

WALTER B. JONES
3D DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

ROOM 2333
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3415

COMMITTEES:
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1105-C CORPORATE DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 931-1003
(800) 351-1697

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

January 31, 2014

Dr. Louis W. Uccellini
National Weather Service
1325 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Uccellini:

Earlier this month one of the largest newspapers in my Eastern North Carolina congressional district – the Carteret County News-Times – ran a front page story entitled “Wind turbines may impact weather radar.” The story describes how a proposed 40-turbine wind farm near Newport, North Carolina might significantly impact operation of the National Weather Service (NWS) radar located just 2.4 miles away.

The article included comments from Mr. Edward Ciardi – meteorologist at the National Weather Service’s Radar Operations Center (ROC) in Norman, Oklahoma. Mr. Ciardi confirmed that the Newport wind farm, “as currently proposed, would impact the NEXRAD Doppler weather radar at the local NWS office in Newport.” He went on to cite the problems experienced at the NWS weather radar in Fort Drum, New York when a wind farm was located at roughly the same distance from it as the Newport wind farm would be from the NWS radar there. Impacts include corrupted data, false severe weather warnings, and radar damage.

Dr. Uccellini, I know I speak for many in my district who were concerned to read this article. Eastern North Carolina depends on the Newport radar for onshore and offshore weather forecasting and severe weather analysis. In addition, American taxpayers have spent tens of millions of dollars to create and operate this facility. I am sure you would agree that it would be unacceptable for this investment and the valuable data it produces to be needlessly compromised.

Given the importance of this matter, I would like to ask you to provide me with a detailed evaluation of the potential impacts of the proposed Newport wind project on NWS radar operations. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress