

Frank: My name is Frank Wolf. I live in Takata, Washington. I'm the county commissioner in this county. I won't be as eloquent as Dale. [laughter] I only have a couple of points to bring up.

The first is, I think that there needs to be some provision to ensure local government against unintended losses when an application is brought forward. We saw an application here for a land-based wind farm on Radar Ridge, which never went anywhere. But the outfall was the reason it was turned down was the [sound like] Marble Mirlat. And that brought the Marble Mirlat to center stage, which eventually closed down a whole bunch of timberland to the north, much of which is owned by the county. We've lost fully 50% of our income off of that and we're having a hard time making up the difference. This is already a poor county. We can't lose 5% of our budget and not have anything from the state to make up for it. That's even beyond the other money the state is taking from us. But that's another story for another time. So some sort of a program where an applicant would have to ensure the local government against losses, intended or not.

Second point I'd like to make is as a retired career merchant marine officer, if there's one thing I could tell you about the ocean, it is not static. Your wonderful maps about what areas are ecologically important and what are not look really nice. But I would imagine that if you did the science over a period of a decade or two, you'd find that they change pretty much constantly. So the idea of allowing something in an area which according to the present data may not be as heavily utilized as another area it may come back to bite us in the backside later on.

The third point I'd like to make is, we've already seen some wind generator projects proposed for the ridges around here in our timberland, which would be very ecologically benign places to put wind generators, not to mention a lot less expensive to install and maintain. And those have not been able to be made economically viable. Therefore, it seems to be unlikely that the economics of offshore wind, unless it's heavily subsidized, is going to be able to be viable either. Thank you.