

Hamre, John G.

From: Eberl, Stacy L.
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Hamre, John G.
Subject: FW: Public Comment on Northern Divide Wind Energy (Case Nos. PU-19-376 and 19-377)

John, Please docket the comments below for PU-19-376 and PU-19-377. Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: Minnesota & North Dakota Laborers District Council <buildbetternd@gmail.com> On Behalf Of Pamela Trhlik
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 12:16 PM
To: -Info-Public Service Commission <ndpsc@nd.gov>
Subject: Public Comment on Northern Divide Wind Energy (Case Nos. PU-19-376 and 19-377)

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Apr 26, 2020

North Dakota Public Service Commission

Dear Public Service Commission North Dakota Commission,

I am submitting a comment on the Northern Divide Wind Energy case because it is time for wind energy companies to be held accountable and make them document the local jobs that they claim the industry is creating.

Dear Brian, Randy and Julie,

I listened to the full testimony online for the Northern Divide Wind Farm proposal even though it was quite lengthy and support approval of this project, as my union normally does. With that said, we will continue to hammer home the local hire, local workforce messages each and every time a project comes in front of the Public Service Commission.

Dr. Lucas Franco has been a tremendous asset to LIUNA in our Minnesota and North Dakota regions and his research is invaluable. The fact that North Dakota Century Code may already have a provision to demand local hire at a certain level is a positive discovery, and one that you can use going forward.

I know it sounds like we are a broken record sometimes, but in this unbelievable economic uncertainty with the worldwide pandemic we believe North Dakotans should come FIRST as the state starts to open again. There are many projects under your guidance each year that could be approved with a provision for a certain amount of local hire. It will take years for our economy to come back to normal and perhaps it will never be back to what it was within the last few years. Many North Dakotans will be looking for better paying jobs because there could potentially be many jobs that don't return as the state settles back into normal.

Construction jobs will always be around and we believe state agencies and elected officials should always choose North Dakotans first. I will continue to fight for work for my union members and also simply for hiring all North Dakotans first. Companies such as Blattner who claim to use local workforce are deploying worthless strategies to get local workers on their wind farm projects. In addition, these projects need to have skilled laborers on the sites for safety, reliability and experience.

As you move through the approval process for the Northern Divide Wind Farm, consider what you can do to promote and or mandate local hire.

Thank you,
Pamela Trhlik

Thank you. I hope you will do the right thing for the hard working people of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Pamela Trhlik

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