

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee thank you for this opportunity to express our positions for the Dakota Range Wind Farm Project.

South Dakota Farmers Union works to promote the interests of farmers and ranchers and their families. We work hard to advance sound and beneficial agricultural policies. South Dakota Farmers Union has policy that supports the development of wind energy and we support landowner's rights to develop their property.

Agriculture is the backbone of our rural communities so when the landowners, farmers and ranchers do well so does the community. Wind farms provide a unique opportunity to use our natural resources to bring opportunity and stability to farmers, ranchers, landowners, rural governments and the communities where they live and do business.

America is the greatest country in the world and the agricultural community has been the backbone of this country throughout its history. We honor that history by fighting every day for family farmers, ranchers and the rural way of life.

SDFU was a major contributor in development of the White Lake wind farm near Plankinton, SD This project, along with the South Dakota businesses that supply goods and services to the wind industry, support nearly 2,000 good-paying jobs in our state. Better yet, there are numerous wind power projects being planned across our state and, if built, these wind farms will attract billions of dollars of new private investment, millions of dollars of new revenue for farmers and rural communities, and thousands of new jobs. Many of which ^{WILL BE} ~~are~~ trained right here in S.D. at Mitchell votech.

Today, I am proud to say that South Dakota is one of only two states where wind power provides over

30 percent of in-state power generation. That's power that the whole region can count on.

The growth in wind power in our state and region did not happen overnight or without careful planning and advances in technology. Wind works well with South Dakota's other major power resources such as hydroelectric, coal-fired, and natural gas power plants, adding to our fuel diversity and reducing our reliance on imports.

Beyond helping keep electricity prices stable, wind power can also benefit the families and communities who host the projects on their land. Wind farms now pay approximately \$5 million each year in lease payments, creating a new, drought-resistant revenue stream that can help family farmers and ranchers withstand market fluctuations in crop prices.

Renewable power is proving its worth throughout the Great Plains, and South Dakota is committed to keeping our state open for more wind development. The renewable energy sector is one of the fastest growing in the nation, and renewable energy will continue to play a crucial role in creating new jobs and growing our state's economy. As wind power has grown to be nearly a third of our energy production, our grid is as reliable as ever. With this experience in mind, I and SDFU will continue to support the expansion of renewable energy in South Dakota.

I have heard some of the objections to wind farms and want to respond to a couple of them. I served on the SDWP Board of Directors and I can tell you that only a hand full of birds were found in the wind field and it could not be determined that their deaths were because of hitting the wind blades and that is over the seven years that I was on the board.

Another note of opposition Greg Hubner – Author of Anti-Wind Book – I hope that Mr Hubner does not use the our highway system as it is subsidized, so how can ^{we} say that some subsidies are good and other are not.

Mr. Hubner has written numerous publications in opposition to wind development stating subsidies as the only reason big corporations are in the wind business.

One could also ask [REDACTED] about farming subsidies he received.

According to EWG ^{TO} date [REDACTED] is shown receiving Personal tax Subsidies of \$227k over the last 21 years for an average of over \$10K per year.

[REDACTED], why do you receive farm subsidies?

Now, for the record I am a farmer too. I know as a farmer these subsidies go back into our economy in one form or another. The same goes for wind

subsidies. Some of those dollars could come back to ^{HERE} Waverly.

Currently, family farmers and ranchers including their rural communities are challenged with short falls in their budgets. Imagine, what our townships, counties, and school districts budgets would look like if you were to increase them with revenue from the Dakota Range wind farm.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to exercise our democratic right to voice our opinion on this extremely important issue to our family farmers & ranchers, their neighbors and communities.

As Vice-president of South Dakota Farmers Union I thank you for the work you do!

Respectfully,

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