

VOTE NO ON HB 649

Wind Energy Supports the Military Mission

- Wind developers wholeheartedly support the military's important missions and recognize that national security is paramount.
- Wind energy deployment has proven compatibility with military operational and training needs.

Bill is not necessary

- **No wind project has ever been built over the objections of the Department of Defense.**

Bill conflicts with existing federal processes that work

- Military notice requirement is redundant and conflicts with federal law.
 - Federal law FAA Obstruction Evaluation and DOD Clearing House Process already require wind project developers to have DOD review their project which necessarily includes the DOD notifying the local base.
 - FAA regulations require filing with the FAA 45 days prior to construction.
 - Bill removes flexibility that developers need to successfully incorporate and protect multiple military, wildlife protection and other land use considerations – instead, replacing it with an inflexible rule that could impede the ability for developers to successfully invest in Montana.

Bill creates unnecessary red tape

- Bill may require landowners to file multiple FAA filings. If project specs change new applications will have to be filed. If proposed turbine locations subsequently need to move for one reason or another more than a minor distance (for example, to avoid a sage grouse concern), it requires re-filing with the FAA. This causes unnecessary delay and costs.
- Bill creates more hurdles for landowner who wishes to lease and obtain income to maintain a rural lifestyle.

County Requirement is conflicting

- Compatible Use Map requirement may conflict with the existing Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse review process that ensures mission compatibility for all newly proposed energy projects.
 - Individual military facilities are central to the Clearinghouse evaluation process – and that DoD process already includes notice to and working with the Malmstrom Air Force base on any proposed project.
 - This existing review process is one of the reasons no wind energy project has ever been built over an objection from DoD.
 - The Clearinghouse process is designed to consider project specifics, military mission specifics and mitigation before signing off on a project or opposing a project.

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