

DIANE BLACK
6TH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES

355 NORTH BELVEDERE DRIVE
SUITE 308
GALLATIN, TN 37066
(615) 206-8204
(615) 206-8980 (FAX)

321 EAST SPRING STREET
SUITE 301
COOKEVILLE, TN 38501
(931) 854-0069

May 19, 2016

The Honorable Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta,

I am writing in regards to a wind energy project proposed by Apex Clean Energy in Crab Orchard, Tennessee. This project would encompass 1,800 acres on the edge of the Cumberland Plateau which is home to the beautiful Cumberland Mountain State Park. It is my understanding that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may need to conduct an aeronautical study on this project along with a possible public notice and 30-day comment period.

Many of my constituents have contacted me with serious concerns regarding this proposed wind farm. The project in question will be built in close proximity to residents who have invested their lives in Cumberland County – a region that has been frequented by Tennesseans since 1938 because of its natural beauty and landscape. This region not only belongs to the residents of Cumberland County, but to all Tennesseans who travel across the state to participate in events such as Pioneer Days, Fishing Derby and admire its beauty while gazing upon the Ozone Falls.

The Cumberland County community and Tennessee as a whole will bear some form of cost from this project. While not all of these costs may be economic, they will certainly be tangible. The Cumberland Mountains have an importance that reaches well beyond the borders of the county and its preservation should not be mortgaged on short-term interests. As such, I cannot recommend that the FAA allow Apex Clean Energy to proceed with this project.

Therefore, I strongly encourage the FAA to host hearings for residents of Cumberland County in order to address their concerns.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider these ramifications and all of the affects that this wind farm will have. This project will have far reaching consequences for the residents of Cumberland County and all Tennesseans who visit the Cumberland Mountains. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Black".

Rep. Diane Black
Member of Congress