

California State Senate

SENATOR
BEN HUESO
FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES
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CHAIR

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EDUCATION

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& WATER

TRANSPORTATION
& HOUSING

SELECT COMMITTEES
CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE
CHAIR

CALIFORNIA-MEXICO
COOPERATION

February 10, 2014

Sheri Edgett Baron
US Wind Turbine Evaluations
FAA New England Regional Office
11 Murphy Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

Re: Audio Visual Warning Systems – Wind Energy

Dear Ms. Baron:

Renewable energy alternatives, such as wind and solar power installations, are essential to improving the environment and reducing our carbon footprint. An example of one of these projects is the Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility, which sits on 20 square miles of public land around Ocotillo, a desert community 90-miles east of San Diego and within California's 40th Senate District, which I represent.

There are over 100 wind turbines in the area, each one as high as a forty story building and equipped with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) required red light flashing system. Each turbine light system is required to stay on at all times. As most of the people in the community live within two miles of these turbines, the steady light transmitted from these structures is causing them to suffer from migraines, vertigo and loss of sleep.

In response to concerns from our constituents, our office looked into the issue and found studies indicating that residents living in such close proximity to turbines often suffer from illnesses including chronic sleep deprivation, hypertension and heart attack. Ocotillo is made up largely of senior citizens, a group which has been found to be exceptionally sensitive to the effects of the turbines.

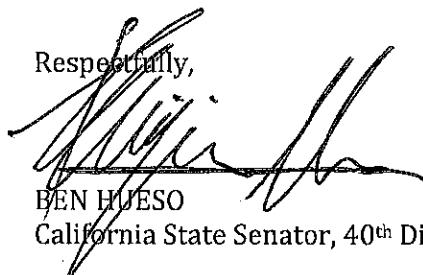
The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) can help reduce these health effects by issuing an Advisory Circular establishing guidelines related to the use of radar technology and Audio Visual Warning Systems (AVWS). AVWS can allow the lights on wind turbines to be kept off at night until an aircraft is approaching. AVWS have already proven to be effective in use in the National Airspace System and can potentially prove helpful in this case too. In addition, efforts to reduce wind turbine light pollution can help improve community support for wind turbines nationwide.

The health and well-being of the residents of Ocotillo is important to me. Studies of the illnesses caused by excessive exposure to light from the turbines cannot be ignored. On behalf of my constituents, I respectfully urge you to look into this matter more closely and to work with us to improve the quality of life of the community.



Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and I look forward to continued discussions on this issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Hueso", written over a horizontal line.

BEN HUESO
California State Senator, 40th District

BH/lj

Cc: Donna O'Neill, FAA Obstruction Evaluation Group, AJV-15
Airspace Specialist for Wind Turbines, Western U.S.

John Page, Manager, Obstruction Evaluation Group
Federal Aviation Administration

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Donna O'Neill
FAA Obstruction Evaluation Group, AJV-15
Airspace Specialist for Wind Turbines, Western U.S.
901 E. Locust
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re: Audio Visual Warning Systems – Wind Energy

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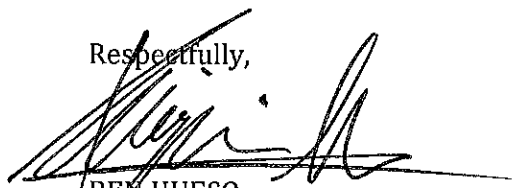
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John Page
Manager, Obstruction Evaluation Group
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave, SW
Room 400 East
Washington, DC 20591

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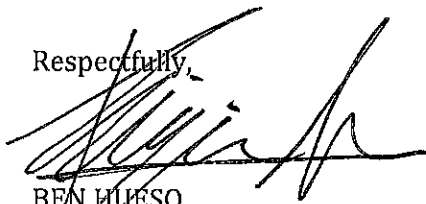
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