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Article from The Times UK re corruption in the wind industry

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Hello

I write from the the mountainous region of Scotland's Border Country, on the border with England.

We recently got our Planning system to refuse Planning Permission for an 8 turbine power station, because the landscape could not accommodate the visual impact, but it was a hard and long fight. But now - not much further away higher in the mountains - we are facing an application for 29 turbines, so we have another fight.

Good Luck with your fight. My advice is that you have to set emotion aside and fight the developers hard on the legal detail. It is likely to be long - 2-5 years usually in Scotland.

There is a website which lists the efficiencies of all operating windfarms in Britain, and this shows that almost all are less than 50% efficient (i.e produce less than 50% of their annual theoretical maximum capacity) and most are less than 30% efficient. This makes the electricity they produce very expensive, as well as being intermittent and so still requiring back up from fossil fuel power stations. The website is <http://www.ref.org.uk/index.php/uk-renewable-energy-data>. REF is a good organisation for technical advice, and has a very realistic view on the value of wind.

Tell your mayors and village deputies that for this reason all over Europe intelligent people are opposed to wind power stations in the wrong places.

Wind power will make a contribution to future power generation strategies but it will not provide base load (i.e. the power requirement that is still there when the wind is not blowing) and, no matter what the pro-wind movement says, it will not stop global warming. So the value of wind's present and future contribution depends on maximising efficiency in providing power when we need it, and this depends on choosing optimum sites where the wind load factor is highest. But if the site is not optimum, their value is much reduced and will not outweigh the adverse impacts and effects.

Here is an article about corruption in the wind industry from yesterdays' the Times

Organised crime infiltrates EU wind industry
