

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

Mr. William D. Johnson
President and CEO, Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am writing in regards to the proposed Crab Orchard Wind Project. This project would encompass 1,800 acres on the edge of the Cumberland Plateau which is home to the beautiful Cumberland Mountain State Park.

I have heard serious concerns from my constituents who reside in the area and stand to be affected by this wind farm. As such, I implore you to host hearings for residents of Cumberland County in order to address their concerns before granting Apex Clean Energy access to Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) high voltage lines.

Last year TVA stated the agency had no immediate need for new base load plants after Watts Bar Unit 2 becomes active. Does the agency and the community expect a positive return-on-investment that justifies the long-term development costs?

The Cumberland County community and Tennessee as a whole will bear some form of cost from this project. While these costs may not 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. Given this, I must ask if this project is in the best interests of all Tennesseans.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider these ramifications and all of the affects – beyond dollars and cents – 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