
From: Reggie Gassman

Sent: Saturday, 27 August 2016 15:09:20 (UTC-06:00) Central Time (US & Canada)

To: PUC

Subject: Prevailing Winds Site Docket EL16-022 Comments

Commissioners Nelson, Fiegen & Hanson

I would like to voice my support for the Prevailing Winds Farm near Avon, South Dakota. Our state is blessed to have this natural resource and plenty of it. What we do with it is our choice. Ethanol has proven to be a great benefit to our rural economy in this great state of South Dakota and our abundant natural resource in the form of wind offers South Dakota the same opportunity ethanol has.

South Dakotans know how hard it is to keep life in rural South Dakota alive and thriving. Ethanol has helped to do this in some parts of our state, but corn prices presently are as low as they have been since the rise in ethanol production in the US. I ask you, where does rural America turn now that we are nearly capped out at the 15 billion gallon blend wall for corn ethanol and we are now facing low corn & commodity prices once again. We do not have the option of turning to more ethanol for answers. Both wind and ethanol are natural forms of energy that our state can be proud to produce. I believe it is truly time to look toward wind in an aggressive way.

I am employed by an electric utility and there is not a day that goes by that you hear of the issues with coal generation. I understand that coal is abundant and with modern technology we may be able to utilize this fossil fuel well into the future. Wind energy cannot and will not be the answer to all our energy needs but wind certainly can claim its slice of the energy pie and with today's technology I believe that it will. The bigger question is whether or not South Dakota will claim its share of the wind energy slice. Whenever we have an opportunity such as the Prevailing Winds Project we need to look at the big picture and claim our stake in the future of South Dakota and its landowners and residents. Although the increased demand for electric energy has been somewhat flat over the past few years, (due to energy conservation & LED lighting technology), this will pass because of normal growth, especially when we look down the road to the potential that electric vehicles will play in the upcoming years. Electric vehicles are expected to be at parity with fossil fuel cars sometime in the early 2020's and it is estimated that 1/3 of all vehicles on the road by 2040 will be electric. I understand that wind is an intermittent source of energy, but with the demand we foresee in the near future it will certainly help control the use of fossil fuels for the purpose of generating electricity.

Several years ago in 2009 I signed up my land for an easement for a wind farm that was being considered in my area. This farm never did come to fruition, but I still support any other residents and potential farms in our state that may have this opportunity.

In the evenings when I sit on my porch and look off to the southwest just across the border into Minnesota I see eight wind turbines harvesting wind energy . I think they look beautiful and would look even better if they were in South Dakota.

Thank you for your time and the decisions you make to make our state a great place to live both now and in the future.

Reggie Gassman

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