

## **Wind Beneath Their Wings**

In “Researchers Alarmed by Bat Deaths From Wind Turbines” [front page, Jan. 1], Justin Blum gave short shrift to the wind industry’s rapid response to the problem. It has formed and funded the Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative, a partnership of the wind industry, bat conservation organizations and the federal government. Working through this cooperative, the wind association, private companies and state energy agencies are supporting a cutting-edge bat-research plan to assess the problem and to test solutions.

Although wind is already one of the safest, healthiest energy options for people and wildlife, the wind industry is committed to innovations leading to protection of the environment.

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### Commentary:

If AWEA is so interested in resolving the problem of bat and bird deaths from turbines, why are they not encouraging their members to stop operating the turbines in areas where such mortality has occurred until such time as the studies have been completed and solutions to the problem have been found and implemented? Instead they continue to promote wind power and the construction of turbines in sensitive areas such as our mid-Appalachian ridges. It is fine to move quickly to study the problem but it is totally irresponsible to continue to build and operate turbines (and continue to kill bats and birds) when there are absolutely no answers to the problem.

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