

Submitted via email.
July 9, 2015

Thank you for being attentive to public input on this issue.

There are two issues that rise above others in my opinion.

First, while every specific case requires specific focus and regulation, in this case wind power appears to have been singled out in a way that ignores very similar impacts from a variety of other causes. For example, it would be much more appropriate if instead of focusing noise regulations only on wind power, a general noise regulation were adopted that were to be imposed uniformly on all activities at various times of the day and night. I have observed that in the past few years there have been objections to wind power, and some seem very likely to be smokescreens for simple anti-wind power opinion. Siting issues and the bird kill issue are two examples of misused concerns. I trust that you are alert and think critically about these.

Second is the issue that tends to be "the invisible 500 pound gorilla" in the room: climate changes caused by global warming. If one listens to qualified climate scientists rather than unqualified talking heads and politicians, one easily concludes that high priority attention to this issue is greatly needed. Since the greenhouse gas pollution created by burning fossil fuels like coal is the leading cause of the problem, substituting clean renewable sources of electricity is an important part of the solution. Not only is wind power an important component of this solution, it also happens to be the cheapest electricity on the market in our region.

The shadow of climate change is cast large over Lincoln and Lancaster County. Lincoln was recently declared to be on the list of "which 25 cities across the United States will face the greatest challenges from climate change, resulting in [The weather.com Climate Disruption Index](#)." In their authoritative 2014 report, [Understanding and Assessing Climate Change: Implications for Nebraska](#), UNL climate scientists tell us "By mid-century (2041-2070), this increase (in very high temperatures-*ja*) for Nebraska would equate to experiencing typical summer temperatures equivalent to those experienced during the 2012 drought and heat wave." That is a formula for a new and more severe Dust Bowl; please confirm this directly with the authors of the report.

Is a county regulatory process the proper venue to develop a coping strategy for global warming? Obviously not. But it is an unavoidable context for your consideration of these regulations. And until some body of government shows the leadership to plan for a future where we prevent the worst consequences of past inaction, I suspect other "opportunities" will come your way.

Please do not lightly restrict the development of wind power in our region!

Sincerely,

John

John Atkeison