



PO Box 38, Pierre, SD 57501

March 16, 2020

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

SUBJECT: Docket EL20-002

Dear Commissioners Hanson, Fiegen, and Nelson,

As the fifth windiest state in the nation, South Dakota has the opportunity to be a leader in renewable energy and energy independence. The Crowned Ridge Wind II Energy Center is the latest effort to promote the growth and development of wind as an energy source, leading to numerous benefits for local communities and the state at large.

The development of wind energy in South Dakota improves the state's economy by expanding the tax base and providing good paying jobs. It also invites further investment into the state as businesses are increasingly leaning on renewable energy to power their operations. The millions generated by increased tax revenue help schools provide technology and supplies for students and support teachers in their classrooms. South Dakota communities benefit by putting that tax revenue to use repairing roads and strengthening infrastructure.

Wind energy is also one of the cleanest and cost-effective ways to power our homes, schools, and businesses. South Dakota currently generates over 25% of our state's electricity from wind. The emission-free energy produced by wind turbines is much cleaner than traditional sources of energy and offsets any emissions created by the construction of the wind farm. This clean energy not only benefits the environment, but also public health as less South Dakota's will experience the adverse health effects associated with pollution.

It is for these, and many other, reasons that I urge you to approve the Crowned Ridge Wind II Energy Center. This newest development in wind energy will only bring good things to our communities and state.

Respectfully,

/s/ Jennifer Stalley

Jennifer Stalley
Executive Director
South Dakota Wind Energy Association