

Testimony in Support of the Crocker Wind Farm

SD PUC Public Hearing

September 13, 2017

Name: David Schwartz

Address: [REDACTED] Jamestown, ND 58401

Phone: [REDACTED]

Dear South Dakota Public Utility Commission:

1a. CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT:

I am a County Commissioner from Stutsman County North Dakota. I am also a landowner involved with the transmission lines from the Courtenay Wind Farm built in Stutsman County that was developed by Geronimo Energy and is now owned by Excel Energy.

2a. TOP REASON FOR SUPPORTING THE PROJECT AND PERSONAL STORY:

Being involved with the Courtenay Wind Farm from the beginning, I was always well informed of the progress and process as the wind farm was being developed. I was also involved with the road haul agreements being drafted with the county and the townships involved.

All concerns from the county were addressed and all issues were taken care of as promised by Geronimo to our satisfaction. All roads were returned to as good or better condition and one 6-mile paved road has recently been resurfaced as per our agreement.

2b.

Being a landowner involved I certainly looked at the financial benefit of the wind farm to myself, but also as a county official the financial benefit to the county is huge!

In North Dakota this last legislative session, many changes took place that impact the county. Revenues have dropped and with the state changes to Social Services and other state revenues, balancing the budget for the next biennium would have been impossible without large tax increases to the county without the wind farm revenues. This plus the impact to the

local economy in the Courtenay area, in my opinion, far outweighs the negatives concerning wind farms.

Geronimo, Excel and their contractors were excellent to work with and made the process a very positive experience.

In conclusion, I ask for your approval of the Crocker Wind Farm Permit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Schwartz