and environmental changes caused by wind and solar installations.

Second, the proposed wind turbines are huge. The things are horribly ugly and really detract from what was once a beautiful view of the hills. I grew up in full view of those hills and it's a shame that we have to look at the towers that are there.

Third, I understand the need for more power. The future will take more electricity. That's a given with the push towards electric cars and the state trying to do in natural gas. Even with a solar and a battery system, I personally feel nuclear power is a far better alternative to wind farms. This area does nuclear power well. We have the land for it and nobody has to look at the eyesore of the wind turbines.

In conclusion, I oppose the Horse Heaven Wind Project. The environmental damage is just beginning to be better understood on these projects. I think it would detracts from the beauty of the area. I also think there are more reliable technologies than wind/solar/battery for producing power over the long haul with less visible impact.

Thanks for your time,

Shane

Sent from my iPhone

From: akrapaczwa@aol.com
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Comments Regarding the Horse Heaven Wind project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:47:36 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0123
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To EFSEC;

I am writing as a resident of Benton County to provide you with my comments and perspective on the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Project.

I believe the project is a bad idea and I am opposed to it for the following reasons;

- It will impact the natural beauty of our area and be blight on the land.
We already have far, far too many windmills close to us between the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla. They are ugly and the blinking red lights are obnoxious - particularly at night. There are other areas in Washington that have also been desecrated with these windmills.
The Pomeroy - Dayton area and south of Highway 12 between Walula Gap and Walla Walla for instance.

- I enjoy hiking Badger mountain 4-5 times a week and **would not enjoy** looking out on the existing beautiful vista to the south, to see hundreds of windmills!
If the windmills are built, a hike up Badger or Candy mountain will never be the same. In addition, the view from Rattlesnake mountain would be impacted, and discussions are underway to allow public access to the top of Rattlesnake.
- The ridge vista and open space characteristics of the mid-columbia will be lost forever if this project proceeds.

- Native Americans consider Rattlesnake Mountain to be a sacred site. That's why DOE a number of years ago removed a number of towers situated on top of the mountain.
Radio and TV towers were also removed. Native American rights and history need to be respected, and the Rattlesnake Mountain view-shed not be contaminated with huge wind towers.
Have the Tribes been consulted in the planning of this project?

- Windmills impact access to public land. There are numerous Blocks of BLM and DNR land on and in the area of the proposed project.
Windmill companies typically limit or prohibit access to areas around their windmills. We don't need to be limiting access to public lands in Washington.
Hunting on these public lands will be impacted in particular, as it has been in the Pomeroy area and the area south of highway 12 between Walula and Walla Walla.
Some roads that were previously public have been blocked off. That should not happen in Benton County.

- The windmills are not a steady and reliable source of power. In our region the wind stops blowing precisely when more generation is needed the most.
That is, when it is very hot here in the Columbia basin, and when it's very cold - the wind always drops off. It's not a help for electrical loads that increase under those environmental conditions.

- Wind generation is not economical. It is only profitable to the owners because they receive Federal tax credits based on their generation.
All of which we as taxpayers, end up paying for in the end.

- The power from these windmills will not benefit the people of Benton and Franklin county.
It will be sold out of region while we bear the environmental and esthetic costs.
- Benton PUD has issued a policy paper which opposes further wind development in the mid-columbia region. They studied the issue and concluded it was a bad idea.
- It has been advertised that 930 jobs will be created. By far the large majority of those jobs will be outside the region and not in Benton county, and indeed, outside the state.
- The benefits of those jobs are temporary, lasting only during construction. Operating personnel will be minimal.
- What costs will be incurred by Benton county and our residents for the construction of this Project?
I'm sure there will be un-reimbursed costs. Including an impact on County staff and a strain limited local resources,

I urge you to not approve this project.
Respectfully,
Andy Rapacz
West Richland, Wa.
Benton County

From: [Mark McCormick](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:51:48 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0124
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Hi,

I attended the first webinar by Scout. I sent several questions. During the webinar they answered very few questions and did not allow interaction. I believe some of their speakers were more about selling the project than answering questions thoroughly. There was no mention of the wildfire threat I asked about after reviewing literature on windmill fire incidents.

A wild fire in this area could spread quickly to residential communities with prevailing winds. Fire brands could easily travel a significant distance into Badger Mountain housing areas. Two years ago Kennewick lost homes to a quick moving wildfire due to heavy wind.

I am also dissatisfied in the lack of Scout taking into consideration concerns first then altering the project to meet some of the concerns. An example would be to move the project more south to reduce the visual issues. There is a lot of land away from the ridges.

My concerns include:

- 1) The lack of projects like this on the west side of the state. Power should make an effort to be local. PG&E in Northern Calif has been held responsible for significant fires from transmission lines.
- 2) Fire hazards presented by the wind farm in a high fire area. An independent report with fire modeling would be a good requirement to identify hazards and mitigations. The report should also identify access and local fire protection needs along with mitigations such as cleared setbacks around the units. A fire, as an example, in a 50ft unit may require special extinguishing systems or equipment for the local fire department.
- 3) Effects on bird migration. Independent review should be required.
- 4) Effects on tourism due to the visual noise of the project. Many wineries are located in the area.
- 5) Lack of question responses by Scout as well as alternatives to address concerns.
- 6) Out of state company constructing and then selling off a project. No local accountability.
- 7) Waste plan with bonding required to ensure waste and restoration cost is paid up front to ensure proper disposal.
- 8) Available alternatives to power rather than wind in this area with nuclear and solar options readily available. Independent review requirement to identify need and alternatives.
- 9) Need for an EIR rather than an EIS. Independent studies and reports should be required for this project review based on the effects it may have on the environment and public services.
- 10) Location visible on the ridges. Alternatives should be studied to look at options to move back from the ridges. There are many examples of wind farms not on the edges of ridges.
11. A review and reporting on issues caused by these type units such as fire, electrical hazards, waste issues and what mitigations Scout is using to prevent similar safety issues. There are several articles available detailing safety hazard incidents with these type projects in the US and abroad.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Mark McCormick
Resident of Reata West Subdivision.
Markmcc1@att.net

From: [Dye, Rep. Mary](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: EFSEC Public Hearing on Horse Heaven Hills Proposed Wind Farm
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:55:42 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[EFSEC Hearing Testimony - Rep. Mary Dye.docx](#)

Informational Meeting Comment #0125
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

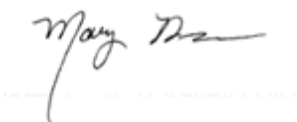
External Email

Dear Chair Kathleen Drew:

I have attached my outline for remarks presented at tonight's public hearing regarding the proposed wind farm in the Horse Heaven Hills.

Thank you for an opportunity to present before your board.

Best regards,



Representative Mary Dye
9th Legislative District
432 John L. O'Brien Building
360.786.7942 | mary.dye@leg.wa.gov
Visit my website: www.representativemarydye.com

*State Representative Mary Dye
Testimony for Public Hearing
EFSEC Hearing on Proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
March 30, 2021*

Consider what may be Lost:

- The Horse Heaven Hills boasts 15,532 acres of vineyard and represents 27% of Washington's total grape production and is the source of the only five, 100-point wines produced in the state.
- The Horse Heaven Hills American Viticultural Area produces some of Washington's most coveted and most expensive wines.
- It is a unique and irreplaceable microclimate. State-of-the-art viticulture is employed to produce some of the finest and most unique wines
- Proximity to the Columbia River creates 30% more wind while moderating temperature extremes, providing steep south-facing slopes for optimum vineyard locations and providing well-drained sandy loam soils.
- The Washington Wine Industry now has 1500 Wineries, produces 178,000 Tons, and has an \$8.4 billion economic impact.
- There are 14 Unique Growing Regions. The Horse Heaven Hills enjoy 16 hours of summer sunlight and 7-9' rainfall. Horse Heaven winds toughen the skins and create the State's top wines.

What would a windmill installation of this size do to an Irreplaceable and arguably the Most Valuable Wine Grape Production Area in the State and potentially the World:

- A study published in Nature Climate Change evaluated satellite data from 2003 -2011 in the world's largest wind farms in West Texas, consisting of 2350 Turbines, to evaluate the effect on local climate and microclimates.
- The warming was significant .72 degrees average with most impact at night. The windmills create turbulence, causing warm and cool air to mix, and significantly changing the surface microclimate.
- The height and location of the proposed development poses a tremendous risk to a valuable and unique production region.
- There are tremendous pressures for utilities to invest in renewable energy in order to comply with the Clean Energy Transformation act. But the pressure to construct windmills in the few remaining economically feasible wind sheds is driving development in areas that have substantial worth for other reasons. Were it not for public energy policy driving the development of wind and solar for compliance with CETA, the sector would find negligible benefit to the already abundant electricity generation capacity in the region.
- The region and the State as a whole has had enormous benefits because of this irreplaceable and protected wine producing region and I urge EFSEC to make the determination to deny the permit for this siting as it poses significant risk to the highly valuable viticulture of the region.

Representative Mary Dye
Mary.dye@leg.wa.gov
509-566-7049 cell

From: [H. Fink](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farms
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:07:19 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0126
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this in opposition to the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Project. In addition to the many concerns about the environment, wildlife habitats, the health of nearby residents, and pollutants, I am also concerned about our tourism. The tourism industry is one of the lifelines to our local economy. Permanently changing the landscape and viewscape cripples any growth in our local tourism related to our unique soil that is ideal for wine grape growing and the people who come for outdoor activities, I.E. the Badger Mt. 100 mile race, bicycling etc. The project would provide only TEMPORARY and BRIEF jobs for our locals should it be carried out, which could create an economic vacuum when they leave. We need the tourism to remain independent from Hanford job cuts and the stability that comes with it. This project would PERMANENTLY and IRREPARABLY alter our tourism industry, which in our region is a highly sustainable source of income we need.

Thank you for your time,

Heather Fink

From: [Veda Guynes](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Wind Farm
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:18:05 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0127
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I have no problem using the wind for energy, but do not support it on the horse heaven skyline.

I am sure you can find somewhere else to put it, that does not desecrate one of this area's calling cards. I would vote no on the wind farm where you want to put it.

I was born in the Tri-Cities. And so much of the beauty of this area has fallen to progress. The Horse Heaven Hills are one area remaining that are naturally beautiful and uplifting. Leave them free of desecration.

Thank you.

Rev. Veda Guynes
Benton City

Sent from my iPhone

From: dmdavid@charter.net
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:19:38 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0128
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Reasons I am against the proposed wind power project.

1. It is not needed. Benton PUD has chosen not to pursue wind power as it is not cost effective.
2. There would have to be roads constructed and miles of trenches dug in order to install the wind turbines.
3. Wind turbines are shut down at a wind speed of 45 miles per hour in order to protect the machinery. The winds in the proposed area frequently exceeds this limiting the time the turbines could be used.
4. At the end of their life the sites would have to be restored at great expense. Wyoming has a planned project and the company had to post a bond for restoration prior to construction.
- 5 They are an eyesore
6. Birds are killed by the spinning blades
- 7 They would add additional cost to local rate payers utility bills in the form of subsidizes. a hidden tax in a state that is over taxed already.
- 8 Solar is not effective in high temperatures.
0. Birds are being cooked in mid flight flying over solar arrays.

In short this project is a bad idea that is not cost effective and detrimental to the environment.

Dennis David
Kennewick WA.
dmdavid@charter.net

From: [Colin Berry](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse heaven wind farm
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 11:39:10 PM

Informational Meeting Comment #0129
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

As a resident of Richland I support this project because of the economic and environmental benefits it provides.

Colin Berry



Keith Johnson
County Administrator

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN

BRAD PECK
District 1

ROCKY MULLEN
District 2

CINTY DIDIER
District 3

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APR 01 2021

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

March 23 , 2021

Informational Meeting #IM0130
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Manager
621 Woodland Square Loop, PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

efsec@utc.wa.gov

Re: Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project Proposal

Dear Ms. Bumpus,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scout Clean Energy Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project, which is proposed to be located in unincorporated Benton County just south of Franklin County.

As 2 of the 3 elected Franklin County Commissioners, we do not support this project. (Our 3rd board colleague has abstained from participating in this matter due to a potential perceived conflict of interest.) We believe the location, size and scope of this project is inconsistent with the region's desire to protect and maintain important characteristics of this area such as critical agricultural lands and preserving the natural setting, views, and rich history that make the greater Tri Cities Area an attractive place to live and work.

It is our understanding that the applicant, Scout Clean Energy, is requesting that their application for Site Certification be reviewed in accordance with the EFSEC expedited process requirements. The Commissioners strongly encourages EFSEC to deny the applicant's request for expedited review based upon the following: 1) the environmental impacts are significant; and 2) the project is inconsistent with Benton County's plans including the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Critical Area Ordinance; and 3) the negative impact to Franklin County's viewscape and other vital economic interests.

We are aware that this project has generated extensive calls, emails, and comments from area residents and organizations regarding this proposal. The overwhelming majority of people in the region do not support this project. They have wide ranging concerns about the loss of habitat and agriculture, negative impacts to wildlife, property values, concerns relating to health and noise, impacts to viewsheds, including those related to the County's natural setting, history, and tourism. People in Franklin County and the greater Tri Cities regional area care deeply about preserving these ridges and skylines for future generations.

This project is being proposed to occur only 4 miles south from one of the largest urban areas in Eastern Washington (Tri-Cities Region-Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco). The twenty-six (26)

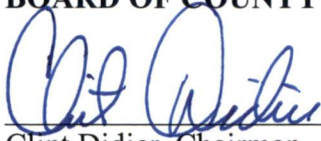
mile long proposal is situated in an area with unique geological features comprised of naturally vegetated steep slopes, native habitat, commercially significant agricultural land, and unique views. As proposed, the wind turbines will be seen from 86% of the land area in Benton County and the most populated area of Franklin County. The visual impacts will be seen from as far away as Walla Walla County to the east, and the State of Oregon to the south. Importantly, the local public utility districts have not shown an interest in needing or wanting additional energy from this project to service the region. These and many other concerns are examples of issues being discussed by many people living in this region.

In conclusion, Franklin County is a critical regional partner with Benton County in protecting and enhancing important values that are held by the majority of residents in the Tri Cities region that affect both economic and quality of life issues. We do not believe this project, with the proposed significant environmental impacts, complies with the goals and policies of the Benton County Comprehensive Plan, the criteria required to obtain a conditional use permit, or the requirements of the Benton County Critical Area Ordinance. This effort to essentially bypass local governing authorities to gain approval for the project only further advances the notion that local values are not being fairly considered and in fact seems to acknowledge the reality that the project would not be approved if the local community's positions were considered.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners thanks you for the opportunity to comment and to let the Council know that a majority of the County Commissioners do not support this project. We respectfully request that EFSEC deny the applicant's request for expedited review of this application due to the proposed environmental impacts and the lack of local support for this project.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Clint Didier, Chairman
Brad Peck, Member



Franklin County
Board of Commissioners
1016 North 4th Avenue, A103
Pasco, WA 99301-3706

SPOKANE WA 990

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Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Manager
621 Woodland Square Loop
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

98504-3172



RECEIVED

To: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop
P. O. Box 43172
Lacey WA 98503-3172

APR 01 2021

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

From: Thomas Blakney PhD
100 Timber Ridge Way NW, #1215
Issaquah WA 98027

Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farm, EFSEC Docket Number: EF-210011

I am a Benton County landowner and am writing you in firm support of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm project. At this time, I believe we must proceed as fast as possible with innovative projects that help us combat global warming without causing significant impact to the world around us. This wind project does just that.

My family is a pioneer family of both Oregon and Washington. The Oregon branch came across the Oregon Trail in 1848 and, a few years later, one of them married John Golden, my great grandfather and the founder of Goldendale. The family also includes Ben Snipes, my great uncle and a rancher in Eastern Washington in the late 1800s. We have a well-developed interest in thoughtful land use and wind power in the eastern parts of both states. I was also at the dedication of the Boeing Mod-2 Wind Project in the Goodnoe Hills in 1981. Currently I am retired but still have a property interest in wheat land in the Horse Heaven Hills.

As proposed, I feel the project will provide a great return for Washington State in electricity generated with a minimal environmental and agricultural impact. The interconnection to the regional grid is quite close-by and, with the addition solar panels and a rapidly-developing battery storage capability, the project will provide a 24-hour energy capacity. In addition to initial development and construction jobs, many new and permanent jobs will also be added in Benton County as well as providing power to the growing number of residents.

I urge you to approve the project and permit it to proceed in the near future.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Blakney PhD EE
tomblakney@comcast.net
206-310-6296



Thomas Blakney
100 Timber Ridge Way NW Unit 1215
Issaquah WA 98027-2942

Energy Facility Site Evaluation
Council
621 Woodland Square Loop
PO Box 43172
Lacey, WA 98503-3172

SEATTLE WA 980

23 MAR 2021 PM 6 L



98503-103699





2015 South Ely Street
Kennewick, WA 99337
Phone 509-586-9111
FAX 509-586-7663
www.kid.org

March 16, 2021

RECEIVED

APR 01 2021

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of the Kennewick Irrigation District's Board of Directors, I write to express serious concerns about the Horse Heaven Hills ("H3") Wind Project. Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC ("HHWF") is the project component of the H3 Wind Project, a project of Scout Energy, which is an electricity broker based in Colorado and owned by foreign investors.

The Kennewick Irrigation District ("KID") delivers irrigation water to over 20,200 acres in the Tri-Cities area. KID serves both a productive agricultural community, and a growing, dynamic residential base.

Over the last several years, Scout Energy has approached KID on multiple occasions with proposals to purchase KID lands to construct the first transmission line segment to interconnect their project to the Bonneville Power Administration transmission grid at the Red Mountain Substation. KID considered HHWF's proposal in good faith, but could not come to an agreement that would be to the benefit of KID ratepayers and our community.

As you know, on February 8, 2021, HHWF submitted an application for site certification ("ASC") to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council ("EFSEC") to develop, construct, and operate the H3 Wind Project. The ASC proposes the construction of a massive wind, solar, and battery storage facility in Benton County. HHWF proposes to construct hundreds of wind turbines with heights exceeding 500 feet across 6,500 acres of the Horse Heaven Hills above the Tri-Cities.

KID appreciates efforts to advance a diverse renewable energy portfolio in Washington State. Fortunately, however, central Washington already benefits from such a portfolio. The dams along the Snake and Columbia Rivers, and the Columbia Generating Station generate reliable, carbon-free electricity, the baseloads of which enable the integration of the following intermittent sources of electricity into the region's grid: the Nine Canyon Wind Project, which includes 63 wind turbines south of Kennewick; the Horn Rapids Solar Project; and the White Bluffs Solar Station.

Right now, there is a proposal in the U.S. Congress to remove the Snake River dams. KID relies on the region's inexpensive, clean electricity to run its pump stations. KID has serious concerns about the introduction of a large amount of intermittent power into the local grid, when at the same time, a large of amount of the region's reliable baseload may be removed. While the H3 Wind Project has been in works for some time, it is hard not to see the opportunism in HHWF's filing of the ASC on the heels of the dam removal proposal.

HHWF has requested review under EFSEC expedited process for the ASC. KID opposes an expedited process. The EFSEC needs to fully investigate the implications of introducing intermittent sources of electricity into our region at the expense of reliable, carbon-free hydropower.

Scout Energy and its foreign investors no doubt see the H3 Wind Project as an opportunity to exploit the U.S. tax code to ensure a significant return on their investment. That investment, however, may not provide such a return to our community here in the Tri-Cities.

KID respectfully requests a full and thorough investigation into long-term effects of this project on our community's environment and electrical grid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gene Huffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gene Huffman
KID Board President

C: KID Board of Directors
Charles Freeman, District Manager



COLUMBIA

IRRIGATION DISTRICT

10 E Kennewick Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99336

Office: (509) 586-6118

Fax: (509) 586-0485

www.columbiairrigation.com

Target:

Tri-Cities Washington Residents

Region:

United States of America

Website:

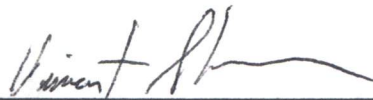
save-our-ridges.org

Scout Clean Energy (SCE), a Colorado-based entity, has submitted an application to the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to construct and operate the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm.

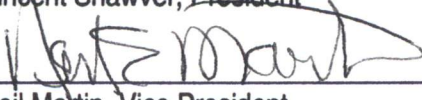
Up to 244 wind turbines will stretch 24 miles from Finley to Benton City along the ridgeline overlooking the Tri-Cities. Each wind tower will be up to 671" tall from ground to blade tip and will be visible for at least 20 miles. They will create environmental problems such as noise, flashing red lights and visual pollution that will change the rural environment and skyline of the Tri-Cities forever. Also, a majority of the turbines will be in the large migratory bird and bat flyway.

In addition, the energy generated will not be used in the Tri-Cities area but will be distributed to the west side and California.

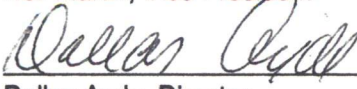
We, the undersigned, oppose the construction and operation of the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm being proposed by Scout Clean Energy. We call upon EFSEC to reject SCE's permit application for this project. This project will forever alter the scenic views of our ridges, industrialize our rural environment, and change our outdoor quality of life. Say NO to the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm.



Vincent Shawver, President



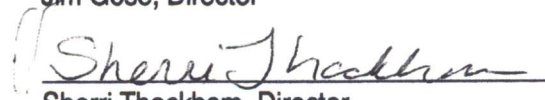
Neil Martin, Vice President



Dallas Ayde, Director



Jim Gose, Director



Sherri Thackham, Director

B. Bush
709 S. Hawaii St.
Kennewick, WA.
99336

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SPOKANE WA 990

25 MAR 2021



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EFSec
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA. 98504-3172

ATTN: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm

98504-3172





Badger Mountain Irrigation District

87525 East Reata Road
Kennewick, WA 99338

Phone (509) 628-0777
Fax (509) 628-0112

RECEIVED

March 10, 2021

APR 01 2021

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Mr. Bush

Badger Mountain Irrigation District and its Board of Directors support the rejection of the EFSEC application from Scout Clean Energy to build two-hundred and thirty-five wind turbines in the Horse Heaven Hills. We agree with the area utilities and municipalities that this wind project is not suited for our area and would be better off being built in an area that can better utilize the energy produced by these wind farms. In closing BMID fully supports your letter to the Governor.

Sincerely,

Colby Getchell

Secretary Manager

Badger Mountain Irrigation District

February 15, 2021

Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project

Dear Honorable Jay Inslee:

Benton County is the home of Columbia Generating Station; the states only nuclear plant. It is also the home of McNary Dam, Nine Canyon Wind Farm, White Bluffs Solar Station, and Horn Rapids Solar, Storage and Training Project. These projects combined create enough energy to power the Puget Sound area.

Benton County is the home of the most contaminated nuclear site in the United States. The Hanford nuclear reservation continues to be cleaned up after its land and water were contaminated in order to help win World War II. This is the location in which the plutonium for the nuclear bomb "Fatman" was created. This bomb was later dropped on Nagasaki, which ended World War II and saved millions of lives.

Just to the south of Benton County the Umatilla Chemical Depot is visible. This location has 1,000 concrete igloo bunkers that protrude from the ground. This was the location in which tons of VX and nerve agents were stored for the World War II effort. At one point 12 % of the countries chemical weapons were stored at this one location. This location has finally been cleaned up and now remains a federally owned eyesore.

Benton County has always stepped up when our country and our state needed us. We understand that in order to meet the states clean energy mandate that wind projects will be built in this state. We just do not believe that a wind project of this magnitude should be built near such a large population center. We do not believe that just because you are able to build a wind project on this location that you must build one. This project would destroy twenty-four miles of naturally beautiful hilltops overlooking the Tri-Cities.

The Horse Heaven Hills are some of the most beautiful hills in our state. They are the home of bald eagles, burrowing owls, Canada geese, and the recently re-introduced prong horned antelope. They are also located in the middle of the Pacific Flyway, which is one of the nation's

largest bird migration flyways. It is not unusual to see flocks of geese and ducks that number in the thousands fly through the proposed wind site heading south for the winter.

Benton County is also the home of the Hanford Reach National Monument that includes Rattlesnake Mountain. The Columbia, Yakima, and Snake Rivers also intersect in Benton County. Benton County is truly an amazing place to live. This location has long been paradise for outdoorsman. The hiking trails are abundant and growing and the hunting and fishing is world class. More recently wine was introduced into this region. Within an hour's drive, the Tri-Cities is home to two hundred wineries. Wine tourism has become a major economic boost for the region. We believe constructing two hundred and thirty-five wind turbines in the middle of this region would be detrimental for tourism.

None of the four electrical utilities that are located in the Benton County area have expressed any interest in this project. Local utilities need energy when it is coldest and hottest during the year. The wind does not blow during those times of the year at this location and these turbines will not create the needed energy. We support President Biden's effort to build more offshore wind sites. Generally, these sites are not visible from land and they are much closer to the population centers where the energy is needed.

Scout Clean Energy submitted its application to EFSEC to build two hundred and thirty turbines in the Kennewick area on February 9, 2021. These turbines are not the normal sized turbines that stand 350 feet. These are the massive 500 feet variety. Once considering the issues outlined in this letter, we hope you agree that this is not an appropriate site for this project. Please reject the EFSEC application and ask Scout Clean Energy to build a project in a location closer to the population centers that need the energy.

Sincerely,

209 S. Hawaii St.
Kennewick, WA.
99336

SPOKANE WA 990

26 MAR 2021 PM 4 L



FOREVER / USA

EFSEC
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA.
98504-3172

ATTN: Horse Heavenwind

Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm



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APR 01 2021



Informational Meeting #IM0134
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL
Washington Fact Sheet

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Washington Ferruginous Hawk

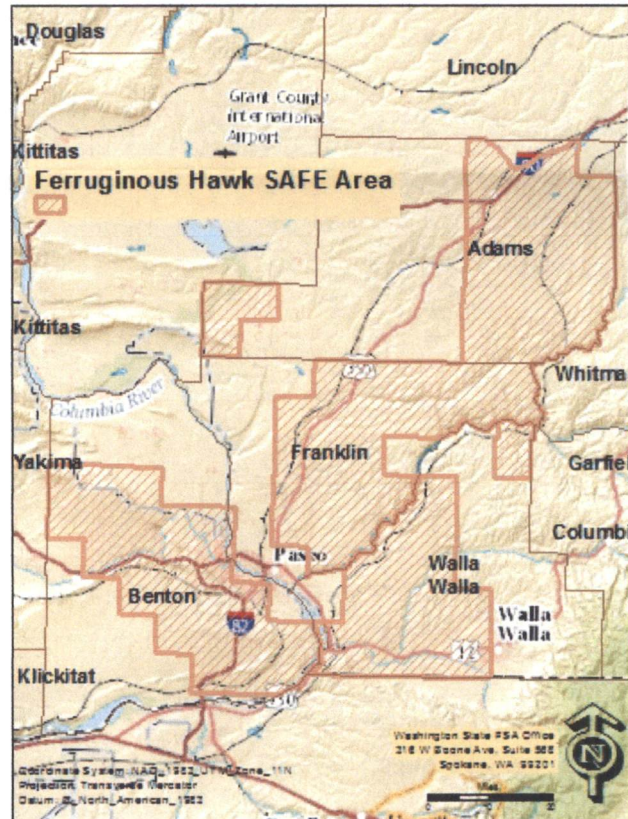
Updated May 2017

Overview

The Ferruginous Hawk SAFE is a new initiative of the familiar Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Like traditional CRP, SAFE is a voluntary program that pays eligible landowners and operators to address priority natural resource concerns. Unlike traditional CRP, SAFE signup is non-competitive and offers more financial benefits. Landowners, including those with previous CRP, in Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties may be eligible to participate in this initiative.

The ferruginous hawk is the largest hawk species in North America and is reliant on shrub-steppe habitat for both nesting and foraging. Due primarily to habitat loss, ferruginous hawk populations are declining. They are a species of federal special concern and are threatened in Washington.

Ferruginous hawks primarily forage in territory around their nesting sites. Hawks are also sensitive to disturbance near the nest. Therefore, land enrolled in SAFE must be near potentially active nests and planted to grass, broadleaf forbs and shrubs that provide quality wildlife habitat.



Ferruginous Hawk Project SAFE Area

Benefits

Landowners will benefit from reliable annual income. SAFE provides a way to enroll land in CRP on a non-competitive basis. Removing difficult to farm or low productive areas can increase the average profit on remaining cropland. Landowners familiar with CRP will find many similarities. Because SAFE is a CRP initiative, contracts will look familiar. The main difference is the program has more cost-share dollars, a signing incentive for land not previously in CRP and an option for a longer contract. Also, SAFE permits a 2-stage planting scenario to allow for chemical broadleaf control the first growing season. Landowners may also just enjoy increased wildlife on acres enrolled in SAFE.

(continued on next page)

SAFE will increase the amount of foraging and nesting habitat available for ferruginous hawks. Also, it will help provide habitat for numerous other wildlife species. Ferruginous hawks feed on small mammals, such as cottontail rabbits and ground squirrels, which will benefit from additional habitat. SAFE acres will provide important nesting and brood-rearing habitat for at-risk species, such as migratory songbirds. Also, new habitat will benefit game species, such as ring-necked pheasant and mule deer.

Goals

The goal of the Ferruginous Hawk SAFE is to enhance foraging habitat and buffers around ferruginous hawk nests in Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties of eastern Washington by:

- establishing shrubs, grasses and broadleaf forbs on cropland to provide quality habitat
- buffering and expanding upon remnant native shrub-steppe and grassland habitat near ferruginous hawk nests.

Eligible Areas and Land Eligibility Requirements

The project area includes portions of Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties in eastern Washington. Eligible land must:

1. Have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity, including CRP or rotational crops, during 4 of the 6 crop years from 2008-2013; **and**
2. Be within the designated project boundaries (see map). To find out if your operation is located within the project area, contact your Farm Service Agency office in Adams, Benton, Franklin, or Walla Walla counties.

Approved Conservation Practices

The following conservation practices may be eligible for land enrolled into the Ferruginous Hawk SAFE:

1. CP38E Grass
 - Minimum 7 total species: 3 grasses, 3 forbs (1 may be introduced), and big sagebrush (by seed).
2. CP38A Buffers
 - Forested riparian buffers typically 50-180 feet wide on cropland or pastureland bordering perennial or seasonal streams that will support trees and shrubs.

Sign-up and Payments

SAFE enrollment is on a continuous basis starting May 13, 2013. Landowners can sign up at their local FSA office in Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties for 10- to 15-year SAFE CRP contracts. Enrollment is approved on a first-come, first-served basis. FSA will stop approving contracts when the acreage cap of 20,000 acres is reached.

Hawk SAFE participants are eligible for four types of USDA payments:

- Signing Incentive Payment – a one-time payment of \$75 per acre for land not previously enrolled in CRP
- Practice Incentive Payment – equal to about 40 percent of establishment costs
- Cost-share assistance – 50 percent of establishment costs (same as traditional CRP)
- Annual rental payment – same as traditional CRP.

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Payment Limitation

Annual rental payments, including the incentives, are subject to a payment limitation of \$50,000 per person, per year. The limit applies collectively to all CRP contracts the producer has throughout the U.S. There is no limit on the cost-share payments.

Contract Requirements

Participants entering into a SAFE contract are required to have in place, or plant, specific seed mixes for wildlife food and cover that are similar to those required for traditional CRP. Weed control is required on SAFE acreage just like with traditional CRP. A list of seed mixes is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

A 2-stage planting scenario to allow for chemical broadleaf control the first growing season is an option for SAFE seedings. Grasses may be planted the first year and forbs the second year. Native vegetation may take several growing seasons to fully establish. The potential of invasion by non-native weedy species makes staged plantings much more successful. A planting and maintenance schedule will be developed as part of a conservation plan with NRCS.

Access

Hunting or other public access to land enrolled in the SAFE program will be at the landowner's discretion just like with traditional CRP.

Additional Information

For more information about SAFE, contact your local USDA Service Center or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) biologist.

This fact sheet is a summary of the SAFE program and is not intended to cover all situations and program provisions.

SPOKANE WA 990

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EFSEC

621 Woodland Square Loop SE

Po Box 43172

Olympia, WA.

98504-3172

98504-3172



March 21, 2021

RECEIVED

APR 01 2021

Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

RE: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project

Dear Honorable Jay Inslee:

Benton County is the home of Columbia Generating Station; the states only nuclear plant. It is also the home of McNary Dam, Nine Canyon Wind Farm, White Bluffs Solar Station, and Horn Rapids Solar, Storage and Training Project. These projects combined create enough energy to power the Puget Sound area.

Benton County is the home of the most contaminated nuclear site in the United States. The Hanford nuclear reservation continues to be cleaned up after its land and water were contaminated in order to help win World War II. This is the location in which the plutonium for the nuclear bomb "Fatman" was created. This bomb was later dropped on Nagasaki, which ended World War II and saved millions of lives.

Just to the south of Benton County the Umatilla Chemical Depot is visible. This location has 1,000 concrete igloo bunkers that protrude from the ground. This was the location in which tons of VX and nerve agents were stored for the World War II effort. At one point 12 % of the countries chemical weapons were stored at this one location. This location has finally been cleaned up and now remains a federally owned eyesore.

Benton County has always stepped up when our country and our state needed us. We understand that in order to meet the states clean energy mandate that wind projects will be built in this state. We just do not believe that a wind project of this magnitude should be built near such a large population center. We do not believe that just because you are able to build a wind project on this location that you must build one. This project would destroy twenty-four miles of naturally beautiful hilltops overlooking the Tri-Cities.

The Horse Heaven Hills are some of the most beautiful hills in our state. They are the home of bald eagles, burrowing owls, Canada geese, and the recently re-introduced prong horned antelope. They are also located in the middle of the Pacific Flyway, which is one of the nation's

largest bird migration flyways. It is not unusual to see flocks of geese and ducks that number in the thousands fly through the proposed wind site heading south for the winter.

Benton County is also the home of the Hanford Reach National Monument that includes Rattlesnake Mountain. The Columbia, Yakima, and Snake Rivers also intersect in Benton County. Benton County is truly an amazing place to live. This location has long been paradise for outdoorsman. The hiking trails are abundant and growing and the hunting and fishing is world class. More recently wine was introduced into this region. Within an hour's drive, the Tri-Cities is home to two hundred wineries. Wine tourism has become a major economic boost for the region. We believe constructing two hundred and thirty-five wind turbines in the middle of this region would be detrimental for tourism.

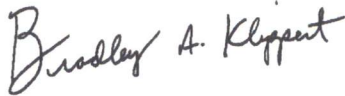
None of the four electrical utilities that are located in the Benton County area have expressed any interest in this project. Local utilities need energy when it is coldest and hottest during the year. The wind does not blow during those times of the year at this location and these turbines will not create the needed energy. We support President Biden's effort to build more offshore wind sites. Generally, these sites are not visible from land and they are much closer to the population centers where the energy is needed.

Scout Clean Energy submitted its application to EFSEC to build two hundred and thirty turbines in the Kennewick area on February 9, 2021. These turbines are not the normal sized turbines that stand 350 feet. These are the massive 500 feet variety. Once considering the issues outlined in this letter, we hope you agree that this is not an appropriate site for this project. Please reject the EFSEC application and ask Scout Clean Energy to build a project in a location closer to the population centers that need the energy.

Sincerely,



Rep. Matt Boehnke
8th Legislative District



Rep. Brad Klippert
8th Legislative District



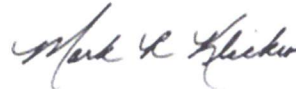
Sen. Sharon Brown
8th Legislative District



Sen. Perry Dozier
16th Legislative District



Rep. Skyler Rude
16th Legislative District



Rep. Mark Klicker
16th Legislative District



Rep. Joe Schmick
9th Legislative District



Rep. Mary Dye
9th Legislative District



Doc Hastings, Retired U.S. Congressman