

Some Adverse Military Consequences from Senate Bill 3

[Senate Bill 3](#) is a well-intentioned Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS) that inadvertently created conflicts with industrial wind energy and the military. [H760](#) is trying to reduce these confrontations.

Fact 1: In almost every state that has an REPS, wind energy ultimately satisfies most of it. This has yet to happen in NC, but that is only do to substantial local push-back against the several NC wind projects proposed.

Fact 2: Each of the wind projects being proposed for NC will entail dozens of turbines ranging in height from 500 to 600 feet — i.e. substantial structures.

Fact 3: NC legislators were concerned enough about nearby tall structures impacting military operations, that they passed [H433](#) in 2013 to restrict such obstructions. However, that law inexplicably *exempted* wind turbines!

Fact 4: Due to [wind speeds](#), and the NC [Ridge Act](#), ALL of the industrial wind development in NC will be concentrated within 30± miles of the coast.

Fact 5: There is a substantial military presence in this same 30± miles of the coast corridor. This overlap has led to serious conflicts. Some examples:

- 1) The [Pantego](#) wind project (Beaufort County) is directly on the flight path of the Seymour-Johnson AFB low-level training route. SJ published a [detailed report](#) explaining this conflict. Also the base CO strenuously [objected](#) to this to the NC Gov — which led to the CO being transferred. The [DoD process](#) reduced the number of turbines, but left several in the flight path.
- 2) The [Mill Pond](#) wind project (Carteret County) was proposed to be directly on the flight path to the main runway of Cherry Point MCAS. Additionally it was in the interference zone of the Cherry Point airspace navigation radar, as well as the Newport NEXRAD weather radar. The DoD process did nothing to fix these. Only local legislation solved these conflicts.
- 3) The [Desert Wind](#) wind project (Pasquotank & Perquimans Counties) is located directly in the scan area of a nearby [Navy ROTH station](#). The Government's own [report](#) concluded that any turbine obstructions within 28 miles would impair the performance of this important operation. This project is only about 14 miles away (half the critical distance), yet the DoD process did nothing to fix it.

So SB3 has encouraged NC industrial wind development — which threatens the mission and operational readiness of military bases, as well as the lives of service personnel. See the [NC Military Report](#) (e.g. about DoD & [H484](#)), and the H760 [Report](#), for much more information. Let me know any questions.