



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator David S. Rust

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COMMITTEES:

Education
Transportation

March 7, 2019

ND Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Avenue Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND. 58852

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing this in support of the NextEra Wind Project in Burke County for the following reasons:

1. The Burke County Commissioners have recommended approval of the project.
2. A significant number of temporary jobs will be created.
3. The permanent jobs following construction will be sustained for a lengthy period of time and with a good wage.
4. The project is supported by the landowners where the towers will be placed.
5. The project will provide a source of income for farmers and landowners for a number of years. I've always advocated for landowner rights. They should always have the right to produce income from the land through multiple means—crops, livestock, minerals, gravel, wind, etc.—especially if there is minimal impact to others in the area. Some of these individuals currently have oil and gas wells on their property but do not get any royalties due to severed mineral rights. This is an opportunity to increase their bottom line at a time when commodity prices are low.
6. Further, the significant taxes generated from this project (estimated at \$28 million) will benefit the county, township, and school district for years to come. That can not be overlooked, as that more than likely will have a bearing on taxes for property owners.

North Dakota has always considered itself to be business friendly. This business will provide a renewable energy source in an area of the state where it is needed. I see many benefits and see no reason why oil, natural gas, farming, ranching, and wind can not co-exist in the same environment.

I ask for your favorable vote on this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David S. Rust
Senator - District 2