

The Muskegon Chronicle (Michigan), Nov. 17, 2008, page 4A

Dear Editor,

Regarding your article “Voters will decide wind turbine issue” in the Thursday, October 30, Chronicle by Jeff Alexander:

One of the objections raised against wind turbines is the impact they have on the view. But Dr. Arjun Makhijani of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, who spoke last month in Kalamazoo, put it well. He said we have four choices when it comes to our energy future. We can either: do without electricity; experience catastrophic climate change, if we continue to burn fossil fuels unabated; risk radioactive disasters and nuclear weapons proliferation if we expand nuclear power; or, deal with the view.

I’m pretty sure I’m not the only one who thinks wind turbines are gorgeous. After all, Dutch artists for centuries have thought windmills beautiful enough to put on the finest of chinaware. But they also represent hope, not only for safe and clean energy, but also for affordable, homegrown energy independence and green jobs.

Dr. Makhijani’s book, “Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy,” shows how it is feasible and economic to phase out fossil fuels and nuclear power in the U.S. by 2050, through ready to go advances in energy efficiency and renewable sources of electricity such as wind power. RDR Publishers of Muskegon published this cutting edge study on one of the most important issues of our time.

The U.S. Energy Dept.’s National Renewable Energy Lab has reported that Michigan has the potential to generate 16,500 megawatts of electricity from land-based wind. That’s over four times as much electricity as all of Michigan’s nuclear power plants combined, without the radioactive risks.

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