



May 26, 2011

Delivered via e-mail to chris.nelson@state.sd.us

Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building
500 E. Capitol Ave., 1st floor
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Declaratory Ruling on the Proposed Black Hills Power Wind Project near Belle Fourche, SD

Dear Commissioner Nelson:

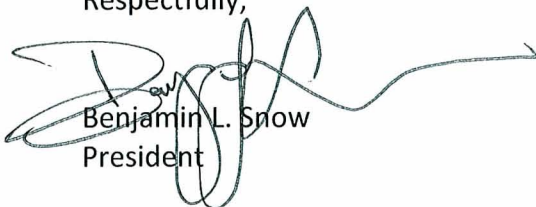
As President of the Rapid City Economic Development Partnership, I'd like to affirm our organization's support of the Black Hills Power Wind Project proposed to be built north of Belle Fourche, SD. Our region is unified in supporting this project for several important reasons. We believe it will:

- bring important renewable resources to western South Dakota.
- create good jobs and business to Belle Fourche and the surrounding communities.
- further economic development efforts in Butte County and western South Dakota.
- provide educational opportunities to surrounding communities.

This will be the first commercial wind farm in western South Dakota and will help us enter a new era of electric energy generation beneficial to our communities. We also understand that what is good for communities in the northern Black Hills is good for the entire west river economy and the state. This project represents South Dakota's continued commitment to renewable energy generation when it can be done at a reasonable cost.

We urge your support of the declaratory ruling requested by Black Hills Power and believe it is within the Commission's authority to encourage renewable generation as a matter of good public policy as well as meeting the state's renewable energy objectives.

Respectfully,



Benjamin L. Snow
President