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## MAILBAG: National security threatened by anti-wind bill

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New York State Sen. Rob Ort is pushing to get a vote on his bill S1755, a proposal that would ban all construction of wind turbines within 40 miles of a military facility or navigational aids. Who is behind this copy-cat bill, which is detrimental to national security interests?

The bill is nearly identical to legislation proposed in Texas, a state that recently defeated a companion bill that would have repealed the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Texas leads the nation in wind power generation (and has a long history of wind power) and also has the most Air Force facilities of any state. The Department of Defense has an active role in the review of siting for proposed wind farms and the military reports no incidents with existing wind turbines.

The June 8 edition of Stars and Stripes has a feature article titled "Transition to renewable energy a matter of national security." The article points out that throughout history, military advantage goes to nations who have been able to adapt to changes in technology. But, a group of 15 retired generals and admirals warns that opting out in the energy innovations field puts the United States at "great risk to our national security."

Advanced energy systems (wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, nuclear and hydrogen) are all high on the planning boards for military ground missions, as they reduce the need to carry and protect fuel supplies. But, alternative energy supplies are not just for the soldiers on patrol. The military is still on board with its renewable energy goals for its domestic military bases. Wind powers several military sites, including a recently completed 50 megawatt project for Fort Hood in Texas. So, why would Senator Ort continue to sponsor legislation that not is only counter to New York's 50 by 30 goal (50 percent renewable energy by 2030), but is clearly counter to our national security interests?

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