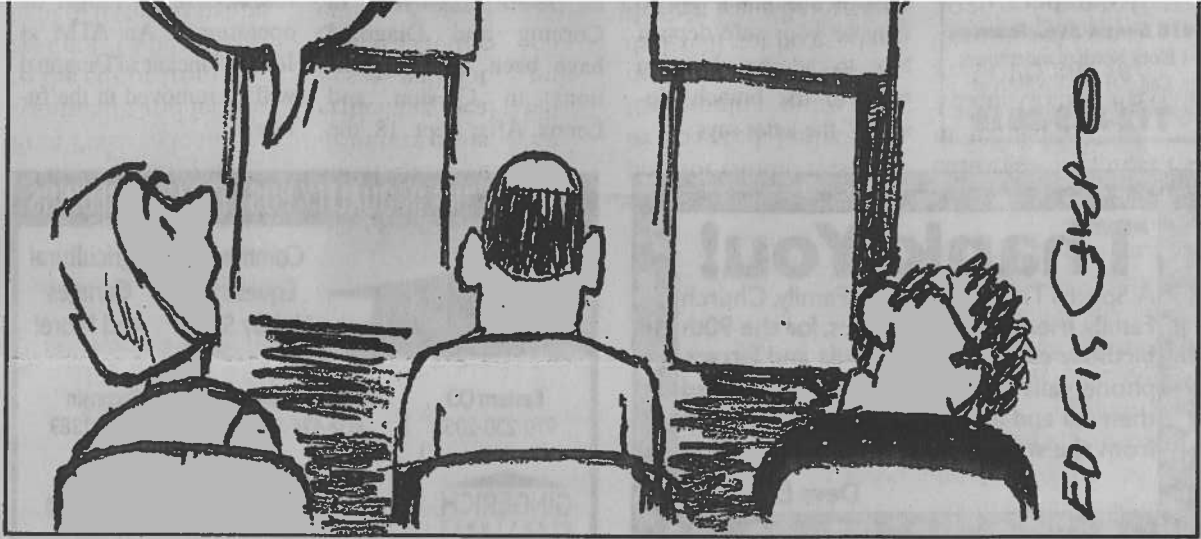


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## Letter to the Editor

### *Small towns of Iowa need to decide*

To the editor:

I have no doubt county assessor Ben Mullen is a dedicated public servant and knows his numbers, but his article in the May 28 Free Press asserting that wind turbines are a boon to Adams County deserves an answer.

It is important to keep in mind that Warren Buffett, chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, the company that owns Mid-America Energy which operates the turbines has said he would not have built a single turbine if his company did not receive federal production tax credits for them. What this means is that the taxpayers of America are paying for these turbines.

Although the turbines provide additional property tax revenue to Adams County, the thousands of acres they occupy is less valuable because of the degraded value due to the turbines, decreasing assessed values.

The turbines have created "dead zones" in the county where you cannot expect any future residential development because in general people do not want to live either under them or within sight of them.

The President of the United States has asserted that wind turbines cause cancer. If you are one of those who believe all of the President's words, then you might want to pack your bags to avoid this cancer. If you are somewhat more discerning about the President's comments, you might want to assume he was referring to the Monsanto-Bayer chemical Round Up. The toxins of the Midwest can be confusing to New Yorkers. However, wind turbines have been associated with psychological distress and noise pollution in addition to killing

birds and disturbing wildlife.

The turbines have been a boon for sure to the big landowners, a few of whom live in these parts, but the final chapter remains to be written when it is time for them to come down. By then the turbines will be owned by bankrupt LLCs and most will walk on these responsibilities.

From a scientific standpoint, wind turbines are old technology, no different than damming a river to create energy. Surely, science will render them obsolete.

As to Adams County's part in this, we have done our share. The only reason Mid-America comes out here is because they find it easier to hoodwink the weak political establishment and gullible locals. If wind turbines are so great, I propose putting new ones on the grounds of the state Capitol in Des Moines where there is plenty of wind most of the time, on the grounds of the governor's mansion at Terrace Hill, on Warren Buffet's lawn in old Omaha and on the grounds of the Des Moines golf and country club. I know what you are thinking, they would never stand for that. But they question is if they would not, why would we?

At some point, the rural counties and small towns of Iowa need to decide whether we want to be vibrant communities where people want to live and thrive or whether we want to be industrial dumping grounds for big city energy companies.

*James Freeland  
 Corning*

## Letters to the Editor Policy

The Adams County Free Press welcomes comments and letters to the editor from its readers. To be published, letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number. Per-

sonal thank-you notes or letters praising or criticizing local businesses will not be published as letters to the editor.

In the last issue before an election, only letters expressing sup-

port for candidates will be accepted. Letters that would require a response from a candidate will not be used in the last issue before an election.

Letters may be e-mailed to

editor@acfreepress.com, mailed to The Adams County Free Press, PO Box 26, Corning, IA 50841-0026 or faxed to (641) 322-3461. We reserve the right to edit any letter.

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