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# What is Collins' reason to be anti-wind?

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EDITOR: Any large scale investment in rural Upstate New York should be welcomed with open arms. So why has Representative Chris Collins introduced legislation designed to thwart a multi-million dollar project in his legislative district?

The legislation would prohibit federal tax credits for wind farms within 50 miles of a military base. He states he is working to protect jobs at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, but has he checked with the military before

deciding that a renewable energy project would be an issue with the Air Force? Or has he checked with his colleague, Tom Reed, who will a featured speaker at a February Wind Power rally in Washington?

The Department of Defense already has a program in place for working around wind turbines, including solutions for radar design and wind farm siting. The nation's largest Air Force bases including Minot AFB in North Dakota and Travis AFB in Texas have been flying near wind farms far closer than the 50-mile radius proposed in the Collins legislation. Neither of these bases are in danger of being moved because of the wind turbines.

In October, the Buffalo News interviewed Col. Joseph D. Janik, the operations group commander for the 914th Airlift Wing. He stated that the Lighthouse Winds project proposed for Somerset would have no impact on operations at the Niagara Falls. If the Air Force doesn't have an issue with the project, what is the real reason Collins opposes Lighthouse Winds?

A recent University of Texas study shows that wind is the minimum cost technology for all of Western New York – much less costly than using coal at the AES Somerset Generation Plant. Western New York needs projects like Lighthouse Winds not only for the environment, but also to lower our electric costs.

John S Szalasny

Williamsville

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**Richard I. Steinberg** · Per Diem Occupational Therapist at Tonawanda City School District

Thank you John S Szalasny for putting a factual context into the discussion of wind power in our WNY area. I would be happy to see a fact check on all responses.

Like · Reply · 2 · 6 hrs



**Mary Finnegan** · Works at Self-Employed

Oh, let's go with coal, say I sarcastically. Let's do fracking, even if it induces earthquakes. Obviously, this world is run on the principle of money and power to the few, until Mother Earth is destroyed. Next they are going er the National Parks and In Reservations. Why the wind and solar power? Because you can't charge for the sun.

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**Mary Kay Barton** · Silver Lake, New York

Three cheers for Congressman Chris Collins!!! [Rep. Chris Collins](#) is actually working to represent the interests of his constituents in Orleans & Niagra Counties, who have repeatedly voiced (in 3 separate surveys!) that over 70% of the targeted Town's residents are OPPOSED to industrializing their Townships with the antiquated CONSUMER FRAUD of industrial wind. Clearly, [Rep. Chris Collins](#) is one of the few elected officials who is smart enough to know that industrial wind is a SCAM, and with the guts to challenge Cuomo's 'green' (\$\$\$) transfer of wealth scheme and the wind carpetbaggers (ex... [See More](#)

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**Mark Richardson**

That's an easy question. Chris Collins is anti-wind because it competes with his third largest industrial contributor--oil and gas:

<https://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/summary.php...>

Like · Reply · 3 · 6 hrs



**Janet Goodsell**

Chris Collins is actually working to represent the interests of Chris Collins. Been invited to buy some nice cheap profitable stock lately?

Like · Reply · 3 · 6 hrs



**Mary Kay Barton** · Silver Lake, New York

Mr. Szalasny is clearly misinformed. Industrial wind can not stand alone since it does NOT supply RELIABLE, dispatchable baseload power. Thus, wind provides virtually NO firm capacity, or Capacity Value (specified amounts of power on demand), and must have constant 'shadow capacity' from our RELIABLE conventional sources to step in at a moment's notice to cover for wind's volatile, erratic bad behavior on the grid. Wind is an inimical source that serves only to cost ratepayers twice for the same product, while causing massive civil, economic and environmental destruction for NO net benefit.... [See More](#)

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