



November 23, 2009

Senator Ben Nelson  
720 Hart  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Proposed Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College

Dear Senator Ben Nelson:

As a longtime business owner in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, I am concerned about economic development and job creation in western Nebraska. I would like to request your support for the advancement, federal funding assistance and creation of a Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College to educate and train students in wind energy technology. This is a great opportunity to advance the institution and to improve both economic and workforce development in the Nebraska panhandle.

Having lived in windy western Nebraska for most of my life, I was not surprised to hear that the American Wind Energy Association states that Nebraska has phenomenal wind energy potential. As you are aware, a wind farm is going to be constructed in Banner County in the near future. It would make sense for western Nebraskans to fill the jobs that will be created in both the construction and maintenance phases of the project, but training will be required in order for them to do so. A Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College will provide quality training and job opportunities for Nebraskans. Wind energy is a growing field and job opportunities are already available and the need for qualified employees in the field will continue to increase.

Federal assistance will be critical to establishing a Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College, which I believe will benefit the entire state of Nebraska, and provide much needed economic development opportunities to western Nebraska. Please consider supporting this project.

Sincerely,

Thomas T. Rohrick, II, D.C.