

# OPINION editor@urbanacitizen.com

## LETTERS

To the editor,  
The decision for placement of turbines in Champaign County is indeed a large one but in my view it is correct to support the Buckeye Wind Application. My name is Heather Tiefenthaler and along with my husband and two children live in Goshen Township on a small farm of 6.5 acres. Our land is not included in the planned development area and I have no financial stake in the turbines discussed today. It is probable that turbines will be visible from my home if installed.

When I heard our community was windy enough to support wind investment, I took the time to interview Iowans who have experienced recent wind development. I believe I kept an open mind until I had heard from all areas of the community. It is only after I decided how I felt about wind energy that I learned of CARE or Champaign Advocates for Renewable Energy which formed to educate the public on renewable energy. I have been a member of this group for over a year. As a parent while I personally feel that the discussion begins with the conservation of resources, I am also aware that the harvesting of wind with its minimum adverse environmental impact is a piece of the quest for our sufficiency from foreign oil.

I believe that the educational process for how we feel about wind energy, pro or con, is based on where we gathered our information. I chose to drive west and suggested this to others with concerns. I personally met with residents and leaders alike from areas such as Chambers of Commerce and city administration in Northwest Iowa. I saw, listened to and toured wind farms in Storm Lake and Buena

Vista County as well as the town of Wall Lake in Sac County. These turbines of northwest Iowa are of a similar scale and output potential as proposed for Champaign County. I was even met by the general public at a non-wind themed community meeting who jokingly said "Turbines, what turbines? We don't even notice them anymore." The answers to my questions were based on real feelings about how these turbines impacted their lives. I ask rhetorically to those opposed to local wind energy "Have you physically gone to ask these questions too or have you done your research on turbines built with old technology gathering old complaints and old research?"

"For the town so loved the wind, they bought their own turbine." I am speaking of Wall Lake, Iowa, which owns its electric utility system. In 2003, they purchased their own turbine which offsets 20-30 percent of their local demand. Just to check in again with Wall Lake, today I spoke with Marlene Anderson at the Clerk's office and she repeated how much the town loves their turbine. She also personally owns a farm with a residence on it near the turbine that reports of "no complaints." The residence is estimated to be 150 yards from the turbine. If turbines are as problematic as the anti-crowd promises, why would one community plant a turbine so close to their "biggest investments" as we have heard. The answer is that new technology makes turbines that are good neighbors. I have personally looked folks in the eye and they truly have seen none of the negative issues that the anti-wind opponents speak of: certainly no neurological issues, no quality of life issues, and no decrease in property value. Imagine securing

your own portion of future electrical needs by taking matters into your own turbine. Iowans are so far ahead in this discussion they are now trying to figure out setback requirements for residential scale turbines for rooftop placement.

While I encourage the consumption of local foods like carrots and greens through advocacy with local farmers' markets, aren't electrons which make up electricity from wind considered locally grown and considered consumed when someone plugs into an outlet? This is one more way that diversification of products can help keep the family farm in the family. The power grid is a nebulous thing. Complaints that discount the export of the power generated are as silly as mandating the local consumption of all potatoes grown by Michael Farms. In Champaign County, we are good at exporting agricultural products. Wind can be just another menu option. Also, maybe the farmers could keep more than the 19 cents of every food dollar they now make if local wind is a reality.

Diversification of our sources for power with a focus on self-reliance through wind, solar and biomass will help offset our reliance on foreign petroleum. We cannot wait to embrace these new options. The future as seen in the eyes of our children begs us to conserve energy and resources first and foremost but develop and embrace renewable options as well. I encourage our leadership at all levels to rise up and stand together to make Champaign County the example to follow statewide.

**Heather Tiefenthaler  
Mechanicsburg**

To the editor,

My home is under attack from a foreign invader. The government says a "Foreign Limited Liability Co." is allowed to build 492-foot wind turbines just 305 yards from my house and run overhead power lines through people's land. I guess this foreigner is going to pay some of my neighbors so they can build these turbines on their land. That's good for them because they'll make money. I'm worried, though. Some folks that live near wind turbines are suffering and they're not even getting paid. They can't sell their homes and they're getting sick.

I saw one of my neighbors the other day and boy was he mad at me! He thinks this foreigner is great and I guess he found out I didn't agree. I've been talking with lots of my neighbors and many of them are worried, too. We can't figure out why some of our neighbors seem to be acting so unneighborly. I think it's because we all want to protect our homes and our families.

For the sake of my neighbors who've decided to host this foreigner, I hope they turn out to be an honest bunch and tread lightly. We tend to take people at their word, around here. Me? I'm not so sure. I think they're being awfully rude considering they're just our guests. They question my patriotism and even tell some neighbors that I'm their enemy. I love my country and my community. I also love my home and I'm going to fight hard to protect it.

**Joe Doss  
Urbana**

To the editor,

An event I was privileged to attend last week at Mercy Memorial Hospital is worthy of sharing with all of Champaign County and beyond.

Our Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and Mercy Memorial Hospital held a reception and tours of the hospital and the Mercy Well Child Clinic.

Our hospital and doctors offer many procedures that people are not aware of being performed in Urbana.

The Mercy Well Child portion of the tour left me in complete awe of the availability of many programs to enable children with special needs to improve their quality of life.

I overheard a lady remark that she would soon be having a surgical procedure and was planning to convalesce at Mercy McAuley Center because of its convenience to the hospital and good things she's heard about it and its employees.

The hospital dietary department did an outstanding job with many delectable refreshments. The tour guides and all the people who helped with this event are to be commended.

Thank you for inviting me and our members of Twig 13. We are proud that in some small way we are able to contribute to some of your "wish list" and to Memorial's success.

**Dee (Doris) Clifford  
President  
Twig 13**

## OTHER VOICES

### The Findlay Courier, Oct. 26

Finding a place to get a seasonal flu vaccination these days can be like trying to find the most popular toy on Christmas Eve. ...

While the seasonal flu vaccine shortage is concerning, it's understandable.

Health officials say one reason for the shortage is that the amount ordered this season was scaled back after demand for last season's vaccine had dropped. Also, demand for the seasonal flu vaccine is dramatically up this year due to all the attention being given to H1N1 virus.

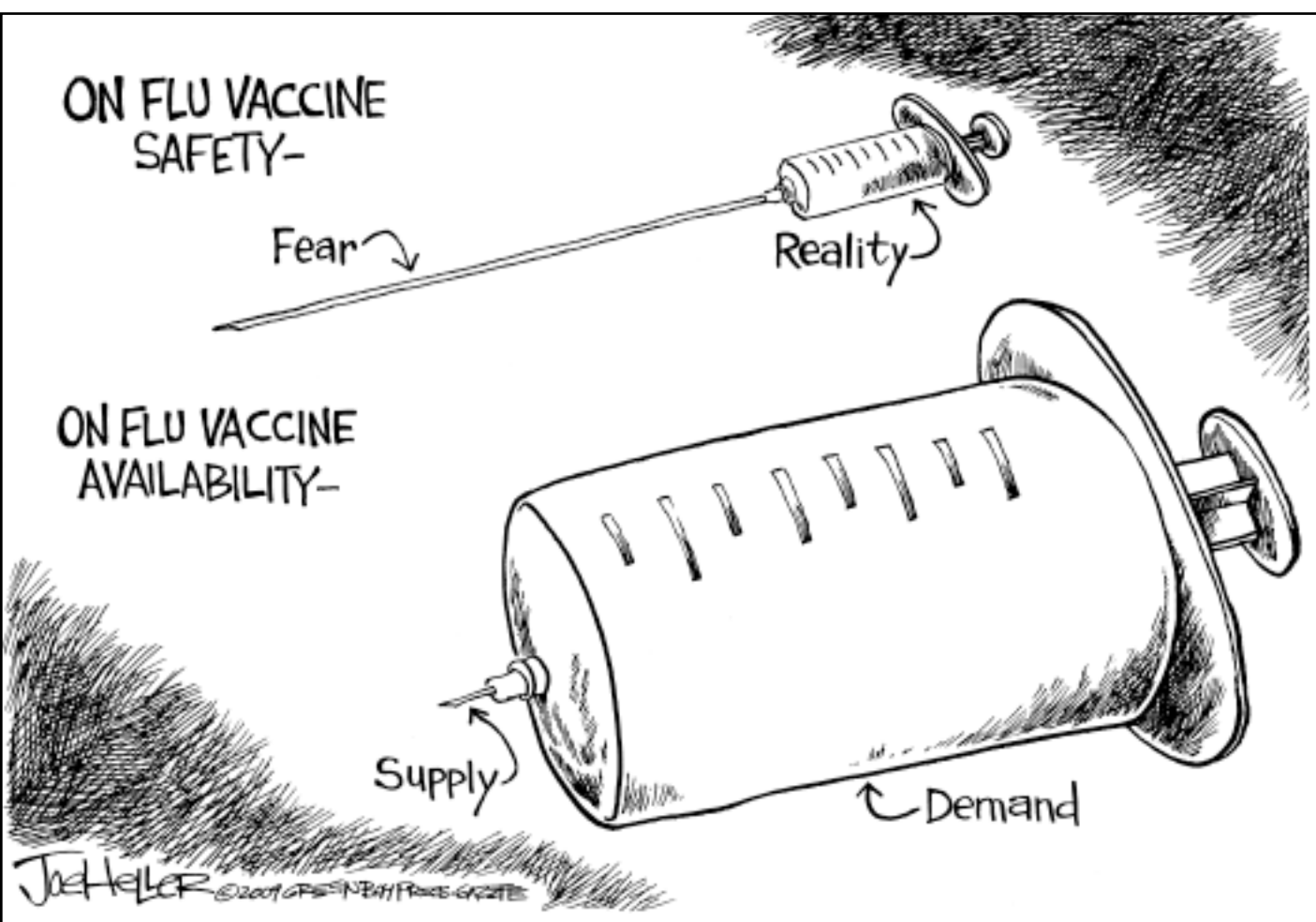
Officials say supplies were used up quickly this fall as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that health care providers start immunizing people as soon as vaccines arrived.

Still, there's no reason to panic. It is only October, after all. ...

The vaccine shortage is expected to be temporary. The Ohio Department of Health says 82 million doses of the vaccine have been distributed nationally, with another 30 million doses still to be shipped. ...

In the meantime, people should do the things that their mothers have always told them at the onset of cold and flu season: Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, wash your hands, and avoid close contact with sick people.

Mother was always right.



## TODAY IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 2009. There are 62 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 30, 1938, the radio play "The War of the Worlds," starring Orson Welles, aired on CBS. (The live drama, which employed fake breaking news reports, panicked some listeners who thought the portrayal of a Martian invasion was real.)

### On this date:

In 1735, the second president of the United States, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Mass.

In 1893, the U.S. Senate gave final congressional approval to repealing the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890.

In 1944, the Martha Graham ballet "Appalachian Spring," with music by Aaron Copland, premiered at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., with Graham in a leading role.

In 1945, the U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing, effective at midnight.

In 1961, the Soviet Union tested a hydrogen bomb, the "Tsar Bomba," with a force estimated at about 50 megatons. The Soviet Party Congress unanimously approved a resolution ordering the removal of Josef Stalin's body from Lenin's tomb.

In 1974, Muhammad Ali regained his world heavyweight title by knocking out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa,

Zaire, known as the "Rumble in the Jungle."

In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter announced his choice of federal appeals judge Shirley Hufstедler to head the newly created Department of Education.

In 1984, police in Poland found the body of kidnapped pro-Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko, whose death was blamed on security officers.

In 1989, Mitsubishi Estate Co. announced it was buying 51 percent of Rockefeller Group Inc. of New York. (However, amid a real estate slump, Mitsubishi ended up walking away from its investment in 1995.)

Ten years ago: Fifty-four people were killed in a fire inside a four-story building crowded with weekend shoppers and diners in Incheon, South Korea.

Five years ago: The decapitated body of Japanese backpacker Shosei Koda was found wrapped in an American flag in northwestern Baghdad; the militant group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi later claimed responsibility. Grateful fans embraced the World Series champion Boston Red Sox, hailing the team as heroes during a jubilant parade. Actress-dancer Peggy Ryan died in Las Vegas at age 80.

One year ago: A federal jury in

Miami convicted the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in the first case brought under a 1994 U.S. law allowing prosecution for torture and atrocities committed overseas. (Charles McArthur Emmanuel was later sentenced to 97 years in prison.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Dick Gautier is 72. Movie director Claude Lelouch is 72. Rock singer Grace Slick is 70. Songwriter Eddie Holland is 70. Actor Ed Lauter is 69. R&B singer Otis Williams (The Temptations) is 68. Actor Henry Winkler is 64. Rock musician Chris Slade (Asia) is 63. Country/rock musician Timothy B. Schmit (The Eagles) is 62. Actor Leon Rippey is 60. Actor Harry Hamlin is 58. Actor Charles Martin Smith is 56. Country singer T. Graham Brown is 55. Actor Kevin Pollak is 52. Actor Michael Beach is 46. Rock singer-musician Gavin Rossdale (Bush) is 42. Actor Jack Plotnick is 41. Comedian Ben Bailey is 39. Actress Nia Long is 39. Country singer Kassidy Osborn (SheDAISY) is 33. Actor Gael Garcia Bernal is 31. Actor Matthew Morrison is 31. Actor Shaun Sipos is 28. Actor Tequan Richmond ("Everybody Hates Chris") is 17.

**Thought for Today:** "It almost seems that nobody can hate America as much as native Americans. America needs new immigrants to love and cherish it." — Eric Hoffer, American philosopher (1902-1983).

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