

Sunday, March 23, 2014

Editor, The Daily Advance

Your article about Vision 2020 in the March 23rd edition of your paper states that the Economic Development Team concluded that wind energy, new aviation technology and the Port of Virginia could transform the regional economy and those need to be top priorities for business recruitment and workforce development efforts.

Most assuredly cooperation with the Port of Virginia would help the region. Developments in aviation technology could be beneficial, but would not be as universal as benefits from the port.

However, wind energy would be a net negative rather than a benefit. Wind energy "farms" are not economically feasible without government tax credits and mandates that force electrical utilities - and their customers - to purchase electricity generated from wind turbines that is 3 to 4 times more expensive than electricity generated from gas or nuclear plants.

Electricity prices in our region are higher than surrounding areas, which is a negative factor when businesses are deciding where to locate. More wind derived electricity will merely increase the cost of electricity and make the region less attractive for businesses.

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