

John R. Sweet

From: "John R. Sweet" <jrs@johnrsweet.com>
To: <opinion@potomacnews.com>
Sent: Monday, 30 August, 2004 02:32
Subject: A mighty wind

Your editorial from 17 August entitled, "A mighty wind," is mighty far off the mark. Beyond the fact that wind turbines are erected largely for tax avoidance rather than energy production, the tiny amount of energy produced is far from pure green.

Among the environmental impacts are extensive bird and bat kills, which are dismissed offhandedly by the outrageously callous statement that, "Any bird dumb enough to fly into a 400-foot windmill deserves to be taken out of the gene pool." Anyone who would write that line has made no effort whatsoever to understand the issue.

Wind turbines are generally located on ridge tops, which are the preferred migration routes for many bird species. Many migratory birds and all bats fly at night. The navigation lights required on the towers to warn airplanes do not assist birds or bats in any way. Furthermore, and most importantly, while the towers are stationary the tip speed of the blades exceeds 100 mph. Dodging these things in the dark far exceeds the capability of the most adept fliers.

Please do a little basic research before embarrassing yourselves and misleading your readers with such ill-advised commentary in the future.

John R. Sweet, HCR 04, Box 305, Mustoe, VA 24468
Phone 540-468-2222 FAX 540-468-2223