

Merz, Jeff

From: noreply@hirep-wind.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 12:10 AM
To: Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff
Subject: [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

A New Comment has been Submitted

I think this is a good idea, the cable(s) could serve as the backbone of a diversified renewable energy network. Although it seems to currently be focused on wind based generation, once the network is in place, it could utilize energy generated from any renewable technology.

If it is done well (meaning they do and then double check their homework), putting this piece in place would be a huge step forward toward ending our dependence on imported oil and coal. Ending this dependence on imported fossil fuels is not only good for the local and global environment but it would also directly benefit the people of Hawaii.

This investment would generate long term sustainable income and jobs for the neighbor islands. They could then choose to reinvest that money which is currently going overseas to import the oil, in revitalizing local cultural practices, education, agriculture and infrastructure.

I think it is useful to consider the realities of not doing this project. It might seem less invasive or disruptive to simply oppose any new development. That perception can only exist in the absence of understanding the actuality and impacts of the energy system we are currently participating in.

Think of it in this way, do you want to continue importing oil, degrading our local economy, contributing to instability that comes from being dependent on external energy? Would you vote for continuing to be dependent on oil?

In the future oil will only become more expensive, which as one example, means that food will become both more expensive and more scarce. So one of those actualities to consider is that right now the vast majority of agriculture is dependent on fossil fuels. The larger picture must be taken into consideration in order to form an worthwhile opinion on these matters.

By opposing this initiative, without offering a practical alternative, you are in fact voting to continue our dependence on imported oil and all that implies for the local and global environment and economy.

Here in Hawaii we are fortunate to not immediately see the effects of oil extraction or production (though there are effects here to be seen). Is the Gulf of Mexico really that far away (to mention one of many worldwide incidents)? Was it so long ago that we have already forgotten it?

Is a windmill, or other renewable energy technologies such an inconvenience, or considered such a disruption to the landscape that you are willing to inflict the consequences of oil extraction and production on other people living in other communities?

How is a wind turbine considered a disruption of culture, but a fossil fuel burning automobile not? Cultures change, the question is will you author that change consciously or unconsciously, and does that change honor your cultural values?

In my view, aloha'aina should start here in Hawaii, and extend to the whole earth and all peoples. Can you claim love of the land, if you only care for only the small part you see of your own back yard?

If we do not change now, while we have the opportunity and the only barrier is our collective intelligence, vision and willpower, it is no overstatement to say that the choices we will have left in the future will be far less ideal. There are long term consequences for short term thinking.

Hawaii has the opportunity to lead the world as a model of sustainability, self reliance and environmental stewardship. This initiative is a part of creating that vision.

It is also useful to understand that we will need to utilize all of the renewable technologies that we have available in order to become self sufficient. That means wind, solar, geothermal, OTEC and other ocean energy technologies.

So I am in support of this project and I offer my views with respect to the rest of the community in effort to further the discussion in a practical and applied framework. I will only ask that if this project is able to be done, to do it well (so I don't have to eat crow later on).

Aloha

Submitted on Tue, Mar 01, 2011 / 12:09AM HST by Nick Smithson

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