

Letter to the editor

Let's encourage economic growth

To the editor:

On April 24, a public hearing was held at the Town of Burke Town Hall. The public hearing was whether to extend the moratorium on wind.

The board voted not to extend the moratorium, which means now we can get on with the business of determining if our town will have wind farms or not. This decision should be left up to the residents of Burke, not by outsiders. At last night's meeting, more than 40 people gave their opinions but one individual stood out.

That person is Boyce Sherwin. Mr. Sherwin stated that he was a member of the Franklin County IDA and was at this meeting to tell the people his thoughts about wind projects. He totally ran down the wind projects and the value these projects would bring to the

area.

He made several false or extremely exaggerated statements that brought several boos and shouts.

My question is, what is this individual doing on the Franklin County IDA board? Isn't this board supposed to be seeking new businesses and helping businesses expand for the benefit of our county? We have all read over the past several years about how the Franklin County IDA hasn't done the job it was appointed to do but I thought it was because we lived in an area where it is difficult to bring about economic change.

Now I am starting to realize that the bickering between the county legislature and the Franklin County IDA may have some basis.

If Mr. Sherwin's attitude and opinions are any example of how the other board members and the IDA director, Brad Jackson, look at projects like the wind farms,

no wonder our county cannot find any business willing to locate in our county. If Mr. Sherwin is expressing his opinion and not that of the IDA board, then the board should immediately remove him. How strange it is that the IDA is the agency for putting together PILOT agreements for the wind farms and they have a member and maybe other members, who are against wind.

Is the Franklin County IDA an agency formed to enhance economic growth throughout the county, or an agency that is run by individuals like Mr. Sherwin, who only thinks about their own agenda? If I recall, Mr. Jackson wasn't very happy with the PILOT agreement that he made with the Noble Chateaugay-Bellmont project. Certainly, the county legislators weren't happy. It seems to me that if the IDA and the county want a better deal regarding the PILOT agreements, the mon-

ey, then they should be supporting the wind projects, not running them down like Mr. Sherwin and no doubt others on the IDA board and the county board are doing.

I would start by getting rid of Mr. Sherwin, support the wind projects and we will see the greatest economic boom our area has or ever will see. Mr. Jackson has equated our area with Appalachia. He says the area has the same economic problems, unemployment and lifestyle that they experience in Appalachia. If Mr. Jackson and our county legislature want to change our county from being economically depressed, without high unemployment and not having to always talk about the business that could have located here, support the wind. It is the answer we have been looking for. It isn't a dream. It is already here.

**Keith E. Trudeau
Burke**