

North Dakota Public Service Commission,

I am writing this letter to share my strong support for NextEra Energy Resources and the Northern Divide Wind project. NextEra Energy Resources has been working in North Dakota for nearly two decades and has a proven track record. They have invested over \$2.7 billion in the state, including 14 successfully operating wind projects.

Northern Divide Wind will create good-paying jobs – hundreds of construction jobs as well as full-time operational jobs. It would add considerably to the local economy. Over the first 30 years, it's expected to generate approximately \$30 million dollars in additional tax revenue for Burke County. It would put more than \$14 million dollars additional funding into local school, nearly \$1.5 million into fire and ambulance districts, and more than \$10 million dollars of new property tax revenue into the Burke County budget.

Some have questioned what wind turbines will mean for a farming community. Farmers across North Dakota and the country are finding wind turbines are not only compatible with farming operations - they're an important asset. Wind turbines take up very little land and they harvest the wind to create clean energy, as well as payments for landowners and economic growth for the entire community.

I support the Northern Divide Wind project. It will have a positive impact on Burke County and will generate clean, home-grown energy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Powell - Fire District Chief

Columbus Rural Fire Protection District Inc

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Post-hearing comments
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