

Watts Remy

From: Granella Thompson <jessgranthompson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 8:30 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: hydro power
Attachments: If Renewables Are So Great for the Environment, Why Do They Keep Destroying It_.html

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Dear Senator Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I STRONGLY support hydro as the only green power option that makes sense, and I STRONGLY encourage you to list it as green!!! SUPPORT SB 508!!!!

I am a landowner who has been contacted by both wind and solar companies to place their so called green energy on my land. I declined. Yes, it would provide a lot of additional cash for our farm. But, I believe it is an extremely expensive form of energy, I couldn't watch my friends power rates skyrocket while I rake it in at their expense. Both solar and wind are very unreliable forms of energy, wind doesn't work when it is foggy for 6 weeks in winter, it doesn't work when it is too windy, it doesn't work if it gets too cold, which although rare does happen when electrical needs are greatest. If the bearings seize up as happened in Arlington last summer, a wildfire can be the result, or oil can be flung in a large area on the wheat nearby, and soak into the ground. Solar doesn't work at night, when snow sits on them for weeks on end, can cause fires as well. Wherever these so called green energy projects are, a back up plan has to be available to cover when they don't, thus increasing the actual numbers of either fossil fuel, hydro or nuclear reliable sources that are then told they can't operate all the time as they have to be idle when the wind blows just right or the sun shines. What a ridiculous waste of money!!! So the answer is to raise power rates, which hurts the working poor the most. Use the efficient one and quit the unreliable one!!! Save a LOT of money for everyone!!!

The biggest drawback to wind and solar to me is the damage that is being done to the environment by them. I have read so many articles on that in Range Magazine, and am attaching a recent article from Forbes called "If Renewables Are So Great For the Environment, Why Do They Keep Destroying It?" Wind and solar kill large predatory birds that don't reproduce in large numbers, such as Golden Eagles, Red Tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, Sage Grouse, Burrowing Owls and other endangered species. There used to be a lot of burrowing owls on the hills above the Walla Walla River over north of Helix. They left when all those wind towers vibrating the ground moved in. Bats are endangered and wind turbines destroy them. These types of losses cause insect populations and rodent populations to be out of balance, resulting in more poisons used to control the resulting problems because man ruined the balance. Antelope herds have left areas of Oregon where wind projects invaded their land. We are turning our once beautiful full of life rural lands into industrial zones where birds and animals cannot thrive. The people in charge of placing these projects put them up on prime farmland, which my land is and I see them on farmable ground, in a major migratory flyway. They pour cement in the ground and build roads on some of the best land in the nation and say we HAVE to do this to SAVE THE PLANET while we destroy it project by project. 1000 Friends of Oregon has taken on some of the worst of these locations and won. There are more lawsuits nationwide every year over these environmental boondoggles. The amount of land needed per unit of energy if you compare solar to a nuclear plant is 450X more land per unit of energy! At Ivanpah solar farm alone, 6000 birds annually and hundreds of threatened dessert tortoises are killed, the birds are lit on fire as they land. Nuclear technology has improved so much, waste is not an issue, and Diablo Canyon has no impact on fish, tidepools next to it are pristine. Wind and solar constitutes only 1.3 & 6.2% of electricity respectively in the US and have huge ecological impacts for that small a benefit.

Hydro burns nothing. It creates a wonderful lake for the benefit of wildlife, recreation and irrigation of farmland. Fish has to be carefully taken care of, but new technology in fish friendly turbines should be installed at all dams making them much more fish friendly. The fish run in 2014 was fantastic, but I understand they did not barge smolts as faithfully after that successful year, and the sea lions are taking a huge toll on returning fish, so not all runs since have been as great. If we improve fish ladders and upgrade the turbines in the dams to be fish friendly, we have a wonderful reliable, cheaper form of very very green energy. It is a much much better form of renewable energy than wind or solar and is much better for the environment. If you don't think it is renewable, in 4th grade science the kids learn of the water cycle, take a look at that wonderful natural renewing of our water supply. PLEASE list hydro as green!!!! IT TRULY IS!!!!

Thank you,
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