



March 17, 2020

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Re: In the Matter of the Application by Crowned Ridge Wind II, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility in Grant, Codington and Duel Counties  
Docket No. EL19-027**

Clean Grid Alliance (CGA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Crowned Ridge II wind project.

CGA is a nonprofit organization headquartered and working in Minnesota, plus eight additional states in the Midwest, including South Dakota. CGA's membership consists of wind and solar developers, manufacturers, and nonprofit clean energy advocacy organizations.

The wind industry has invested \$2.2 billion in South Dakota, and tax revenue flowing to counties that host wind farms amounts to over \$21.5 million since 2009. The economic benefits that come with them can be a lifeline for sparsely populated counties that have limited tax base.

Wind development projects like Crowned Ridge II will continue to build on those benefits to rural South Dakota in many ways. Along with the additional revenue flowing to landowners and local communities, businesses like restaurants, gas stations, and hotels also benefit from the jobs that come with building and maintaining wind energy facilities.

*Delivering Midwest Renewable Energy*

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[CleanGridAlliance.org](http://CleanGridAlliance.org)





For instance, a 300 MW wind project that was recently approved in South Dakota will pay approximately \$2.5 million per year to landowners and approximately \$1.5 million per year in property taxes. This amounts to \$120 million in total local financial injection over the 30-year project.

South Dakota has enormous potential for renewable energy development. I appreciate the opportunity to comment and thank you for the Commission's consideration of the Crowned Ridge II wind project application.

Sincerely,

Peder Mewis  
Regional Policy Manger – West

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