

June 29, 2026

Commissioner Chris Nelson
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dear Commissioner Nelson:

I am writing to you on behalf of the South Dakota Renewable Energy Association (SoDak Renewables). We are a trade association of over 50 members in the energy industry working in South Dakota. SoDak Renewables advocates for its members, provides networking opportunities for the industry, and creates programming, such as workforce development efforts, based on member needs.

I am writing to you today to express the association's support for the 120 MW Crowned Ridge Energy Storage project in Codington County that is currently under consideration. If approved, this project would be the first utility-scale battery energy storage system developed in the state of South Dakota, representing a major step forward for a state that has consistently been on the cutting edge of energy technology. This project is being developed by NextEra Energy Resources, one of our member organizations. With more than 10 years of experience building more than 50 energy storage systems across the country, NextEra can be relied on to execute on this project and bring South Dakota's energy grid into a new era of reliability and success.

Years of technological breakthroughs have made battery energy storage systems more powerful, more efficient, and safer than ever before. Crowned Ridge Energy Storage will include all these advancements while also being thoughtfully located adjacent to the Crowned Ridge Wind project. This co-location minimizes the project's footprint and maximizes its effectiveness. It will allow Crowned Ridge Energy Storage to store enormous amounts of wind energy when production is high, then release it back onto the grid when the demand increases. In doing so, it will ensure that wind energy is available no matter the conditions, reducing price volatility and improving grid reliability.

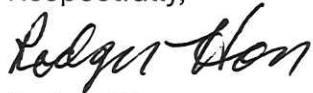
Crowned Ridge Energy Storage will also help to make power more affordable for everyone in South Dakota. Thanks in large part to your leadership and our state's investment in renewable energy, South Dakota has some of the cheapest residential and

commercial energy in the nation. But we can keep improving, and energy storage is a key part of keeping prices down. By harnessing wind energy when it is cheapest and releasing it back onto the grid when demand is highest, Crowned Ridge Energy Storage will help stabilize electricity prices and minimize the use of expensive peaker plants, giving lower power bills to businesses and everyday South Dakotans alike.

For Codington County, Crowned Ridge Energy Storage represents a particularly important asset. This \$174 million project would provide millions of dollars in tax revenue to the county that could go a long way in repairing roads, improving emergency services, and funding the county's schools. It would also create 180 construction jobs and several long-term operations jobs for local blue-collar workers, and support local businesses like hotels, restaurants, and gas stations during construction.

I greatly appreciate you taking this project into consideration and the work you do to make South Dakota's grid work for everyone in our state. I hope you will agree that this project is the right fit for our state and Codington County. I would be happy to answer any questions related to this or other energy development matters, and I thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodger Horr", written in a cursive style.

Rodger Horr

Executive Director

South Dakota Renewable Energy Association

director@sodakrenewables.org

605-310-9446