

# Blown by the bats

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Here's one the enviros didn't see coming.

The bats keep blowing up.

No, I am not making this up. What's more, it is even worse than a person might think. Not that the image of a bat blowing up mid-air is not bad enough. It's just that a barrage of bursting bats could really, really cripple our efforts to 'go green' in this country. What self-respecting environmentalist could support a form of energy that causes bats to blowout?

It just ain't easy being green.

But today, of all times, it should be.

That is, we finally have a president who understands how critical it is that we Americans stop plundering nature. We finally have a president who has pledged to spend billions and billions and billions to develop alternatives to present forms of energy. A president who also pledges to tax every American who uses energy so the government can raise the billions and billions and billions to give to corporations that promise to develop the other forms of energy.

Then along come the exploding bats.

Some skeptics might argue there are a couple of problems with this scheme n even before the bats started blowing up. Some people n mere taxpayer people n might point out that there are oodles and oodles of corporations that will provide energy without being paid by the government. In fact, in the process of providing the energy, these corporations actually pay billions and billions of dollars in taxes to the government.

And, these same taxpayer skeptics might say there are other corporations that want to get into the energy production business in a big way. And they want to do it in a way that does not rely on importing much of anything, and they promise to pay billions and billions in taxes while they do it. The problem is, of course, the president and his compadres in the green movement don't like nuclear energy.

So, instead, President Obama and friends want to foist an energy tax on every American and use the money to develop 'alternative' energy.

Gee, maybe the Easter Bunny can help too.

Sure - presuming the teleprompter works properly - it makes a great speech. But if the only thing standing between economical, alternative forms of energy was money n it would have happened already. Hundreds of companies, many now bankrupt, have invested untold billions of dollars in that cause. There has been progress but no real breakthrough.

Yet to hear Mr. Obama read it, and he has hundreds of times in thousands of speeches, creating energy is just a matter of the government spending money.

Except the bats keep exploding.

The point here is not to disparage wind energy. That would be dumb since everybody, except maybe Ted Kennedy, loves the idea of wind energy.

And what's not to love?

Oh sure. There are pesky problems. Like the fact that without tax subsidies wind energy is not competitive. And that little puzzler that nobody has figured out. You know, what to do when the wind stops blowing. But no matter. Wind energy is the rage and just because it may not be affordable or reliable does not matter.

But bloody bats might be harder to explain.

It seems that when bats fly too close to windmills they enter an area of reduced air pressure and that causes their lungs to explode. Needless to say, that is not good for the bat. In a nation that spends billions to save all types of creatures n even toads n that does not bode well for windmills.

And once again, I am not making this up. There is even a name for what happens when bats fly too close to windmills and blow up.

Barotrauma.

But there is good news. There is a solution. Scientists believe that if we simply turn the windmills off during low winds then bats will be safe.

Alright. I get it. Everyone is wondering what we would do without scientists. That is, who coulda' guessed that turning off the bat-killing windmills would save bats?

Of course, that means we're going to have to find an alternative source of energy to the alternative source of energy.

Fortunately we have plenty of scientists. And even more tax money. - DAN HAMMES is publisher of this newspaper.