I am in favor of the Terra Gen windmill project.

Everyone, I believe, recognizes that climate change is real and that the threat it poses is existential. Nonetheless, I want to describe one effect of climate change that was written up November 12th in The Washington Post. It is stories like this which have shaped my views on how we should confront this crisis.

The temperature of a parts of a sea wedged between Siberia and Japan, the sea of Okhosk, is 3 degrees Celsius warmer than it was in the late 1800's. It is one of the fastest warming spots in the world. While the impacts of this rise in temperature are complex, one result has been to shrink an ice sheet that forms on the sea in the winter by nearly 30%, an area larger than the state of Arizona. This matters because according to climate scientists the ice sheet pushes a current that travels east carrying key nutrients out into the northern Pacific where there is abundant marine life. The conclusion of those studying this phenomenon is that the weakening of this current is endangering the biological health of the vast northern Pacific.

This is just one example of many frightening changes climate change is bringing to our planet. Other examples include the extraordinary temperature rise (4 degree Celsius) experienced in parts of Pakistan (a contributor of only 1% of the world's greenhouse gases) with the resulting drought and collapse of food production in some areas of that country, and the loss of land, home, and food resources due to sea level rise of the people of the Pacific island nation of Kirbati and, in the United States, the Inuit people of Alaska.

Most of us recognize that one way of warding off the worst consequences of climate change is to eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels and to move quickly to adopting renewable energy. The Terra Gen project provides an opportunity for us to do this.

There are arguments that I have seen that claim other forms of renewable energy, specifically solar, are better. However, there are numerous calculations that show that to produce the same energy as the proposed windmills solar installations would need to involve vastly more territory at considerably higher prices.

There have been many comments on the ways that the Terra Gen project can be improved. When feasible these mitigations should be incorporated into the FEIR.

But to not support this project when there is such a short time frame to alter earth's trajectory toward a massive extinction of life as we know it is, I believe, does not make sense. Yes, this project will have impacts. But in my mind this does not equate to the endangerment climate change poses as illustrated by the examples I cite.

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