



Members of the Energy Development and Transmission Committee:

Chair Wardner, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of the sales and use tax exemption for wind facilities. Wind on the Wires is a non-profit organization that works on wind power and transmission issues in nine Midwestern states including North Dakota. We have more than 40 members, including wind developers, turbine manufacturers, and construction companies.

Several of our members own and operate successful wind projects in North Dakota and many more are interested in doing business in the state in the near term. These companies recognize North Dakota's exceptional wind resource as a tremendous opportunity to deliver low cost electric power to other markets, while creating jobs and bolstering local economies throughout the state.

Wind energy development has already provided billions of investment in North Dakota, millions in new tax revenue and payments to landowners, and thousands of new, good-paying jobs. Not only are there good-paying construction and operation & maintenance jobs to be had, there are also supply chain companies in North Dakota that would benefit. For example, LM Wind Power is a leading employer in Grand Forks, manufacturing and servicing wind turbine blades.

With stable tax policy on both the federal and state level, these numbers are poised to grow significantly. Indeed, North Dakota has positioned itself as a business-friendly state for energy production, but the looming expiration of the sales and use tax exemption for wind facilities has created uncertainty for companies looking to invest in the state. Unless and until this exemption is extended, North Dakota risks losing out on this development to neighboring states with similarly strong wind resource potential.

I appreciated the opportunity to testify in front of your committee during the joint hearing with the EmPower Commission in May to share more information about the success of wind energy in North Dakota and the importance of maintaining stable, fair taxation for all energy resources. We are excited to see your committee discussing this critical issue again.

I encourage you to support the exemption of the sales and use tax for wind facilities, which would better align the state's tax climate with neighboring states, helping to promote competition, spur investment, and create jobs in North Dakota's energy industry. With a more stable tax policy, North Dakota can take advantage of this tremendous asset and let wind energy become a cornerstone of the state energy economy for decades to come.

For more information contact Chris Kunkle at ckunkle@windonthewires.org or 651-644-3400.

About Wind on the Wires

Wind on the Wires is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minn., that works to advance renewable energy in the Midwest. Its members are comprised of wind and solar developers, environmental organizations, tribal representatives, public interest groups, clean energy advocates, farm groups and businesses providing goods and services to the wind and solar industries.