

I'm Sean Coyle, I'm from ___ and am a student at LATI pursuing a degree in _____. I chose a career in wind energy operations because it is a rapidly growing industry and I wanted a long-term career where my skills would be in high demand. The technical skills for a job as a wind turbine tech or in wind farm operations can be learned in just two years at one of numerous Technical Colleges in South Dakota.

Our community is extremely to have LATI in the area! Lake Area Technical Institute has outstanding programs in Energy Operations and Energy Technology in Watertown. These programs are helping ensure the energy industry has the well-trained employees it needs and is giving South Dakotans an opportunity for great, high-paying careers. The program at LATI has over a 98% job placement rate and has been named the top technical schools in the country.

I'm extremely fortunate to be on track to completing my degree (*debt free*) thanks to, South Dakota Works, a scholarship fund.

SD Works Scholarship requires that technical college graduates stay in South Dakota and complete two years of work before leaving South Dakota. **Additional info on scholarship?** Myself and dozens of others on the SD Works Scholarship program, are betting years of our careers and a major financial investment because the optimistic outlook of wind energy in our state.

Last fall South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard wrote that, "Wind power has contributed more than \$2 billion in capital investments to our state for the construction and maintenance of the 14 wind projects now in operation." These wind farms have also brought nearly 2,000 good-paying jobs to South Dakota.

An analysis of South Dakota wind development by the Environmental Law & Policy Center found that a 250 MW project in South Dakota, "would create about

500 direct construction job-years and an additional 500 indirect and induced job-years.” This includes the service and retail industries which support the project, construction workers, such as coffee shops and motels. During its operating years, “a 250 MW project will employ as many as 23 wind technicians to maintain the turbines, 44 jobs with suppliers and an additional 55 indirect and induced jobs.”

As [REDACTED] mentioned, the country's fastest-growing occupation is wind turbine technician, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics — with numbers expected to more than double over the next decade. The wind industry is one of the top three fastest growing occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm>).

The way we live and communicate has changed completely in just a few decades, new technology has taken over many careers. With SD Works Scholarship and great technical colleges, South Dakota is preparing for the future by arming young people with the skills necessary to meet the new demands of industry. Wind and Solar jobs are the fastest growing job segments in the country. These projects can keep young people home, in SD, who would otherwise move away to find employment. I've seen many friends leave the state to pursue other careers and opportunities because there were no options for a good career near home. If I wasn't pursuing this career path, I'd like be — —???? (I have no clue where I'd be and likely pursuing a degree I wouldn't use after graduation while I pile up debt.)

Young people across the country are excited for clean energy. Most of the supporters here tonight look to be near or over retirement age, they won't have to live with the impacts of wind projects for the entire 25+ year life time and the decommissioning of the project like myself and my wife (hopefully) will. Young

people want clean energy, we'll be alive a lot longer a be left to deal with increasing energy costs and pollution. The shift to cleaner energy is happening, as technology improves and the cost of renewables declines.

I hope you'll consider all the way wind development is impacting SD, young people, the environment and economy and approve the permit.



Watertown SD 57201