Keep state wind farm rule intact

The regulation of wind farms Wisconsin put in place a year ago improves on the previous patchwork of local regulations. Lawmakers should leave the regulation intact and resist the latest pressure from groups outside the backwash of the regulatory approach.

Wisconsin’s wind farm regulations set standards for projects, including noise levels and setback limits from nearby homes. If local government attempts to go beyond those standards, they would be more restrictive than the state standards.

To date, the state lawmakers passed the Public Service Commission considered a range of viewpoints and struck a balance to avoid looking back in the effects of wind turbines. The resulting regulations fairly protect local interests in safety and property rights as well as the gentry at giving advantage of a green energy source.

The state’s wind farm rules are set to continue to argue for more restrictions. Last month, a group of lawmakers introduced Senate Bill 71 to permit local governments to establish even more restrictive regulations. Bill supporters have seized upon a state Supreme Court decision in the county wind farm. The study, conducted by acoustics experts, detected largely inaudible, low-frequency sound inside those homes near the wind turbines. The study also noted that some residents complained of health problems, such as nausea and headaches.

However, the study could link the noise in only one house to the wind farm site. The study could not attribute the health complaints to the noise. The indefinite findings do not offer evidence to either side of the debate.

Before the state standards were developed, a coalition of environmental groups filed an lawsuit to stop the state from moving forward with a plan to enact more extreme regulation without scientific foundation.

Transporting a wind farm to be set back a mile from neighboring homes. The violation virtually banned wind farm development.

The effects of wind turbines should continue to be examined. The noise in the study was so low, the study could not attribute the health complaints to the noise. The indefinite findings do not offer evidence to either side of the debate.

Kevin Groszkiewicz’s view: These efforts have been highly beneficial to the region and are receiving widespread attention.

Group’s efforts connect area to meet our broadband needs

Just more than 12 years ago, our community faced several difficulties. We were preparing to go into a recession and were facing problems with the economy. The community was focused on finding ways to diversify and reduce the risks.

Kevin Groszkiewicz’s view: These efforts have been highly beneficial to the region and are receiving widespread attention.

Voice of the People

Time to wake up

One only need look at ODOT to see how inefficient state government can be.

For more than 30 years, ODOT, controlled by the same political party that owns the state government, has operated under the same philosophies.

In the 1980s, ODOT was one of the wealthiest cities in the world. The state government wanted to raise the toll on the I-5 corridor to help fund a new bridge. The state government doubled it, and the residents of the area continued to pay.

There are many more examples of this kind of waste in government.

We cannot go on doing things this way.

The question: Should the WEA create a new format for Division I in the boys’ and girls’ state basketball tournaments? From a logistical perspective, this would require a reduction to four divisions, but the trend would be no good. We must be careful in limiting the number of teams, especially in the state with a number of good teams.

We can’t go on doing things this way.

The decision: We must go forward with a new format. This will ensure that the best teams have a chance to compete.

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Question of the Week

Should the federal government replace the term “marriage” with “civil unions” and leave it up to individual states to define marriage as they see fit?

The answer: To reject the proposal. The proposal is a step in the right direction, and it is important for all Americans to have the opportunity to marry the person they love. However, it is critical to protect the rights of all Americans to marry, regardless of their sexual orientation.

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