



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
600 E BOULEVARD AVE, DEPT 602
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0020

DOUG GOEHRING
COMMISSIONER

October 8, 2026

Chairman Randy Christmann
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Case No. PU-26-086
(255-Megawatt Wind Project – Williams County / Siting Application)

Dear Chairman Christmann,

Pursuant to N.D.C.C. §§ 4.1-01-21.1 and 49-22-09.2, the Agriculture Commissioner is the lead regulatory state official overseeing the mitigation of adverse environmental impacts from the construction or operation of a wind energy conversion facility.

Homestead Wind, LLC (Homestead) and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) have been working effectively together since June 2025 to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed construction and operation of the Homestead Wind Project (Project). A key outcome from this cooperation has been Homestead's decision to adopt NDDA's analytical framework to assess the potential impacts of the Project and estimate the costs of appropriate compensatory mitigation offsets.

NDDA applies a science-based and transparent framework developed through public input for estimating appropriate mitigation offsets of similar habitat using a multi-step methodology linked to potential wind energy project impacts. Upon jointly using this NDDA framework, Homestead agreed in good faith to provide voluntary monetary compensatory offsets. Attached is an MOU, dated February 11, 2026, between the Agriculture Commissioner and Homestead.

Depending upon the final size (3.8 MW – 4.5 MW) of the wind turbines, as proposed by Homestead in their March 2026 Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility, Homestead agreed to contribute either two hundred seventy-eight thousand, seven hundred and seven dollars (\$278,707.00) or three hundred ten thousand and fifty-nine dollars (\$310,059.00) as compensatory mitigation offset to the Environmental Impact Mitigation Fund (Fund) pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-22-09.2.

55 PU-26-86 Filed 10/12/2026 Pages: 2
Agency Correspondence
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Commissioner Doug Goehring

701-328-2231
800-242-7535

Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services

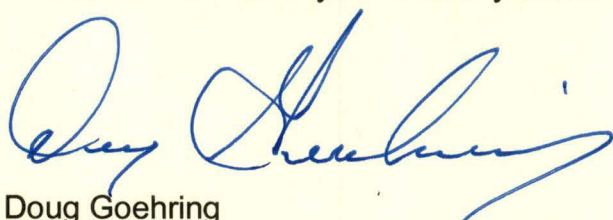
GOEHRING@ND.GOV
WWW.ND.GOV/NDDA

The contribution is projected to be deposited into the Fund in two equal installment payments – the first when Homestead determines the final size of the wind turbines and files with PSC a Notice of Intent to Start Construction of the Project and the second when the Project becomes commercially operational.

The funds from Homestead's voluntary contribution shall be expended in accordance with N.D.C.C. § 4.1-01-21.1. Pursuant to N.D.C.C. §§ 4.1-01-21.1 and 4.1-01-31, NDDA will oversee and guide the design and delivery of the mitigation offsets on working lands in North Dakota on behalf of Homestead. NDDA expects to complete all mitigation offsets within five (5) years of Homestead completing construction of the Project and it becoming commercially operational.

These cooperative mitigation offset efforts by Homestead and NDDA under N.D.C.C. § 4.1-01-21.1 – to create, restore, or mitigate similar habitat affected by the construction or operation of a wind energy conversion facility – will collectively and appropriately mitigate the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Project.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.



Doug Goehring
North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner

Atch: MOU between Homestead Wind, LLC and the ND Agriculture Commissioner,
dtd Feb 11, 2026

cc: Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner Jill Kringstad
Director Jeb Williams, North Dakota Game & Fish Department