

Wheat Belt PPD

2104 Illinois Street . P O Box 177

Sidney, NE 69162

October 28, 2009

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

Re: Proposal for a Wind Energy Training Center

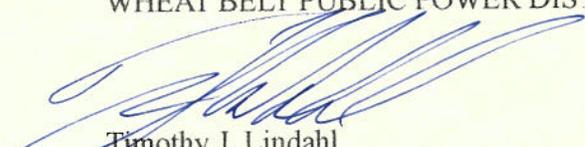
Dear Senator Nelson:

On behalf of the Wheat Belt Public Power District, I would like to encourage your support for the creation of a Wind Energy Training Center at Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC), to be located at the Sidney campus. Such a program will train wind energy technicians for employment opportunities in the wind energy industry, which is a growing industry in this area. The program would provide opportunities for continuing education and/or certification for existing energy industry employees.

Not only is WNCC in close geographical proximity to existing and new wind energy projects, but also a Wind Energy Training Center would dovetail with existing programs at WNCC, such as the institution's successful aviation maintenance program. The curriculum for the aviation maintenance program already includes courses that would be necessary for wind technicians. The program could also cross-over with the existing powerline technician training program at WNCC, and provide training opportunities and competitive skills to students training to be linemen.

Wheat Belt supports the development of a Wind Energy Training Center and asks you to give consideration to supporting this project. A Wind Energy Training Center would provide economic and workforce development opportunities in western Nebraska. It would also help to keep Nebraska competitive in the field of energy technology. Such a project will benefit western Nebraska communities, utility providers, business and industry. Your support will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
WHEAT BELT PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT


Timothy J. Lindahl
CEO

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