

Senator Waddell Opposes Wind Moratorium

Charlotte, **NC-** This week, the following bills came to the Senate floor:

- SB 377: Military Base Protection Act
- HB 57: Create Term for Public Schools & Codify NCVPS
- HB 82: Railroad Crossings/On-Track Equipment
- HB 131: Repeal Map Act
- HB 179: Mini-Truck Classification
- HB 301: CIP Revisions/Juvenile Code
- HB 415: Photos Of Juveniles/Show-Ups
- HB 531: Protect. Tenants At Foreclosure Act
- HB 548: Modify Physical Therapy Definition
- HB 578: Modify Legitimations Provisions
- HB 617: Allow Repeat Referral To Teen Court
- HB 664: MyFutureNC/Postsecondary Attainment Goal

Senate Bill 377 generated the most discussion. The bill places a three year ban on wind turbines in nearly a third of Eastern North Carolina, to prevent them from interfering with military pilot training.

Many Senators expressed concern over the ban's adverse impact on energy production and the North Carolina wind industry. They also wondered why the land area under the ban was so large, why the ban is necessary given military bases can already exercise power over what is built on nearby land, and why the bill targeted wind turbines specifically as opposed to tall buildings or cell phone towers. The bill's proponents responded that the ban was a necessary component to get all parties involved to the negotiating table, and that they expected a permitting system for wind turbines, as opposed to an outright ban, to be in the final bill.

Due to the concerns expressed, Senator Waddell could not support the bill in its current form and voted against it, but it passed the Senate 25-19, and will now move on to the House.

"For all the bills passed, consultation was sought from stakeholders, agencies,

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and organizations in Mecklenburg County. We are advocating for the best interest of all citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg county." said Senator Joyce Waddell.

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