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American Medal of Honor for Natural History  
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Entomology in conjunction with Philosophy

Dept. of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
Australia

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Dear Senators,

One may seem to be following in the hoof-prints of Rosinante in lobbying for a ban on wind-farms, but Don Quixote's windmills performed both an essential practical and at the same time aesthetic function.

Despite the grandiose claims for them, wind farms do neither. They cover the countryside with concrete and industrial debris, together with tarmacked access roads. But the aesthetics are but a small part of the matter.

Just to take the example of Scotland, hundreds of these so-called 'farms' manage to obtain planning permission – and sizeable handouts – on false pretenses. Turbines are 25% less effective than claimed by the energy industry, and during the recent exceptional cold December 2010, it was coal-fired power-stations that had to make up the huge energy deficit. In coal-rich countries like the UK and Australia, public money would be far better spent on perfecting carbon-capture, and thereby having a reliable resource. Moreover the depredation of mountainous and hilly areas opens up risk of flooding as areas that can absorb precipitation are gobbled up.

All this is to say nothing of the devastation visited on wildlife. Not only the great birds are destroyed by these great threshing machines, but the natural habitat of the hares is reduced, and high-flying Lepidoptera like the Purple Emperor are threatened.

I would urge your great Senate to reject the wind-farms as a way forward for renewable energy.

Sincerely yours,  
David Spooner