

# Wind

FROM PAGE 3A

landowners' ability to plant trees. Machtan said Allete contracts encumber landowners up to 50 years, Pattern 40 to 50 years, and Invenergy 37 years. The developers, however, can get out of those contracts quickly, he said.

"Those financial benefits are not real if they last for a total of zero months or two months," he said. One contract he saw increased payments to the landowner by 1 to 1.5 percent per year, which he said is a fraction of the current inflation rate.

Machtan said standards for decommissioning wind projects are "wholly inadequate, and the contracts are worse."

All three companies' contracts also include nondisclosure requirements or clauses that prohibit the landowner from disparaging the company, he said.

Machtan said "very credible research" shows property losses of 5 to 40 percent for properties with wind farm easements. He said banks elsewhere in the U.S. have been refusing to allow farmers to use their land with wind project easements to be used as collateral for loans."

While Machtan said he has a solar array on his farm west of Marshfield, he terms renewable energy "intermittent unreliable power," citing a North American Electric Reliability Corp. study that use of renewables to replace

power plants going offline will make Wisconsin energy supplies as unreliable as California's now are within a decade.

"We can't afford for Wisconsin to not have the ability to provide the goods we produce, to provide the food we produce," he said. "We're strong supporters of clean energy, but it's hard to know what that is."

Machtan's wife, Barb, listed studies about the health hazards of infrasound, which cannot be heard — wind turbines are regulated to be no louder than 50 decibels during the day and 45 decibels at night — but can be felt by humans and animals. Infrasound is created by a wind turbine's blades passing over the turbine's pylon.

She cited a Fond du Lac County farmer whose chickens began being born with birth defects and producing fewer eggs when a wind farm project went online. Another study she cited claimed that earthworms leave areas where wind turbines are located, negatively affecting soil health.

Barb Machtan also noted studies showing health problems caused by blade flicker and glare caused by the sun, as well as unsynchronized red lights that flash from the turbines at night.

Another meeting for wind turbine opponents targeted toward Town of Clifton residents will be held in the Livingston-Clifton Fire Station in Livingston Friday at 7 p.m. The meeting is being held by a group called Concerned Citizens Opposing Wind Turbines.



The Lancaster Jaycees packed the Grant County Fairgrounds for their annual Family Fireworks display Friday, which also included their concessions stand and inflatables, and Vesperman Farms ice cream.



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Bullride..... **7:00PM**

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**BAGLEY INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Events Held at Bagley Community Park

Freedom 5K Run/Walk .....	<b>7:30AM</b>	Vendor & Craft Booths .....	<b>11:30AM</b>
Parade.....	<b>10:30AM</b>	Live Music by Anne & The Crush .....	<b>12:00PM</b>
Concession Stand & Chicken Q ..	<b>11:30AM</b>	Bean Bag Tournament (12pm Sign Up) .	<b>1:00PM</b>
Children's Games & Prizes.....	<b>11:30AM</b>	Bingo.....	<b>1:00PM</b>
Bounce Houses.....	<b>11:30AM</b>	Cow Chip Bingo .....	<b>1:00PM</b>

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