



Matt Riley
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RE: Testimony regarding the amendment to HB 2446 to repeal the state's RPS

Chairman Holmes and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony during these important hearings. Infinity Wind Power is a wind project development company that focuses on a community oriented development approach. We move these important energy projects from the early phases of prospecting to the final stages of construction and operations. Infinity has been working in Kansas since our inception in 2008 and we feel strongly that state policies to date have provided the ideal environment for this type of investment.

Infinity currently has two projects under construction in western Kansas, totaling 271 Megawatts ("MW"). The 167MW Ironwood project and 104MW Shooting Star project are selling their output to Westar Energy ("Westar") and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation ("Sunflower"), respectively. These projects, located in Ford and Kiowa Counties are providing significant economic development benefits as I'll describe in more detail. In addition, Infinity has 2,500MW under development within the western Kansas region. What makes this part of the country so unique is its exceptional wind resource, compatible land use, low environmental sensitivity, community support, and favorable local and state policies. For these reasons Infinity has decided to invest heavily in the future of Kansas wind energy development.

Wind projects bring significant economic benefits to the surrounding communities and regions. Infinity's projects under construction have created 300-400 full time construction jobs and dozens of long term employment opportunities. Millions of dollars per year will be paid directly to landowners with operating turbines on their property, in addition to well over \$20million in PILOT payments paid to the local counties over the life of the projects. Infinity is also investing

HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES

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substantial capital every year to landowners simply for the rights to development future projects in the region.

The development of a wind project takes several years, and in some cases even longer. Strong local, state, and federal policies are necessary for states like Kansas to attract the type of investment we have seen to date; this year totaling over \$3billion. Kansans are now reaping the benefits of a strong RPS by getting inexpensive power that creates jobs and does not emit greenhouse gases. In the case of Infinity's power purchase agreement with Sunflower, the price was so low that Sunflower determined that it would have a neutral or negative impact on their customer's rates. This is an important accomplishment for the wind industry in Kansas; one that would not have been achieved without sound long term policies, including the RPS.

Renewable portfolio standards are often the backbone of a state looking to attract the benefits associated with the wind energy industry. In the case of Kansas, the RPS has established an environment of favorable conditions within which a company like Infinity is willing to make substantial investments. Now that the industry has established Kansas as a strong domestic market, it's time to compliment that reputation with the emergence of an export market. With the proper policies in place Kansas can have both a low-cost domestic energy supply while at the same time reaping the economic development benefits of an industry supplying power out of state.

The signal Kansas sent to the industry when enacting the RPS was strong, however the signal you would send if you repeal the RPS would potentially be even stronger in the opposite direction. It says to the industry and we're not welcome here anymore; that you would like to go in a different direction for your energy development goals. I can tell you first hand that as a business owner I'm faced with deciding where to place our investment capital on a daily basis. Although Kansas has been a state of preference for Infinity, the surrounding states of Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa, to name a few, are poised to take advantage of an opportunity should Kansas present it. Therefore I urge you to vote NO to repeal the state's RPS, and continue to allow this industry to grow within your state. I view a repeal of the RPS as a no win situation for the state of Kansas. A repeal of the RPS would send a strong negative signal that will likely cripple the emerging export market and all the associated economic development



benefits that accompany it. We're making incredible progress every day to expand opportunities within the state of Kansas. Please allow us to do our job by maintaining this vital long-term state policy.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this issue.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Riley".

Matt Riley
Chief Executive Officer, Infinity Wind Power