FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOONE COUNTY URGED TO REJECT PROPOSED (ANTI) WIND ORDINANCES

COLUMBIA, MO – Renew Missouri, a 501(c)(3) based out of Columbia that focuses on renewable energy and energy efficiency policy, is urging the Boone County government to reject proposed wind ordinances drafted by its Office of Resource Management. These rules are nothing more than a *de facto* ban on wind turbines that were drafted out of fear of anti-wind activists parroting fossil fuel industry talking points.

As written – and attached to this press release – siting requirements would prevent wind turbines from being placed anywhere in the county. But since the regulations do not ban it, many Boone County officials can call these “reasonable restrictions” when they are anything but.

“The rules are drafted to say no wind turbines can be within 1,750 feet of any property lines or road,” notes Renew Missouri Executive Director James Owen. “Not only is this completely restrictive, it’s not even backed up by sound engineering and scientific standards. They are a farce.”

Why does this matter? In addition to curbing the local production of clean energy, these ordinances prevent development that would bring tens of millions of dollars in property taxes to the county and to local school districts. Local, rural schools could open up to five days a week and provide more opportunities for students.

“Look at Adair County,” Owen notes. “It's not all that unsimilar to Boone County. They are celebrating wind farm construction there because it will bring nearly $32 million over the next twenty years. That can help with school funding. That can help with roads. That can do a lot.”

However, representatives from Boone County have said "we don't need that money in this county" and that it should go to neighboring areas. Which is what it is doing right now. Unbelievable.

This development would also provide income to farmers who have been hit hard by trade wars of recent years. In some cases, those landowners can make six figures a year. Yet their neighbors and their county want to curb what they can do with their property.

These projects can also bring jobs to the area. Dozens of positions that pay - on average - $65,000 a year. “How many jobs in northern Boone County pay this well,” Owen asks.

There are many reasons to support wind farms in Boone County. These proposed regulations will only curb our community and its efforts to be a leader for progressive ideas in the rest of the state. There will be hearings held throughout April on these matters. Renew Missouri urges anyone interested in clean energy and sensible government regulations to attend, starting with the hearing this Thursday night at 6:30pm at the Roger Wilson Government Building at 801 East Walnut.