

# OPINION editor@urbanacitizen.com

## LETTERS

To the editor,  
In response to Linda Kerns' letter in Thursday's paper, I must not understand: I thought it was the job of the paper to report the news and there hasn't been anything more discussed in Champaign County lately than the wind turbines, unless it is the roundabout. The paper didn't print anything the readers couldn't have found out themselves. There have been plenty of maps of the proposed sites for the wind turbines printed and not just in the *Urbana Daily Citizen*. All anyone has to do is take a map, take a drive, get an address and look up the owner, it is public information. Could it be Ms. Kerns is embarrassed or ashamed that she has subjected her friends and neighbors to something they aren't going to benefit from, had no say in and may be harmful to their well being?

Thank God for free speech,  
**Donna Nicholas**  
Urbana

To the editor,  
Thanks to Mr. Rittenhouse and Mr. Dye for their very informative and illuminating letters about the proposed installation of wind turbines in Champaign county.

Mr. Rittenhouse mentioned how the quality of his family's life would be affected by the turbines. Some of you may recall visiting their family garden when it was on the Tour of Homes, several years ago. I remember the wonderful garden and the peaceful atmosphere and the beautiful views from the garden. Now he and his family are in fear of having that taken from them when the turbines are installed so near their home.

Mr. Dye mentioned that the towers' height would be comparable to the LeVeque Tower in Columbus. When you come into Columbus on Broad Street, you can see the LeVeque tower long before you get there. Imagine having 16 Leveque towers behind your house, where the width of the blade is the size of a football field. What a view!

You can understand why anyone would be concerned about the future value of their home. That part of the county is so beautiful. The view from the intersection of Route 29 and the Ludlow Road is so lovely at almost any season. And at sunset, it is spectacular. Now that view would be marred by more turbines.

The *Daily Citizen* has provided us with lots of information about the project and I have to admit until recently I did not pay much atten-

tion. I thought they would be in some remote place where I would never see them. Wrong! Folks who live on Three Mile, Dugan and Route 29 will surely see their quality of life affected. Instead of deer, they will have dead birds in the backyard and if the sound goes farther than the Buckeye Wind people say it will, they will be inside all the time. For those people who moved to the country to have a piece of land in a quiet atmosphere, this will be a shock.

I have heard that the medical helicopters would not be able to get to many accident scenes because of a possible collision with the turbines. Would that mean if you were seriously hurt in an accident on 29 or 36, that you could not be evacuated by air? Also, would the unit stay in Urbana if they were unable to operate in parts of the county?

The airport will be affected also. The shows that bring so many people to the airport, like the balloon festival, might not be able to continue: both a financial and entertainment loss.

I see no benefit to Champaign County in this project. The energy generated will be sent somewhere else. Our electric bills will not be lower. Many home valuations will be reduced. We could hardly expect someone to deliberately buy a house with a wind turbine for scenery and the possibility of noise levels which would disrupt your sleep and even your health.

The only people who will benefit are the Buckeye Wind company and the leaseholders. There are only 39 entities who are lease holders

and 12 of them do not live in Champaign County. Those 12 entities together own 27 of the 70 proposed turbine sites, more than one-third. Of the 12 who do not live in the county, four of them live out of state! What do they care what happens to your home valuations? With a population of nearly 40,000 residents, it seems like too few are adversely affecting too many. I wonder if some of the early signers of a lease are having second thoughts, especially if one of the turbines will be on their property, perhaps close to their home.

I urge residents of the county and city who would like to see the skyline of Champaign County remain free of these huge turbines to attend the meeting being held at the Triad High School on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. Please make your thoughts known. Too many of us have remained unaware of how this project will affect all of us.

**Kathleen Ryan**  
Urbana

**Letters are welcome at**  
**bburns@urbanacitizen.com.**  
**They must include name, complete**  
**address and phone number to be**  
**considered for publication.**  
**Letters are published at the editor's**  
**discretion.**

## GUEST COLUMN

# Wind will benefit Champaign County's future

By **MICHAEL SPEERSCHNEIDER**  
Director of Development  
EverPower/Buckeye Wind

Over the past three years, EverPower has demonstrated a commitment to Champaign County while developing the Buckeye Wind Project. The project will involve many community landowners – each of whom will be able to host project components on their land while still farming – and will provide added financial security for family farms during these trying economic times. During the development of this project, we have conducted extensive environmental studies and surveys and held numerous community education events to provide information and address concerns. We feel confident that we have achieved our goal of responsible wind power development in Champaign County. Like any construction project, wind farm development requires precise application of local and federal safety regulations. Wind development undergoes a time-intensive permitting process. We study any potential risks and carefully consider the results of our studies. EverPower is committed to following best practices for development and construction of the project. As part of the project's permitting requirements, EverPower submitted a 1,400-page application to the Ohio Power Siting Board, the entity that reviews all utility-scale wind development proposals. This application contains comprehensive and detailed information on a range of topics associated with wind farm development and operation, including taxes, natural resources and safety precautions.

EverPower encourages all residents and interested par-

ties to review the documents prepared for the Ohio Power Siting Board. The entire application can be viewed on the OPSB Web site at <http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/CaseRecord.aspx?Caseno=08-0666>.

We want Champaign County residents to know that EverPower has followed the procedures of the Ohio Power Siting Board. Here are the facts:

The project will generate up to \$1.46 million per year for area townships, the county and school districts. Buckeye Wind's Ohio Power Siting Board application lays out a detailed estimate of the community benefits. The estimate is based on a rate that is competitive with wind generation taxes in neighboring states. Lawmakers are working to make sure that jobs, investment and all economic benefits from wind stay right here in Ohio. EverPower will follow all guidelines of the Federal Aviation Administration. The Buckeye Wind Project is not the first of its kind in close proximity to an airport. Wind turbines are being built all over the country, and there are many examples of wind turbines that are located close to airports, with no safety issues. EverPower is aware of aviation questions regarding some planned turbine locations. Any wind turbine built must fully comply with the requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration, the regulatory entity that ensures the safety of all pilots. EverPower is committed to resolving any concerns moving forward and is prepared to make a significant investment in Grimes Field's equipment to remedy existing concerns. The \$400 million project will stimulate local and state economic growth. There's a lot at stake

for the Champaign County region and the state of Ohio. The Buckeye Wind Project will stimulate local and state economic growth, providing the opportunity of good, long-term jobs for Ohio residents. These include construction and operator jobs generated by the project and positions associated with the companies that will be needed to support the project and project-related activities. As a state, Ohio is pursuing \$250 million in advanced-energy supply chain funding to ensure ongoing economic development opportunity does not leave the state.

A public hearing on the project will be held at 6 p.m. on Oct. 28 at Triad High School. EverPower and OPSB representatives will be on hand, and we encourage you to attend. The meeting will be a chance to share thoughts about the project.

Please note that although the Ohio Power Siting Board's process does not include an open question and answer session, I am happy to answer any questions community members have before or after the hearing.

I can be reached at [HYPERLINK mailto:mspeer@everpower.com](mailto:mspeer@everpower.com) or [info@buckeyewindproject.com](mailto:info@buckeyewindproject.com), or 1-866-647-8111.

We are confident that the Buckeye Wind Project will be a source of pride for the community.

EverPower will be here with you for decades to come, generating clean energy that benefits Champaign County and beyond.

*Michael Speerschneider can be reached at [info@buckeyewindproject.com](mailto:info@buckeyewindproject.com) or 1-866-647-8111.*

## TODAY IN HISTORY

By **The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, Oct. 26, the 299th day of 2009. There are 66 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Oct. 26, 1979, South Korean President Park Chung-hee was shot to death during a dinner party along with his chief bodyguard by the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, Kim Jae-kyu, who was later executed.

**On this date:**

In 1774, the First Continental Congress adjourned in Philadelphia.

In 1825, the Erie Canal opened in upstate New York, connecting Lake Erie and the Hudson River.

In 1881, the "Gunfight at the O.K. Corral" took place in Tombstone, Ariz., as Wyatt Earp, his two brothers and "Doc" Holliday confronted Ike Clanton's gang. Three members of Clanton's group were killed; Earp's brothers and Holliday were wounded.

In 1909, former Japanese Prime Minister Ito Hirobumi was assassinated during a visit to Harbin, China by Korean nationalist An Jung-geun, who was later hanged.

In 1942, Japanese planes badly damaged the aircraft carrier USS *Hornet* in the Battle of Santa Cruz Islands during World War II. (The *Hornet* sank early the next morning.)

In 1958, Pan American Airways flew its first Boeing 707 jetliner from New York to Paris in 8 hours, 41 minutes.

In 1967, the Shah of Iran crowned himself and his queen after 26 years on the Peacock Throne.

In 1972, national security adviser

Henry Kissinger declared that "Peace is at hand" in Vietnam.

In 1984, "Baby Fae," a newborn with a severe heart defect, was given the heart of a baboon in an experimental transplant in Loma Linda, Calif. (Baby Fae lived 21 days with the animal heart.)

In 1994, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali of Jordan signed a peace treaty during a ceremony at the Israeli-Jordanian border attended by President Bill Clinton.

In 2001, President George W. Bush signed the USA Patriot Act, giving authorities unprecedented ability to search, seize, detain or eavesdrop in their pursuit of possible terrorists.

Ten years ago: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study which said the number of Americans considered obese had soared from about one in eight in 1991 to nearly one in five in 1998. The New York Yankees beat the Atlanta Braves, 6-5, to take a 3-0 lead in the World Series.

Five years ago: The FCC gave its approval to Cingular Wireless LLC's \$41 billion acquisition of AT&T Wireless Services Inc. Israel's parliament approved Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan for withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. The final vote count in the Afghan presidential election gave a resounding victory to interim leader Hamid Karzai. The Boston Red Sox won Game 3 of the World Series in St. Louis, defeating the Cardinals 4-1.

One year ago: U.S. military heli-

copters launched a rare attack on Syrian territory, killing eight people in a strike Damascus condemned as "serious aggression." Tony Hillerman, author of the acclaimed Navajo Tribal Police mystery novels, died in Albuquerque, N.M., at age 83. The Philadelphia Phillies romped over the Tampa Bay Rays 10-2 to move within one win of their first World Series championship since 1980.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former Sen. Edward Brooke III is 90. Actress Shelley Morrison is 73. Actor Bob Hoskins is 67. Author Pat Conroy is 64. Actress Jaclyn Smith is 64. TV host Pat Sajak is 63. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is 62. Singer Maggie Roche (The Roches) is 58. Musician Bootsy Collins is 58. Actor James Pickens Jr. ("Grey's Anatomy") is 57. Rock musician Keith Strickland (The B-52's) is 56. Actor D.W. Moffett is 55. Actress Rita Wilson is 53. The president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, is 50. Actor Dylan McDermott is 48. Actor Cary Elwes is 47. Singer Natalie Merchant is 46. Country singer Keith Urban is 42. Actor Tom Cavanagh is 41. Actress Rosemarie DeWitt is 38. Actor Anthony Rapp is 38. Writer-producer Seth MacFarlane ("Family Guy") is 36. Actress Lennor Parham is 34. Actor Hal Ozsan is 33. Actor Jon Heder is 32. Singer Mark Barry (BBMak) is 31. Olympic silver medal figure skater Sasha Cohen is 25.

**Thought for Today:** "Youth is a blunder; manhood a struggle; old age a regret." — Benjamin Disraeli, British statesman (1804-1881).

**Do you think plans for more than 30 of the 70 proposed industrial-sized wind turbines should be scrapped because they're too close to Grimes Field, according to the FAA? 65 percent said yes, 30 percent said no and 5 percent didn't know enough about the issue. Take this week's poll at [www.urbanacitizen.com](http://www.urbanacitizen.com).**

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