
Susman offers wind farm plan (<http://www.register-herald.com/local/x519112394/Susman-offers-wind-farm-plan>)

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CHARLESTON — A fresh House resolution seeking the chamber's support of the development of a permanent wind farm on Coal River Mountain in a rural pocket of Raleigh County has been introduced.

Delegate Sally Susman, D-Raleigh, offered the resolution, which doesn't carry the weight of law, at the request of the Coal River Mountain Watch, which has been advocating wind power as an alternative to coal production.

"I offered it to the full House, now let's see what they do with it," Susman said Wednesday.

Coal River Mountain Watch and some residents of the region have been pushing a wind farm for nearly a year, maintaining it would offer sustained employment and would be a safer and environmentally friendlier alternative to producing coal.

A few months ago, a spokesman for the group, Rory McIlmoil, appeared before the Raleigh County Commission to plug the new energy strategy.

Using statistics based on economic research by Downstream Strategies, he contended annual tax revenues derived from a wind farm would be almost 50 times higher than the amount collected from the coal severance tax.

"This fact alone suggests that developing a wind farm on Coal River Mountain will do far more to stimulate new economic activity for the surrounding area than the proposed mining," the group said in a statement.

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