


[Home](#) | [Contact](#) | Text size: [s](#) [M](#) [L](#)

Subscribe  

Search  

## [Industrial Wind Action Group](#)

facts, analysis, exposure of wind energy's real impacts

- [About](#)
- [News](#)
- [Opinions](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Press](#)

### News Articles

- [By Date](#)
- [By Topic](#)
- [By Location](#)

---

search news

 [Send to a friend](#)

## News Articles

### Bedford visitors bureau against wind turbines

*BEDFORD — The county's visitors bureau has spoken out against wind turbines, saying they will not boost tourism.*

*April 21, 2006 by Allison Bourg in Altoona Mirror*

“A lot of the reasons people come here, especially people from the cities, is to view the unspoiled landscape,” director Dennis Tice said. “We just felt it was important that we take a stand on this issue, and that stand is that it’s not going to help tourism, that’s for sure.”

While nothing’s definite, wind developers from Oregon, Florida and Washington, D.C., have been courting landowners for months, hoping to convince them to lease their property for a turbine.

The possible project has prompted residents on both sides of the debate to come forward to talk about why turbines should or should not come to Bedford County.

Critics say the structures — which could tower 400 or more feet in the air — will compromise the region’s natural beauty.

The 15-member visitors bureau board Thursday released a statement saying just that.

“We’re not trying to be activists,” Tice said. “But sometimes what we see every day, we take for granted — I know I’d sure miss it.”

Somerset County is home to three wind farms, including six near the Pennsylvania Turnpike. But it’s hard to compare those with the ones proposed for Bedford’s ridgetops, Tice said.

“That’s a little bit different because those aren’t on the mountaintop,” he said.

Developers are looking at Brumbaugh Mountain, along with Evitts and Tussey mountains, as turbine sites. If windmills are erected there, the whole county will be able to see them, Tice said.

“Things will change,” he said. “But will they change for the worse, or for the better?”

Tice said the board has been discussing the issue for several months, when word of a possible wind farm broke. He visited a West Virginia wind farm nearly 100 miles away, where about 30 turbines are grouped together atop a former strip mine.

“There’s been a very wide range of opinions on two things,” Tice said of board members. “First of all, appropriate land use regulations. Most people are very big believers in, you buy the dirt, you own it. And I believe that.”

The value of wind power was another point of debate, he said. Wind energy advocates believe turbines could help lower energy costs.

“I’ve been trying several months to wade through the hysteria and to learn what’s true,” Tice said. “If they come to our county, I do think we’ll have lost something here.”

Once developers start clearing the land, it’s too late to turn back, he said.

Wind industry officials have said it will be at least two more years before they know if a turbine farm is viable here.

Commissioners have said land use issues will be left up to individual municipalities.

**Web link:** <http://www.altoonamirror.com/articles.asp?articleI...>

Filed under : [Pennsylvania](#) : [Impact on Economy](#) : [Tourism](#)

[< prev](#)

[next >](#)

*Note: this article may be subject to the [Fair Use Notice](#).*

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [News](#) | [Resources](#) | [Press](#) | [Contact](#)

[Login](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Fair Use Notice](#)

Website by [Parkerhill](#)

Powered by [Xaraya](#)

© Copyright 2006 IWA