



Loess Hills National Scenic Byway
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August 16th, 2022

Woodbury County Supervisors
620 Douglas Street
Sioux City, IA 51101

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway™ I would like to express our concerns about the impact that potential wind turbine development in Woodbury County could have on the viewshed of the Loess Hills. While Iowa lacks any National Parks or National Forests, we do have seven National Natural Landmarks in the state, one of these being the Loess Hills. Also of national significance, Woodbury County is within the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway corridor.

The byway attracts regional, national and international travelers in search of a scenic route through the unique Loess Hills Landform region. As all of these visitors travel through Woodbury County, they contribute to the local economies by purchasing fuel, meals, lodging, and retail goods. With regards to the traveler experience, we are concerned that the addition of wind turbines to the landscape could greatly impede the area's aesthetic value. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway's Corridor Management Plan, which was adopted by each of the 7 counties in Iowa's Loess Hills, specifically addresses concerns about changes to the viewshed of the Loess Hills and regulation of towers and antennas to protect the resources of the Loess Hills. The addition of turbines will change the view of the landscape, which could negatively affect the intrinsic scenic quality of the byway and thereby also the Travel Experience Rating.

Not only are the Loess Hills a vital contributor to the economic success and quality of life for Sioux City and the small rural communities of Woodbury County, but they are an important natural resource for plant and animal habitat. The Loess Hills and the Missouri River valley also represent an important travel corridor for migratory birds, which raises additional concerns about the impact that the turbines may have on these birds.

We certainly applaud efforts to transition to green energy sources, but believe that there are many factors to consider when looking for placement of these turbines and hope that these will be taken into account when making decisions about future developments.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Castle, Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Coordinator