DIANE BLACK
6TH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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May 19, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing in regards to a wind energy project proposed by Apex Clean Energy in Crab Orchard, Tennessee. This project would encompass 1,800 acres on the edge of the Cumberland Plateau which is home to the beautiful Cumberland Mountain State Park.

It is my understanding that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may need to conduct an environmental assessment to fully understand the effects of this project on species protected under the following federal laws: the *Endangered Species Act*, *Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act*, *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*, and the *Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act*.

Considering that this project would be built within 10 miles of the Cumberland Mountain State Park, many of my constituents have contacted me with serious questions and concerns. This area has been frequented by local residents since 1938 to enjoy the natural beauty of the landscape and outdoor recreational activities such as camping, hiking, canoeing, and fishing. This treasure of a region not only belongs to the residents of Cumberland County, but to all Tennesseans who travel across the state to participate in events such as Pioneer Days, Fishing Derby and admire its beauty while gazing upon the Ozone Falls.

Given this, the Cumberland County community and Tennessee as a whole will bear some form of cost from this project. While these costs may not be economic, they will certainly be tangible. The Cumberland Mountains have an importance that reaches well beyond the borders of the county and its preservation should not be mortgaged on short-term interests. As such, I cannot recommend that the EPA allow Apex Clean Energy to proceed with this project.

Therefore, I strongly urge the EPA to host hearings for residents of Cumberland County in order to address these concerns before granting Apex Clean Energy approval to move forward with this project.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider these ramifications and all of the affects that this wind farm will have. This project will have far reaching consequences for the residents of Cumberland County and all Tennesseans who visit the Cumberland Mountains. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Diane Black

Rep. Diane Black
Member of Congress