



**Testimony of Jennifer Feist, Director of Development  
Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation, Valley City, ND  
Public Service Commission  
Glacier Ridge Wind Farm  
September 27, 2016**

The Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation has taken a formal position in support of Peak Wind Development LLC and Glacier Ridge Wind Farm.

The Corporation supports Glacier Ridge Wind Farm for a number of reasons:

1. The \$400 Million investment will generate one-time construction impact to our economy from Fall 2016 construction start through completion in 2019; the majority of project construction is scheduled for 2019 including turbine testing and related activities. At the peak of construction, there will be up to 300 construction-related jobs associated with the project.
2. The 87 turbine locations will create between 8 and 12 full-time operating and maintenance jobs.
3. We expect the jobs to be competitive with Ashtabula Wind and other North Dakota wind farms in terms of wages and benefits. Generally, employees earn \$50,000 to \$75,000++ per year plus full benefits. Conservatively these jobs will generate an estimated economic impact of \$1.6 Million to \$3.6 Million annually (using a factor of 4).
4. Barnes County's experience with the energy sector has been extremely positive. Alliance Pipeline, Ashtabula Wind I, II & III and TransCanada Keystone Pipeline are located in the greater Barnes County area and all have contributed significantly to our economy:
  - a. About 40 people are employed with these companies earning higher wages and benefits.
  - b. Operating and maintenance teams live and work in the greater Barnes County area and are part of the community.
  - c. Property, sales/use and income taxes have increased and benefited local and State economies.
  - d. Corporate contributions benefit numerous community groups including fire protection.
  - e. These companies are strong and conscientious stewards of the environment; we have not had issues, accidents, etc.
  - f. Upon construction completion, the environmental impact was positive.

Glacier Ridge Wind Farm is an important and positive investment for the Barnes County area. On behalf of the Valley City-Barnes County Development Corporation, we ask the Public Service Commission to support and approve their application.

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