

RPS

Public

Comment

Received as

of June 30

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Randy Knowles <knowlesmt@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 4:33 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Knowles in Great Falls

Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard", is available for public comment

I am against all "renewable energy" requirements which are not renewable energy in a pure sense of the terms. i.e. if more energy is used to create the "renewable" generators [wind, sun] than the generators will create over their useful life AND if there is not a plan to rebuild or replace the 'renewable' generators at the end of their useful life THEN it is not renewable energy. It is very expensive energy created in such a fashion that it appears to be renewable when in fact the complete process required more non-renewable resources than were saved.

The focus should be on transmission, Montana has lots of energy but we cannot ship it out of the state – there needs to be a policy that transmission lines can be built using the same easement laws that the highway department uses.... Or our coffins will be covered with coal because the coal could not be sold....

Reply to: Knowlesmontana@Juno.com, Randall Gene Knowles, Distinguished Toastmaster, Chevalier:
3017 Ninth Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405 voice [406-452-7250](tel:406-452-7250), cell & text 406-799-1547

"It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man, who knows what the law is today, can guess what it will be tomorrow. Law is defined to be a rule of action; but how can that be a rule, which is little known, and less fixed?" James Madison

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: wwranch@3rivers.net
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 7:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Citizens for Clean Energy, Inc, MT non-profits, fully supports a strong RPS!!!

As noted in my letter to ETIC,

Citizens for Clean Energy strongly supports the RPS and also encourages expanding it and energy efficiency. I think that says it right up front and CCE's mission is to promote renewables all over Montana.

I'll be mailing a Wall Street Journal article to ETIC Sonja and please share with ETIC, and a copy for PSC Commissioner Kavulla please if possible.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Liebert
Lt. Col (R), US Army Reserve
Chair, CCE, Inc.

>
> The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee of the Montana
> Legislature is seeking public comment through June 27 on a draft
> report reviewing Montana's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).
> Since 2008, the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural
> Economic Development Act, better known as Montana's RPS, required
> certain utilities to procure a percentage of their resources from
> renewable resources. As directed by Senate Joint Resolution No. 6, the
> ETIC reviewed the economic impacts of the RPS, the environmental
> impacts of the standard, and the impacts the standard has had on
> Montana consumers.
> The draft report, "Renewable Rewards and Risks: A look at the
> impacts of Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard", is available for
> public comment on the ETIC Website at www.leg.mt.gov/etic. Click on
> the link to the July 18 meeting to read the document. The committee
> also wants to hear from the public on potential findings and recommendations.
> Committee members will submit their draft findings and recommendations
> using a worksheet, which is also available on the Website.
> The ETIC will meet July 18 in Helena to review and discuss the
> public comments and draft findings and recommendations.
> Public comment should be submitted to Sonja Nowakowski, ETIC
> staff, at snowakowski@mt.gov (put RPS in the subject line) or
> to Legislative Services Division, Attn. Sonja Nowakowski, P.O. Box
> 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704. For more information, contact Sonja

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Michael Enk <trouter@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 2:37 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS study report to the ETIC

The draft report is comprehensive and long on data but lacks a much-needed summary of findings. This is a complex issue, and interpretations are likely to be subjective based on personal values and philosophies. Both proponents and opponents of Montana's RPS will find abundant information to support their opinions.

However, overall, I found the report to contain adequate documentation and rational for continuing or even increasing Montana's RPS. Similar to the 18-month tax holiday for new oil and gas production granted by the legislature, the RPS has resulted in much-needed economic development and benefits to rural Montana communities, but with far fewer burdens on infrastructure, demographics, land/water/air resources, and government services such as law enforcement.

The stimulus effect on rural economies alone is reason enough to continue RPS, but the environmental benefits of generating electricity without producing massive amounts of harmful emissions and toxic wastes deserve greater consideration. I am especially concerned about the groundwater contamination that is occurring from Colstrip's leaking ash ponds. I was disappointed that known impacts and costs such as these to the surrounding communities (and eventually to Montana ratepayers when clean-up begins) from fossil fuel plants were ignored in the report.

Additionally, I found the report effectively dispelled the myth that the RPS would result in substantial rate increases to Montana customers (Figure 9 pretty much lays that claim to rest). I also found the PPL Treasure State assertions about increased costs of complying with the RPS to be unconvincing.

In summary, other studies have shown how climate change is already hurting Montana's agriculture and tourism economy, not to mention inflating fire protection costs. Setting reasonable goals for renewable energy development with the existing safeguards (cost caps and appropriate exemptions) of the RPS is simply the prudent thing to do.

Michael Enk
PO Box 1408
Great Falls, MT 59403
trouter@q.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Michael Enk <trouter@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 2:54 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Cc: Michael Enk
Subject: Re: more comments on RPS study report to the ETIC

Ms. Nowakowski,

Thank you for confirming receipt of my comments on the subject report. Please add the following comment as well:

I found the study report to be overly timid in acknowledging the reality of climate change and its relevance to the RPS, no doubt because this has been perceived as a partisan issue and is certainly a controversial one in the minds of the public. However, in the minds of genuine climate scientists (not paid consultants from the fossil fuel industry), there is little controversy or doubt about the global changes we are witnessing and how combustion of fossil fuels is contributing to the problem. In fairness to all Montanans who will feel the effects of climate change, the report needs to at least reference what the overwhelming scientific community is telling us. The following information has been widely reported in the media:

"The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration just announced that [April 2014 tied for the warmest April on record](#). Last month was also the 350th consecutive month with global average temperatures at or above the 20th century average. Recent reports from the U.N.'s [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#), the U.S. government's own [National Climate Assessment](#) and a recent [report from retired U.S. military leadership](#) all echo what has been [well-understood for at least 50 years](#): Human beings have increased the concentration of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, trapping more heat, acidifying the oceans and [altering normal weather patterns](#)."

Michael Enk
PO Box 1408
Great Falls, MT 59403
trouter@q.com

On May 21, 2014, at 8:00 AM, Nowakowski, Sonja wrote:

Mr. Enk,
Thanks for your comments. I will make sure they are shared with the full Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee in advance of the July 18 meeting.

Sonja Nowakowski

Research Analyst
Montana Legislative Services Division
Room 171C, State Capitol
PO Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704
Phone: (406) 444-3078

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Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 2:37 AM
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In summary, other studies have shown how climate change is already hurting Montana's agriculture and tourism economy, not to mention inflating fire protection costs. Setting reasonable goals for renewable energy development with the existing safeguards (cost caps and appropriate exemptions) of the RPS is simply the prudent thing to do.

Michael Enk
PO Box 1408
Great Falls, MT 59403
trouter@q.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Aaron Strong <adkvoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 12:59 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

Since 2005, Montana's renewable standard has spurred development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities from Fairfield to Baker.

Since 2005, Montana's RES has:

- Contributed to significant environmental and economic benefits across the state.
- Contributed nearly half a billion dollars in direct investment to Montana's economy.
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- Shown that renewable energy projects are a good deal for consumers. The energy from Spion Kop and Judith Gap projects is some of the least expensive for NorthWestern Energy's customers.
- Helped clean up and diversify Montana's energy mix.
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In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Aaron Strong
adkvoy@gmail.com
2573 Boston Turnpike
Coventry, CT 06238

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Barbara Rosenkotter <skye@ucdavis-alumni.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Barbara Rosenkotter
skye@ucdavis-alumni.com
201 Crest Drive
Deer Harbor, Washington 98243

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Irene Cook <icr@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:02 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Irene Cook
icr@bresnan.net
501 Cooper Lane
Hamilton, MT 59840

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jane Timmerman <jarotim@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:03 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Jane Timmerman
jarotim@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Derf Johnson <djohnson@meic.org>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:04 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Derf Johnson
djohnson@meic.org

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: katherine dunlap <shopper406@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:08 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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katherine dunlap
shopper406@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Annick Smith <annick@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Annick Smith
annick@blackfoot.net
898 Bear Creek Road
Bonner, MT 59823
4062445549

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Pam Borso <borsope@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:10 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Pam Borso
borsope@aol.com
P O Box 154
Custer, Washington 98240
360-319-9004

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Chris Daum <info@oasismontana.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Chris Daum
info@oasismontana.com
436 Red Fox Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870
406-777-0830

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Samantha Pahr <samantha.pahr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Samantha Pahr
samantha.pahr@gmail.com
24 Appleway Drive Apt #10
Kalispell, Montana 59901
6127305958

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jerry Bowers <jerryb6@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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Jerry Bowers
jerryb6@bresnan.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ross Prosperi <Ross@mtvoters.org>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:17 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Ross Prosperi
Ross@mtvoters.org
1950 South 5th Street West
Missoula, MT 59801
406.880.7346

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Suzanna McDougal <sumac99@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:19 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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Suzanna McDougal
sumac99@icloud.com
59840

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: overfieldkennel.com@gmail.com on behalf of Susan Overfield
<40acresandabee@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:25 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

I am in agreement that we need to insist, with no compromise, that Montana increase, and make a available TO ALL, alternative energy at above the required and/or stated goal amounts.

However, wind energy is a farce. It has high maintenance costs and does not run but 1/3 of the time. It would be best to concentrate on solar. Co-ops could not only install for their own resale, but offer equipment, installation, and grid tie options to their current customers, thus making it feasible for all involved. A reasonable fee for use of current and future infrastructure held by the co-ops would be acceptable.

We in Montana have an opportunity to LEAD, not follow, in renewable resources such as power. We can show that rural is not synonymous with backwards. We can demonstrate that we need not destroy our quality of environment, life, or economy, and, in fact, enhance it. We can attract tourists who are now looking for 'green' vacations and offer it on all levels.

This will create more jobs in that even low income areas and peoples will have more disposable income to reinvest in some form in the local and state economies.

I installed a large solar system and with the saved money created a new business that produces and promotes, bees, organic vegetables and heritage, non-gmo, non-GE plants. I also purchase from an in-state organic orchard quite a bit of seasonal fruits for resale outside of his immediate area. We are a growing concern.

Two of my adult children, with their children, have returned to live in Montana and my property has become financially affordable for them with solar. This means that four grandchildren have enrolled in a local school. Stores, restaurants, movies, dentists, doctors, sports organizations, non-profits, vets, ski areas, and more are benefiting from their return. My third child, her husband, and three boys are also contemplating a return.

All of this because of three things -- my installation of solar, the cleanliness and beauty of Montana, and their beliefs and hopes that Montana may just be 'the last best place' to maintain these qualities.

Don't disappoint us. Demand that we do this right.

Regards,

Susan Overfield
406-467-3277

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Janet Alderton <jmalderton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:31 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Dear Sonja Nowakowski

I support Montana's retaining renewable energy standards, and, if possible, expanding these standards. Renewable energy projects create jobs. I have recently had a solar photovoltaic system installed on the roof of my home. Wind plus solar equals "firmer" energy supplies. Heat-pump-based storage is being scaled up.

Thank-you for your attention,
Janet Alderton

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joy LaClaire <forthrightradio@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

Since 2005, Montana's renewable standard has spurred development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities from Fairfield to Baker.

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In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Joy LaClaire
forthrightradio@gmail.com
3018-B W. Villard St.
Bozeman, MT 59718

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gregry Loomis <gregryloomis@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:03 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Gregry Loomis
gregryloomis@msn.com
98117

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Laura Ferguson <lkfgreeneyes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:30 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Laura Ferguson
lkfgreeneyes@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: jeanne e. o'neill <jeoneill@q.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--
jeanne e. o'neill
jeoneill@q.com
3812 hwy. 93
stevensville, montana 59870
xxx

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kristen Walser <kwalser14@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:54 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES Comments

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee,

I am strongly in support of Montanan's Renewable Energy Standard, and encourage you to expand it beyond 15% and extend it beyond 2015. In addition, Judith Gap needs to be taken into account in any analysis of the RES.

The Montana RES has promoted cheap electricity, most notably Spion Kop and Judith Gap, encouraged about 500 million dollars of investment in developing Montana's renewable resources, and added 1800 jobs since 2005. The wind farms are an excellent source of tax revenue for our state, while creating no pollution impacts on water, air, and health and consequently, require no federal or state restoration funds,

I suggest we take advantage of the new markets around the West for non-polluting sources of electricity and increase economic development in our state by continuing to promote our abundant wind and solar resources.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristen Walser
1711 Wildflower Way
Bozeman, MT
59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bob Riek <bobriek@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Bob Riek
bobriek@gmail.com
(360) 510-3552

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gerald Clark <jclark229@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Gerald Clark
jclark229@bresnan.net
1014 Durango Dr
Great Falls, Montana 59404
406-761-7443

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ella Robson <antiquity22001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:37 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Ella Robson
antiquity22001@yahoo.com
P. O. Box 243
Huntley, MT 59037

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Don Hyndman <dshyndman@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:41 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Those in favor of coal tend to argue that it is best for Montana's jobs and economy. Decades ago this may have been partly true but no longer. Coal today supports relatively few jobs in Montana, either in mining or in power plants. More jobs, good paying ones, are being created in renewable power sources like wind and solar and those are continually increasing. Decades ago Montana received a good return from a significant coal-severance tax. That has been reduced to a minimal rate because the public was sold on the argument that a lower severance tax would promote more mining and thus an overall larger return. Turned out to be not true.

Coal is an extreme polluter, both in our air and water. Its downsides are never mentioned by those promoting coal. The costs of this pollution are not borne by the coal or power companies but by our residents, both during the mining and power production and later in severe health costs to people. The pollution to our water and soil left by coal companies

will eventually have to be cleaned up just as has happened in Montana in the past. Mining companies left their toxic wastes in Butte (heavy metals left in ground water and streams), Libby (asbestos), Zortman-Landusky (cyanide and polluted groundwater), East Helena (lead and arsenic in soil and groundwater) and now Colstrip (groundwater and air pollution). When will we learn that there are major costs that need to be factored into the so-called "benefits."

Coal is also a resource with declining value. Coal use in this country is no longer viable; no new coal-fired plants are being built in the U.S. Other power sources are cheaper and less polluting. Selling coal to China is a short-lived prospect. China is trying very hard to cut back on coal use because of severe air pollution in its large cities and because of severe pollution of its water supplies. It has recently signed a 30-year contract for natural gas from Russia. If we don't sell coal to China, they may try to buy some from elsewhere but that increases their costs and again makes coal less desirable.

Coal train traffic is already creating problems for Montanans both in stalling traffic at crossings and in restricting availability of rail cars for other commodities including wheat. Western states are increasingly against new ports for shipping coal.

We need to look carefully at all of the downsides to mining and burning coal. It makes for a bad deal.

Don Hyndman

--

Don Hyndman
dshyndman@bresnan.net
615 Hastings Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801
406-543-3278

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: fred karlson <fkarlson@frontier.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:19 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--
fred karlson
fkarlson@frontier.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dean Littlepage <dljm@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:10 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Dean Littlepage
dljm@bresnan.net
618 W. Curtiss St.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Barry Flamm <barryexplorer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Barry Flamm
barryexplorer@yahoo.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Elizabeth A. Taylor <montanabiz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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Elizabeth A. Taylor
montanabiz@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joyce Zahn <joycemzahn@live.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:51 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Joyce Zahn
joycemzahn@live.com
PO Box 136
Clancy, MT 59634
4064598339

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Catharine Carey <cgc57@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:50 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Catharine Carey
cgc57@bresnan.net
3525 Duncan Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ann King <moxieking@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:07 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Ann King
moxieking@hotmail.com
PO Box 156
Busby, MT 59016-0156
4065923529

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Robert Matlow <ironstar44@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:11 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Robert Matlow
ironstar44@yahoo.com
116 Maple St.
Livingston, Montana 59047
406 222-5301

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: KAY CARLSON <STARRYMONTANANIGHT@HOTMAIL.COM>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

Since 2005, Montana's renewable standard has spurred development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities from Fairfield to Baker.

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

KAY CARLSON
STARRYMONTANANIGHT@HOTMAIL.COM
844 YELLOWSTONE
BILLINGS, MT 59101

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Rundquist <rundquistador@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:14 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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John Rundquist
rundquistador@gmail.com
1680 Virginia Dale St.
Helena, MT 59601
406-431-5588

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Daniel Schneider <dschneiderski@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:54 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Daniel Schneider
dschneiderski@gmail.com
603 Linden St.
Missoula, Montana 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Richard Liebert <wwranch@3rivers.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:17 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Richard Liebert
wwranch@3rivers.net
289 Boston Coulee Road
Great Falls, Montana 59405
406-736-5791

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dean Webb <dm_webb@live.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:57 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Dean Webb
dm_webb@live.com
98199

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jennifer Johnson <trinitymt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:35 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Jennifer Johnson
trinitymt@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: john dunkum <dunkum@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--
john dunkum
dunkum@bresnan.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kathleen McMahon <kate@appcom.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:40 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Kathleen McMahon
kate@appcom.net
151 Wedgewood
Whitefish, MT 59937
406-863-9255

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dyani Bingham <dyani_b@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:12 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Dyani Bingham
dyani_b@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Doug and Karen Morehouse <dkm437@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:42 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Doug and Karen Morehouse
dkm437@yahoo.com
Mt 59901

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Ann Dunwell <Mdunwell@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Mary Ann Dunwell
Mdunwell@bresnan.net
2520 lookout circle
Helena, Mt 59601
406-461-5358

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kerry Krebill <kerrykrebill@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:47 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Kerry Krebill
kerrykrebill@aol.com
8 Park P_I
Clancy, MT 59634
4069335246

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Clare Beelman <clare.beelman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 1:57 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Clare Beelman
clare.beelman@gmail.com
2 September Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Woodland <pwood35009@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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John Woodland
pwood35009@aol.com
580 River Bend Rd
Superior, MT 59872
406-529-4317

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Henry Lischer <hjlischerjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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Henry Lischer
hjlischerjr@gmail.com
18 Waldstein Lane
Nye, MT 59061
4063287139

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Dillon <jfdillon4@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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John Dillon
jfdillon4@gmail.com
59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Darcy Black <ladydarcygreen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:16 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Darcy Black
ladydarcygreen@yahoo.com
2638 Clark Ave.
Billings, MT. 59102
406.696.2920

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Paul Bockus <pbockus@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:17 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Paul Bockus
pbockus@yahoo.com
15796 Bridger Canyon rd
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tarn Ream <tarn.ream@umontana.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Tarn Ream
tarn.ream@umontana.edu
1250 Harrison
Missoula, Montana 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Christopher Borton <smc@sagemountain.org>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:24 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Christopher Borton
smc@sagemountain.org
79 Sage Mountain Trail
Whitehall, MT 59759
406-494-9875

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: rick lewis <rickw.lewis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:16 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--
rick lewis
rickw.lewis@gmail.com
60 antler trail
ennis, mt 59729

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jamie Dolan <jamiedol@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:08 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Jamie Dolan
jamiedol@gmail.com
1102 Hauser Blvd.
Helena, MT 59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jim Davis <bnbadenuf22@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:21 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Jim Davis
bnbadenuf22@bresnan.net
2004 Phoebe Dr
Billings,, Montana 59105
NA

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dennis Jorgensen <djdansk@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:32 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Dennis Jorgensen
djdansk@me.com
4695 Conestoga Circle
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Scott Simonson <scott.simonson73@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:17 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Scott Simonson
scott.simonson73@gmail.com
527 Peosta Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
360-259-5636

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Catherine Billie <cbicreek@stignatius.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:14 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Catherine Billie
cbicreek@stignatius.net
61938 Telcostair Lane
St. Ignatius, MT 59865-0369

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: barbara farrell <mslabarb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:28 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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barbara farrell
mslabarb@gmail.com
2741 renae ct.
missoula, mt. 59804
4065469100

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Elizabeth Ametsbichler <liz.ametsbichler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:35 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Elizabeth Ametsbichler
liz.ametsbichler@gmail.com
2405 Raymond Ave
Missoula, Montana 59802
406-728-1236

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Carol Edwards <polebridgemod@Yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:42 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Carol Edwards
polebridgemod@Yahoo.com
10641 North Fork Rd.
Polebridge, MT 59928

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: wwranch@3rivers.net
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RE: Support Montana's RES

Thanks Sonja, and please pass along to ETIC that on behalf of Citizens for Clean Energy - as chair - CCE encourages the expansion of the RES and appreciates the information gathering by ETIC and the CCE letter I provided last may with the petitions speak to CCE's solid commitment to renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Lt. Colonel (Ret) Richard Liebert

ps - and regards to Sen. Larsen, fellow veteran!

> Thank you for your comments. I will make sure they are shared with the
> Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee at the July 18 meeting
> in Helena.
>
> Sonja Nowakowski
> Research Analyst
> Montana Legislative Services Division
> Room 171C, State Capitol
> PO Box 201704
> Helena, MT 59620-1704
> Phone: (406) 444-3078
> Fax: (406) 444-3971
> Email: snowakowski@mt.gov
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Richard Liebert [<mailto:wwranch@3rivers.net>]
> Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:17 PM
> To: Nowakowski, Sonja
> Subject: Support Montana's RES
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> Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee
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> --
> Richard Liebert
> wwranch@3rivers.net
> 289 Boston Coulee Road
> Great Falls, Montana 59405
> 406-736-5791
>
>
>

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: vicki watson <h2oshed1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:31 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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vicki watson
h2oshed1@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gail Richardson <envirogail@q.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:13 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Gail Richardson
envirogail@q.com
5263 Cimmeron Drive
Bozeman, Montana 59715
406-585-7206

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Boehmke <jebjrb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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John Boehmke
jebjrb@yahoo.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: David Ellenberger <davidellenberger@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:43 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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David Ellenberger
davidellenberger@hotmail.com
301 N Willson Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lisa Flynn <ltmoose2@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:38 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Lisa Flynn
ltmoose2@aol.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: David Morris <dascmo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:40 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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David Morris
dascmo@yahoo.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ernest Scherzer <xberea@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:05 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Ernest Scherzer
xberea@blackfoot.net
33 Lone Wolf Ln
Trout Creek, Montana 59874

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Clinton Nagel <clint_nagel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:33 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Clinton Nagel
clint_nagel@yahoo.com
1385 Golden Gate Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-600-1792

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Barbara Kubesh <msbjk1@comast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:01 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Barbara Kubesh
msbjk1@comast.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mark Polakoff <markpolakoff@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Mark Polakoff
markpolakoff@yahoo.com
Red Lodge, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Craig LaCasse <save_the_primates@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Craig LaCasse
save_the_primates@msn.com
727 33B Ave NE
Great Falls, MT 59404

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tom Carlson <tcarlson2319@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 3:59 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--
Tom Carlson
tcarlson2319@gmail.com
2319 Woodland Ave.
Missoula, MT 59802
406-721-1416

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Cathy REam <fid0s@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:18 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Cathy REam
fid0s@bresnan.net
15506 Kendall Cr Rd
Clint0n, MT 59825

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tom Foolery <lazytf@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:19 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Tom Foolery
lazytf@gmail.com
Ravin' Raven Rd.
Dillon, MT 59725

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Eileen Morris <emorrismt@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Eileen Morris
emorrismt@aol.com
1323 Janie Street
Billings, Montana 59105
406.861.4602

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Anne Banks <anban@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:01 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Anne Banks
anban@bresnan.net
7 Hill St
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-587-7629

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Todd Gage <tge@gmx.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:14 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Todd Gage
tge@gmx.com
777 Haggerty Lane #53
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Catherine Cooney <cmecooney@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:02 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Catherine Cooney
cmecooney@yahoo.com
105 Alpine Drive
Bigfork, MT 59911
406-212-7243

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Toni Austad <toniaustad@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:07 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Toni Austad
toniaustad@gmail.com
208 2nd ave
Lincoln , MT 59639
406-362-4937

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Anne Menge <anne.menge@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Anne Menge
anne.menge@gmail.com
Bozeman, Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: lydia garvey <wolfhowlmama@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:08 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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lydia garvey
wolfhowlmama@yahoo.com
429 s 24th st
clinton, Oklahoma 73601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Elizabeth Madden <bethmadden64@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:43 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Elizabeth Madden
bethmadden64@gmail.com
108 S 9th Street
Livingston, MT 59047
406-224-1012

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Zack Winestine <asdfi23453@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Zack Winestine
asdfi23453@yahoo.com
PO Box 541
Augusta, MT 59410

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Stan Rose <rostanle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:03 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Stan Rose
rostanle@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Sheryl Nims <idastone2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Sheryl Nims
idastone2@gmail.com
131 Linder Lane
Kamiah, ID 83536
208 935-0578

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: James Sweaney <jns@wispwest.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 5:56 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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James Sweaney
jns@wispwest.net
P O Box 613
Gardiner, MT 59030
(406) 848-7602

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Carol Averill <caaverill50@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:02 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Carol Averill
caaverill50@yahoo.com
162 Centennial
Big Sandy, Montana 59520
4063782530

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Michael Sousa <Spusaranch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:03 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Michael Sousa
Spusaranch@gmail.com
23205 Ninemile
Huson, Mt 59846
406-626-4757

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Teresa Byrd <byrd.teresa.m@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:53 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Teresa Byrd
byrd.teresa.m@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kay McPherson <klm0648@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:54 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Kay McPherson
klm0648@gmail.com
59803

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Penny Ryan <pennylatepate@q.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:38 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--
Penny Ryan
pennylatepate@q.com
MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Linda Semones <lindasemones@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Linda Semones
lindasemones@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Sue Bartlett <jsuebartlett@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Sue Bartlett
jsuebartlett@msn.com
59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kathleen Gessaman <1kfalcon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 6:47 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Kathleen Gessaman
1kfalcon@gmail.com
1006 36th Ave NE
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-452-7106

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Ann Gildroy <magildroy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Mary Ann Gildroy
magildroy@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Carol Soroos <soroos@mindspring.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Carol Soroos
soroos@mindspring.com
540 Plymouth Street
Missoula, MT 59801

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Elizabeth Danzer <danzerpete@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:14 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Elizabeth Danzer
danzerpete@gmail.com
2116 Lockey Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: George Vandergrift <Georgev@rencosales.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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George Vandergrift
Georgev@rencosales.com
427 larch
Victor, Mt 59875

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jake Brown <Jake@mtvoters.org>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:18 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Jake Brown
Jake@mtvoters.org

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rick Whitman <whitmanrr@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:24 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Rick Whitman
whitmanrr@gmail.com
730 Moccasin Trl
Billings, MT 59105

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Robin Maynard <disgruntleduser123@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:31 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Robin Maynard
disgruntleduser123@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Susan W Newell <swnewell@centurylink.org>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:47 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Susan W Newell
swnewell@centurylink.org
2928 West MacDonald Drive
Billings, mt 59102

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Robert Kaiser <bobkaiser1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:30 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Robert Kaiser
bobkaiser1@yahoo.com
PO Box 5510
Whitefish, Montana 59937

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Wayne Tomicich <wayntom@q.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:21 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Wayne Tomicich
wayntom@q.com
606 South Adams Ave
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Linda Engh-Grady <Skiranch@centurytel.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:03 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Linda Engh-Grady
Skiranch@centurytel.net
785 Northwoods Drive
Whitefish, MT 59937
406-862-8905

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: David Lehnerr <mtxdoc@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 7:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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David Lehnerr
mtxdoc@gmail.com
P.O. Box 2469
Red Lodge, MT 59068
4066717377

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dave Ensner <Enzzzone@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:08 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Dave Ensner
Enzzzone@aol.com
Missoula, Mt.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Doris Fischer <dfischer@3rivers.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Doris Fischer
dfischer@3rivers.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jim Mahnke <jimhahnke@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Jim Mahnke
jimhahnke@gmail.com
box 2821
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rhyno Stinchfield <rhynostinchfield@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:35 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Rhyno Stinchfield
rhynostinchfield@gmail.com
3128 Farnam st
Billings, Montana 59102

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lindsey Drake <lindsey1002@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:39 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Lindsey Drake
lindsey1002@hotmail.com
2903 Farmall St
Bozeman, Mt 59718
4065814917

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Pari Kemmick <Pari.kemmick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:41 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Pari Kemmick
Pari.kemmick@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ryan Hunter <rhunter@montanasky.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:48 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Ryan Hunter
rhunter@montanasky.net
Whitefish, Montana 59937

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: H McFadden <hbmcfadden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:48 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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H McFadden
hbmcfadden@yahoo.com
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Bremer <john.bremer@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:48 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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John Bremer
john.bremer@comcast.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Houston Wong <houston.wong@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Houston Wong
houston.wong@outlook.com
12642 100th Ln NE Apt E121
Kirkland, Washington 98034

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gail Greener <Gdgreener@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:51 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Gail Greener
Gdgreener@gmail.com
10449 Upland Trl
Missoula, MT 59804

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: davin sorrell <dasorrell24@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--
davin sorrell
dasorrell24@hotmail.com
249 bear track ave
st. ignatius, montana 59865
406-381-2205

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kathy Patrick <kathypatrick16@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 9:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Kathy Patrick
kathypatrick16@yahoo.com
2051 Colorado Gulch
Helena, MT 59601
406.443.5286

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Fawn Raile <Fdrmontana@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 9:12 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Fawn Raile
Fdrmontana@comcast.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: bruce baxter <bax9327@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 8:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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--
bruce baxter
bax9327@msn.com
59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lynne Oulman <lynne.oulman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 9:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Lynne Oulman
lynne.oulman@gmail.com
816 14th St Bellingham, WA 98225-6304
Bellingham, WA 98225
360-961-5447

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: carl clark <ccarlrn@juno.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 9:28 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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carl clark
ccarlrn@juno.com
604 34 Ave NE
Great Falls, Montana 59404
406-761-8322

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Karen Stears <stears@fiberpipe.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 9:36 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Karen Stears
stears@fiberpipe.net
311 parkhill dr
Billings, Mt 59101
307-752-2500

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Patricia Borneman <patti.borneman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 9:39 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Patricia Borneman
patti.borneman@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rebecca Durham <Agoseris@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 10:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Rebecca Durham
Agoseris@gmail.com
220 north ave e
Missoula, Mt 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kevin Campbell <erthlits@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 9:37 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Kevin Campbell
erthlits@yahoo.com
1046 4th Avenue
Havre, Montana 59501

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Steve McArthur <stevemcarthur@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 10:21 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Steve McArthur
stevemcarthur@aol.com
3406 West Central Ave.
Missoula, Montana 59804
406-251-5965

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rick Tuber <2bears@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 10:27 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Rick Tuber
2bears@bresnan.net
637 Highland Street
Helena, Montana 59601
406 459-2954

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Marilee Brown <2browndogs@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 10:32 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Marilee Brown
2browndogs@earthlink.net
3971 Bosal St.
Bozeman, MT 59718

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gary Brown <hansonfamily@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 10:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Gary Brown
hansonfamily@earthlink.net
2411 Kid Curry Dr
Bozeman, MT 59718

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Darrel Armstrong <ares.gen7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 10:56 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Darrel Armstrong
ares.gen7@gmail.com
Missoula 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Vicky Crampo <Rancosanmiguel@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 10:50 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Vicky Crampo
Rancosanmiguel@aol.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Suzanne DeMarinis <dsuzluk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 10:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--
Suzanne DeMarinis
dsuzluk@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Russell Donnelly <irsd7@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 11:07 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Russell Donnelly
irsd7@verizon.net
2114 Oak Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21219-2214
410-388-0898

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Donna Sorensen <Signingtraveler@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 11:27 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Donna Sorensen
Signingtraveler@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ashea Mills <millsonthemountain@yajoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 11:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Ashea Mills
millsonthemountain@yajoo.com
PO Box 1085
Gardiner, MT 59030
406-223-5967

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Sarah Sinnema <sarah.sinnema@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 11:40 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Sarah Sinnema
sarah.sinnema@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: s mnamee <ladybugx@telus.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 12:34 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--
s mnamee
ladybugx@telus.net
victoria
white rock, bc v4b1g7

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Miriam Ascher <brugmansia1@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 12:34 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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Miriam Ascher
brugmansia1@ymail.com
757 lost Creek Drive
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Eli Ritterpusch <shadowheretic1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:35 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Eli Ritterpusch
shadowheretic1@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Linda King <LJKingMT@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:56 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Linda King
LJKingMT@gmail.com
PO Box 4493
Helena, MT 59604
406-461-0268

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lisa Gunther <lisa.gunther@bsd7.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 5:12 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Lisa Gunther
lisa.gunther@bsd7.org

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dee Anna <deeanna@jeffbb.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 6:12 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Dee Anna
deeanna@jeffbb.net
P.O. Box 461
Boulder, MT 59632

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: William Clem <Billsvision@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 6:29 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

William Clem
Billsvision@gmail.com
4243 W Babcock St, #4
Bozeman, MT 59718
4065857909

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: guy bateman <gdbateman@nemont.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:05 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

Since 2005, Montana's renewable standard has spurred development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities from Fairfield to Baker.

Since 2005, Montana's RES has:

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- Helped clean up and diversify Montana's energy mix.
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In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--
guy bateman
gdbateman@nemont.net
PO Box1636
POPLAR, mt 59255
40686852227

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bill Berg <Bill@coolworks.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:08 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Bill Berg
Bill@coolworks.com
511 Hwy 89 S
Gardiner , MT 59030

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: mary sarumi <mary.sarumi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:42 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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mary sarumi
mary.sarumi@gmail.com
1417 10th ave nw
great falls, mt 59404

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Sandra DiMauro <miked1675@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:13 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Sandra DiMauro
miked1675@aol.com
4215 - 7th Ave. North
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-452-6383

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Fran Moylan <maryfmoylan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:28 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Mary Fran Moylan
maryfmoylan@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Doug Ferrell <ferrelldoug@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:54 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Doug Ferrell
ferrelldoug@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Christine Westland <westlandstar@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:54 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Christine Westland
westlandstar@comcast.net
8293 Fawn Crescent
Blaine, Washington 98230

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Victoria Bell <vbell@rrtusa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:02 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Victoria Bell
vbell@rrtusa.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kathy Devlin-Collicott <kdevlincollicott@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:20 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Kathy Devlin-Collicott
kdevlincollicott@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jan Bertelsen-James <jujyfrt@eurekadsl.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:29 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Jan Bertelsen-James
jujyfrt@eurekadsl.net
Box 222
Eureka, Montana 59917
1-406-889-5574

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Renee Evanoff <twocurlygal@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:29 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Renee Evanoff
twocurlygal@yahoo.com
342 Rock Creek Road S
Emigrant, MT 59027

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: sweetsus@copper.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 11:29 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

Dear Ms. Nowakowski,

I am writing to show my support for Montana's Renewable Energy Standards.

The facts speak for themselves and we can continue do improve our community renewable energy projects.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Susana Sweeters

“Prejudice, which sees what it pleases, cannot see what is plain.” Aubrey T. de Vere

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ethel MacDonald <ethelmacd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 11:19 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--
Ethel MacDonald
ethelmacd@gmail.com
59801

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joana Kirchhoff <joanakirchhoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 12:36 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Hello,

I am writing about support for community renewable energy projects. I believe these projects are good for our rural economy and the ratepayer. In 2005 the legislature passed a law including a provision that a proportion of new power acquired had to come from small, locally owned projects. These projects have brought real tangible benefits to small communities. The provision also makes sure that the benefits of new generation are not concentrated in just one county or with one landowner. Community scale projects spread the investment across the state of Montana. Lastly, they fall under the same cost-cap provision as any other resource to meet the standard. Contrary to the utilities' claims, these projects are not hurting the ratepayer.

Please keep investing in the RES for the future of not only Montana but the global population. Climate change is not an abstract and needs to be addressed. Support Montana's RES program.

Thank you,

Joana Kirchhoff

16626 Bridger Canyon Rd

Bozeman, MT 59715

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Remember you are unique, just like everyone else.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Shari Dayton <shari.missoula@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:54 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Shari Dayton
shari.missoula@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Marta Meengs <mmeengs77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Marta Meengs
mmeengs77@gmail.com
107 North Ave. W.
Missoula, MT 59801

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Grace Hodges <grace@mt.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:48 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Grace Hodges
grace@mt.net
14 S. Raleigh St.
Helena, MT 59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bob Johnston <bison1bob@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 12:45 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Bob Johnston
bison1bob@aol.com
pob 1126
Cooke City, Montana 59020

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kathie Daviau <daviaus@bresnan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:10 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standard

Keep investing in Montana's growing clean energy economy and increase the Renewable Energy Standard!

Thank you.
Kathie Daviau
216 Lexington Dr
Billings, MT 59102

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Doug Soehren <dsoehren@bresnan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 12:30 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS comments

Dear Committee,

I want you to know that I appreciate and support Montana's renewable energy standard. It has helped to move Montanans towards a cleaner and more self reliant energy future. I approve of the expenditure of my taxes towards this goal and I support increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

I voluntarily pay extra on my energy bills every month to help bring more renewable energy online. I have also installed a 2.8 megawatt solar electric system on my property in Ravalli County and have acquired enough additional solar panels to double that production but it is expensive and time consuming for me and many other low income Bitterrooters I know.

The State of Montana should be doing what Germany and numerous other countries in Europe have been doing for many years now, that is offering incentives to companies and individuals to encourage renewable, sustainable energy projects. The German government has stimulated economic development and created many jobs at the same time. You may have noticed that Germany's economy is doing very well, due in part no doubt to this progressive national policy.

Thanks for considering my point of view,
Doug Soehren

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Margaret Strainer <mrsstrainer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:30 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Margaret Strainer
mrsstrainer@gmail.com
212 east nicklaus
KalisPELL, MT 59901
406-755-0887

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lisa Fleischer <Flossemontana@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:33 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Lisa Fleischer
Flossemontana@yahoo.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Robert R. Miller <zyor2010@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 11:03 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Robert R. Miller
zyor2010@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Ann Weber <maryannw@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:42 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Mary Ann Weber
maryannw@me.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Pamela Poon <pgracep@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standard

Dear Ms. Nowakowski:

I am in favor of doubling the current Renewable Energy Standard. The current RES allows small community projects that spread the benefits across the state instead of all in one county. These projects create long-term job in many places and we need this in rural Montana. Also, it is clear that under the current RES, our rates have not gone up--I know this for a fact as I monitor my own energy costs closely after having installed our own solar energy system.

Also, both costs and benefits of all projects need to be taken into account to show whether this is the appropriate RES for Montana. The Judith Gap outputs are being used by NWE so the benefits of this project should be accounted for.

The RES helps all Montanans keep jobs and energy in the community.

Thanks.

Pam Poon

Pamela G. Poon, P.L.L.C.
Attorney Mediator
pgracep@gmail.com
www.middlegroundssolutions.com

P.O. Box 665
Bozeman, MT 59771-0665
406.539.2474

Resolving disputes for families and businesses since 1992

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Alison G <sparwalimason@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:53 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Alison G
sparwalimason@yahoo.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bill Skidmore <billskidmore29@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

Our children and grandchildren depend on our continuing to press hard on Renewable Energy Standards. Now alternative energy is cost competitive and every day more imperative.

William Skidmore
Bozeman 59714

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lana & Charles Sangmeister <LCSangmeister@nemont.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:02 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standard

Greetings

In 2005 Montana passed its Renewable Energy Standard (RES) requiring investor-owned utilities to acquire at least 15% of their energy from new clean-energy projects by 2015. It also included a provision that at least some of the new power acquired to meet the Standard had to come from small, locally owned projects such as those in Martinsdale. This has brought real tangible benefits to this small community in the form of job creation, capital investment, and tax revenue. Another provision makes sure that the benefits of new generation are not concentrated in just one county or with one landowner thereby spreading the investment across the state of Montana. Despite the major utilities claims these projects are not hurting the ratepayers. Furthermore Montana has increased its installed wind capacity from less than 3 megawatts to more than 600 megawatts! With the second-highest wind potential in the country, Montana has nowhere to go but up from this initial investment.

Unfortunately some large energy company lobbyists and their allies on the committee want to exclude portions of the data to substantiate their false claims that the sky is falling. The Judith Gap wind farm is clearly being used by Northwestern Energy to meet the standard's requirements and therefore the benefits of that project should be considered in the report, not just the cost. In their due diligence the committee must use all of the data, including projects such as the Judith Gap wind farm, before coming to conclusions.

The Montana Consumer Counsel analyzed the impact the RES has had on Montana's ratepayers and found that the law "...has had relatively minimal rate impact on (customers)." Despite the rhetoric that we have been hearing for years, the acquisition of new clean energy resources has not increased our utility bills. The facts speak for themselves: energy from Northwestern Energy's Spion Kop wind project is the cheapest energy in the utility's energy mix.

The committee needs to be consistent with the facts and find that the impact to Montana customers as a result of the RES has been negligible.

Charles Sangmeister

35A Stanley Coulee Way
Nye, MT 59061
406.328.4843

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Judy Staigmiller <judyannst@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Montana's Renewable Energy Standard

Ma'am,

The next legislature needs to invest in Montana's renewable energy economy by doubling the state's renewable energy standard.

The REP projects are helping Montana's economy statewide without raising costs to the customer.

I urge all members of the committee to look at the big picture and use all the data without cherry-picking, in compiling the report to the legislature. Be sure to include the benefits that have been reaped from the Judith Gap Wind Farm and Northwestern Energy's Spion Kop wind project.

Thank you,
Judy Staigmiller
406-585-1165
Bozeman, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: solna blanchard <solna7b@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--
solna blanchard
solna7b@gmail.com
PO Box 615
Hot Springs 59845

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Norman Bishop <nabishop@q.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:24 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Comment on Renewable Energy Standard draft report

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject draft. Here are my comments.

When the legislature passed the RES law in 2005, it included a provision that at least some of the new power acquired to meet the standard had to come from small, locally owned projects. These projects have brought real tangible benefits to small communities, like Martinsdale, in the form of job creation, capital investment, and tax revenue. Community scale projects spread the investment across the state of Montana. Lastly, they fall under the same cost-cap provision as any other resource to meet the standard. Contrary to the utilities' claims, these projects are not hurting the ratepayer.

Fossil fuel energy lobbyists and their allies on the committee want to exclude portions of the data on alternate energy to substantiate their false claims. The Judith Gap wind farm is clearly being used by Northwestern Energy to meet the standard's requirements and therefore the benefits of that project should be considered in the report, not just the cost. I expect the committee to use all of the data before coming to conclusions, including those from the Judith Gap wind farm.

The Montana Consumer Counsel analyzed the impact the RES has had on Montana's ratepayers and found that the law "...has had relatively minimal rate impact on (customers)." The acquisition of new clean energy resources has not increased our utility bills. The facts speak for themselves: energy from Northwestern Energy's Spion Kop wind project is the cheapest energy in the utility's energy mix. The committee needs to be consistent with the facts and find that the impact to Montana customers as a result of the RES has been negligible.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Norman A. Bishop
4898 Itana Circle
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: TAPTOM@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

For the record,
I, for one, am strongly in favor of the renewable energy standard, and would like to see it increased.
Thank you.
Addison Sessions
1117 North 32nd Street
Billings, MT 59101
406-696-1761

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rayna Eyster <Reyster@wildblue.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:38 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Rayna Eyster
Reyster@wildblue.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Clint Nagel <clint_nagel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:41 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja

I would like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to comment on the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) Draft Report. I think we are at a crossroads in this country and in this state when it comes to the development of future sources of energy. We want unlimited sources, cleaner sources and cheaper sources as we march further into the 21st century. And it is obvious that renewable energy is going to be the focal point of that issue.

The utility companies are already on track on meeting the RES requirements that were passed in Montana of 2005. One of the provisions that were passed in 2005 was that at least some of the new power acquired to meet the standard had to come from small, locally owned projects. This provision itself has had many good attributes which has provided good benefits to rural communities such as job creation, increased tax revenue and capital investment not to mention infrastructure improvements.

Secondly, before making a decision make sure you look at all the data including the Judith Gap Wind Farm and not just cherry picking the data to meet a desired outcome.

Finally, the Montana Consumer Counsel has looked at the data to see if the RES has had an impact on the ratepayers of Montana and found there has been minimal impact at the worst to the consumer. The committee needs to not buy into the hype that has been cast by opponents of clean, alternative energy. I urge the committee to use sound judgment and to not buy into the noise of negativity. We as ratepayers and taxpayers would like to be able to buy into the future and be able to do our part in making this world a cleaner, better place for all.

Thank you for this opportunity comment.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Molly Kenyon <mollymckenyon@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 2:48 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Molly Kenyon
mollymckenyon@gmail.com
Missoula , Montana 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Roy O'Connor <rsoc2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Roy O'Connor
rsoc2001@yahoo.com
125 Bank St
Missoula, Mt 59802
4067280864

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lynne Davis <lynnebdavis@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Ms. Nowakowski:

I am a resident of Nye, Montana, and I am writing in response to the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee's solicitation of public comment on a draft report reviewing Montana's renewable portfolio standard. I respectfully and urgently request that Montana keep investing in Montana's clean energy economy by increasing the Renewable Energy Standard. Specifically, I support a recommendation that the Legislature at least double Montana's RES.

Thank you for considering the voice of this ratepayer, for considering the big picture (our children are counting on us to look to the longterm), and the following comments:

1. **Community renewable energy projects are good for our rural economy and the ratepayer.** When the legislature passed the law in 2005, it included a provision that at least some of the new power acquired to meet the standard had to come from small, locally owned projects. These projects have brought real tangible benefits to small communities, like Martinsdale, in the form of job creation, capital investment, and tax revenue. The provision also makes sure that the benefits of new generation are not concentrated in just one county or with one landowner. Community scale projects spread the investment across the state of Montana. Lastly, they fall under the same cost-cap provision as any other resource to meet the standard. Contrary to the utilities' claims, these projects are not hurting the ratepayer.
2. **Don't allow data skewed to meet political objectives.** Some dirty energy lobbyists and their allies on the committee want to exclude portions of the data to substantiate their false claims that the sky is falling. The Judith Gap wind farm is clearly being used by Northwestern Energy to meet the standard's requirements and therefore the **benefits** of that project should be considered in the report, not just the cost. Tell the committee members to use all of the data before coming to conclusions, including the Judith Gap wind farm.
3. **The facts speak for themselves – there has been no substantive increase to rates associated with the standard.** The Montana Consumer Counsel analyzed the impact the RES has had on Montana's ratepayers and found that the law "...has had relatively minimal rate impact on (customers)." Despite the rhetoric that we have been hearing for years, the acquisition of new clean energy resources has not increased your utility bills. The facts speak for themselves: energy from Northwestern Energy's Spion Kop wind project is the cheapest energy in the utility's energy mix. The committee needs to be consistent with the facts and find that the impact to Montana customers as a result of the RES has been negligible.

Again, please help the legislature understand the critical importance of a clean energy economy to Montana and Montana's citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne B Davis

Nye, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lori Fay <lorijf@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:28 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Lori Fay
lorijf@hotmail.com
308 Riverview 4W
Great Falls, Montana 59404

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Karole Lee <karole.lee@dishmail.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:35 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Karole Lee
karole.lee@dishmail.net
457 Lump Gulch
Clancy, Montana 59634
406-933-5408

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Anne Menge <anne.menge@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 3:37 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Re: Support Montana's RES

Thanks Sonja,

I really think people need to be pushing to come out of the dark ages of coal and oil and start understanding that all those coal and oil jobs can be transferred to renewable energy resources jobs....I bet refinery workers could learn how to install solar panels, right?? We need to be thinking about preserving the beauty of our state for our future Montanans by being conscious individuals that put more good than bad into the world.

I hope our politicians can see it the same way.

Anne Menge

On Tue, Jun 17, 2014 at 7:48 AM, Nowakowski, Sonja <snowakowski@mt.gov> wrote:
Thank you for your comments. I will make sure they are shared with the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee at the July 18 meeting in Helena.

Sonja Nowakowski
Research Analyst
Montana Legislative Services Division
Room 171C, State Capitol
PO Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704
Phone: [\(406\) 444-3078](tel:(406)444-3078)
Fax: [\(406\) 444-3971](tel:(406)444-3971)
Email: snowakowski@mt.gov

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

From: Anne Menge [mailto:anne.menge@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 4:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Anne Menge
anne.menge@gmail.com
Bozeman, Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mcevo Carol and Larry <Mcschmid@mcn.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 4:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
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--

Mcevo Carol and Larry
Mcschmid@mcn.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Marilyn Maier <goblinhillmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 4:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Marilyn Maier
goblinhillmt@gmail.com
P.O. Box 57
Dayton, MT 59914

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jessica George <lilbugjg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 5:27 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Jessica George
lilbugjg@gmail.com
Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tim Holmes <musegaze@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 6:01 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Montana RES Comment- My family's sacrifice

Dear Committee members,

As a concerned parent I urge you to support development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities across the state. I am installing solar power on my family's house at great expense that would be very welcome elsewhere because we worry about the effects of climate change on our children. I have gone as far as installing more generation capacity than we can possibly use, (pumping the excess into the grid without remuneration!) because we feel it is our duty to our community to take on as much of the burden as we can!

I also urge you support increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015. Please do the right thing!

Tim Holmes

Tim Holmes
446 N. Hoback, Helena, MT 59601 USA
TimHolmesStudio.com • 406.442.4233
Love can't be an excuse for dividing the world!

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: lexi bauer <bauerlexi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 5:32 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--
lexi bauer
bauerlexi@hotmail.com
red lodge, mt 59068

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Debra Ricci <riccidebra@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 6:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Debra Ricci
riccidebra@gmail.com
519 Woodford St.
Missoula, Montana 59801
406-493-1931

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Peter Lesica <lesica.peter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 7:18 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Sonja,

Montana has a wealth of renewable, non-polluting energy sources. We need to increase production now. Wind and solar are the future.

Peter Lesica
929 Locust
Missoula, MT 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bonita Reishus <nox0109@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:32 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Bonita Reishus
nox0109@blackfoot.net
14 Country Rd
Noxon, Montana 59853

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Randal McIntyre <Rcmc@bresnan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Randal McIntyre
Rcmc@bresnan.net
1606 Ogden
Anaconda, Mt 59711

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Edward Gulick <edgulick47@alum.pomona.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:16 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS comment

Dear ETIC members and staff,

Thank you for compiling a very interesting draft report on the impact that the Renewable Portfolio Standard has had on Montana since it was passed by the legislature in 2005.

In general, I found the report to be a fair, unbiased examination of the issues; some of the information is based on surveys that have biases, but these results were put into context appropriately. The economic development analysis was useful in demonstrating that the benefits were spread throughout the state, instead of being concentrated in a few areas, as happens with more centralized forms of power generation. The environmental impacts similarly did an appropriate job of contrasting the environmental and health benefits of renewable energy sources compared to fossil fuel resources. Finally, the draft report also demonstrated that there has not been any appreciable change in consumer rates.

So, on the whole, I commend ETIC members and staff on putting together good analysis; I will be watching to ensure the final draft does not diverge from this commitment to truth. I have two comments:

1. Based on these economic development and environmental benefits with no costs, it seems appropriate that ETIC would recommend to the 2015 legislature that the RPS be expanded to 25% of electricity consumption in Montana come from renewable sources by 2025.
2. A minor comment is to note that either ETIC has a time machine and zipped to the future to observe a wind farm in September 2014 or that there is a typo in the caption for the photo on page 8.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ed Gulick
3015 10th Ave. North
Billings, MT 59101

(406) 698-2747

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Beebe <marybeebe@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:20 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Mary Beebe
marybeebe@hotmail.com
219 South E Street
Livingston, MT 59047
4062230885

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Littlebird Parks <birdfrog@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:22 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Littlebird Parks
birdfrog@blackfoot.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Roger Sherman <sherman@montanasky.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 8:16 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Roger Sherman
sherman@montanasky.net
280 Brimstone Dr.
Whitefish, MT 59937

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kathryn Kern <kdc8853@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Kathryn Kern
kdc8853@gmail.com
1 S Broadway
Red Lodge, Montana 59068

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ronald Burnam <ronburnam@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 10:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Ronald Burnam
ronburnam@gmail.com
1701 Stirrup Road
Billings, MT 59105
4069692727

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Scott Merrell <ssmdeep@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 11:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Scott Merrell
ssmdeep@hotmail.com
Thompson Falls, Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tricia Miller <triciascares@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2014 9:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Tricia Miller
triciascares@yahoo.com
919 1st Street #2
Whitefish, MT 59937
406 261 9399

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gonnie Siebel <gonnie.siebel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 1:35 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Gonnie Siebel
gonnie.siebel@gmail.com
609 N. Montana
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joan Vetter Ehrenberg <jve@centurytel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 4:34 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Joan Vetter Ehrenberg
jve@centurytel.net
744 Hidden Valley Drive
Whitefish, Montana 59937
406-862-4942

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Nick Page <nickpage502@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 5:07 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Nick Page
nickpage502@hotmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Eve Wills <xtrablu@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 6:13 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Eve Wills
xtrablu@gmail.com
Dillon, MT 59725

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Wulff <cedarorion@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 6:26 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Mary Wulff
cedarorion@yahoo.com
1111 Wild Horse Way
Hamilton, Montana 59840

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: lynbobhilten@att.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 7:23 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Wind/solar

Dear Sirs,

Not to move forward with alternative renewable energy at this this time is to move backward. We have no other choice if we want to continue as a species. It would be a sad footnote for our species that we went extinct and took millions of species with us so a few of us could be ridiculously wealthy. We have choices. Use them wisely now!

Bob Hilten

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: lynbobhilten@att.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 7:35 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Sirs;

To not back renewable energy is a big step backwards. It is probably the most important choice you will ever make for the future of humankind. Please have the courage to make the right choice for our grandchildren.

Bob Hilten

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Blaine Jensem <b.squires@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 7:41 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

Since 2005, Montana's renewable standard has spurred development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities from Fairfield to Baker.

Since 2005, Montana's RES has:

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- Shown that renewable energy projects are a good deal for consumers. The energy from Spion Kop and Judith Gap projects is some of the least expensive for NorthWestern Energy's customers.
- Helped clean up and diversify Montana's energy mix.
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- Protected Montana's water quality because renewable energy emits zero pollutants into our drinking water.

In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Blaine Jensem
b.squires@hotmail.com
PO Box 1424
Helena, Montana 59624

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Don Bianchi <biaprop2@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 7:47 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Don Bianchi
biaprop2@charter.net
707 Minnesota St. # B
Belgrade, Mt. 59714
406 388 0054

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Pam Little <plittle@montana.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:06 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Pam Little
plittle@montana.com
344 Grubstake Rd./PO Box 1886
Hamilton, MT 59840

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ralph Guay <ssash3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:28 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Ralph Guay
ssash3@gmail.com
429 S. Sanders St.
Helena, Montana 59601-5216
(406) 431-0615

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Randi Samsal <Plentywater@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:02 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Randi Samsal
Plentywater@yahoo.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: lance christenson <lchristenson@solarips.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:59 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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lance christenson
lchristenson@solarips.com
1317 hillside
bozeman, mt 59715
4065706591

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Richard Espenscheid <gypsum@ureach.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 9:43 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Hello: I encourage you to support doubling the states renewable energy standard. We need to keep the ball rolling to get cleaner air and water. Net zero metering is important to get individual households involved. Thanks for all you do and Be Well

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kathleen McLaughlin <pmcregan@bresnan.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 10:07 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Kathleen McLaughlin
pmcregan@bresnan.net
1629 Douglas Dr
Missoula, mt 59808

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Julie Telfer <jules.telfer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 10:18 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Julie Telfer
jules.telfer@gmail.com
Victor, MT 59875

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Erin Keskeny <erin.keskeny@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 10:30 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Erin Keskeny
erin.keskeny@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Wagner <Maryvizziniwagner@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:02 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Mary Wagner
Maryvizziniwagner@yahoo.com
2726 Goldenrod Lane
Bozeman, Montana 59718
(406) 586-4398

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Olivia Stockman Splinter <olivia@northernplains.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standard

I'm writing to express my strong support for Montana's Renewable Energy Standard. It has proven to be good for Montana and I would like to see it increased. Wind and solar energies are a real economic opportunity for Montana.

Sincerely,

Olivia Stockman Splinter
1034 Yale Ave.
Billings, MT 59102

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jennifer Gustafson <jgg135@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:41 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Jennifer Gustafson
jgg135@yahoo.com
Missoula, Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Eric Drissell <mrl_fan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:54 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Eric Drissell
mrl_fan@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 161910
Big Sky, Montana 59716

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Marie Habener <anatnommarie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 1:01 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Marie Habener
anatnommarie@yahoo.com
227 East Virginia
Dillon, Montana 59725

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Woody Nedom <bronco60@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Woody Nedom
bronco60@comcast.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Schaad <maryaschaad@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:38 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Mary Schaad
maryaschaad@gmail.com
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: marla weatherson <jweatherson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 2:37 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

marla weatherson
jweatherson@yahoo.com
23 1/2 w. woolman
butte, mt 59703
406 491 5169

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joseph Howell <jhowell2000@bresnan.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 3:38 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Joseph Howell
jhowell2000@bresnan.net
1024 N. 31st St.
Billings, Montana 59101
(406) 252-4031

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Michael Faris <mfaris8@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 4:50 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Michael Faris
mfaris8@msn.com
4511 Johnsrud Park Rd
Bonner, MT 59823

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Anthony Mandala <delalove@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 5:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Anthony Mandala
delalove@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Starshine <dr.starshine@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 7:19 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Cc: MEIC
Subject: RPS comments

I have COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) which is often the cause of death so I need CLEAN AIR and the healthiest air for the everyone is clean energy created by wind or solar. Please support the Renewable Energy Standard and increase it beyond 2015.

Starshine
406-788-2299
1200 32nd St. S. #23
Great Falls 59405

Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself, and know that everything in life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences, all events are blessings given to us to learn from.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

--

Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself, and know that everything in life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences, all events are blessings given to us to learn from.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Cynthia Williams <cabingrammy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 8:01 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

I know that renewable energy can help save our planet. I want my grandchildren to have a clean, inhabitable home.

--

Cynthia Williams
cabingrammy@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Teddy Roe <troe@bresnan.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 9:40 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

To Whom it May Concern

This message is in support of clean, renewable energy -- specifically retention of the current renewable energy standard and continued expansion of the production of renewable energy.

** Don't believe the coal industry's claim that the RES results in higher energy costs. That is not the case. Costs of coal-burning energy are rising instead as the public insists on breathing cleaner air.

** Montana is nowhere its potential in producing energy from wind power. Expansion of our capability will provide jobs and put a lot of money into needy communities.

** We need to EXPAND the RES, not shrink it. The Legislature is asked to achieve this in its next session.

Thank you for considering these remarks.

Teddy Roe
Billings MT
406-256-7201

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Darin Fredericks <darin@wisebuilt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 10:54 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Darin Fredericks
darin@wisebuilt.com
12477 Sunburst Drive
Bigfork, Mt 59911

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: kathy bergstrom <kbergs37@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:17 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--
kathy bergstrom
kbergs37@gmail.com
50833

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Paul Hamilton <anacondapaul@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:50 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Paul Hamilton
anacondapaul@gmail.com
719 East 3rd Street
Anaconda, Montana 59711

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Corine Lindhorst <hiplain@mt.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 11:13 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Corine Lindhorst
hiplain@mt.net
103 Golden Valley Loop
Great Falls, Montana 59404
406-750-7341

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: korey kulbeck <klkulbeck14@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 6:20 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

korey kulbeck
klkulbeck14@hotmail.com
N River Rock
Belgrade, MT 59714

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: JoEllen Paull <jopaul52@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 7:22 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

JoEllen Paull
jopaul52@gmail.com
500 W. Park Ave.
Anaconda, Mt. 59711
406-559-0677

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ric Parnell <rjparnell13@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 8:11 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Ric Parnell
rjparnell13@yahoo.com
59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Cate Campbell <frogburg.cate@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 8:16 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

Greetings,

I'm writing in regard to the Renewable Energy Standards for Montana. Utilities are well on their way to the 15% goal and we need to keep the momentum going. The new EPA rule on reducing carbon emissions will bolster our efforts to meet this goal and perhaps exceed it.

I feel my utility rates are fair and would actually pay more if I thought I could contribute to increased alternative energy sources. Fossil fuels are not getting us where we want to go. People are never comfortable with change and we have arrived at a point where either we are in charge of the changes or we will have to react to the consequences (floods, wildfires, etc.).

We build stronger systems when they are smaller scale and more widely distributed. Let's support Montana business with energy projects in various local communities. The benefits, over time, will outweigh the costs and we will pay the costs one way or the other.

It's time to be proactive and think rationally about the greatest good for the greatest number of citizens.

Sincerely,
Cate Campbell
Frenchtown, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Peter Manka <pmanka@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 8:46 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Peter Manka
pmanka@hotmail.com
59716

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jack and Gaynelle <jgstamm@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 8:46 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Renewable energy in Montana needs to be supported and expanded.

The Renewable Energy Standards (RES) enacted in 2005 were a great start but they must be expanded to make sure we realize the renewable energy potential unique to Montana. Clean, renewable Montana energy will leave a better legacy for future generations.

The RES has not resulted in significant increases in electricity prices. Coal supporters would have Montanans think coal is the cheapest way to generate electricity when the opposite is true. This month's rate increase approved by the PSC is going to cover the cost of an outage at the Colstrip coal-fired plant.

New sources of renewable energy brings new jobs. Montana ranks 3rd-highest in wind energy potential but ranks only 21st in wind power generated. Building to achieve that potential will mean construction and long-term jobs in Montana.

The future of our country and the world is dependent on a clean environment. Support and expansion of clean, renewable, efficient energy can help in this effort and Montana can, and should, be a leader.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Stamm

2 Donlan Flats Rd.
St. Regis, MT 59866

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Marylee Harrer <rockengirl2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 8:58 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Marylee Harrer
rockengirl2@yahoo.com
513 E. Cottonwood St
Bozeman, Mt 59715

Legislative Services Division
Attn: Sonja Nowakowski
PO Box 201704
Helena MT 59620-1704

RECEIVED

JUN 19 2014

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

TO: The members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge the ETIC to continue to support investment in Montana's clean energy economy. Increasing the Renewable Energy Standard only makes sense in these times of observable climate change. To waste the second highest wind potential in the country would be short-sighted. Our renewable energy economy should be grown to its fullest potential, more than doubled from where it is now.

The pressure from dirty energy lobbyists and their allies to exclude portions of the data showing the benefits of projects such as the Judith Gap wind farm must be taken for what it is. There have been no substantive increases to rates associated with the RES. Consider benefits as well as cost in your deliberations.

That change is needed in the way we envision meeting energy needs in this country is undisputable. Renewable energy is a course the entire world must take to avoid complete disaster. Europe is far ahead of us in understanding this. Please help Montana take a step forward by increasing the RES.

Sincerely,

Beverly Jackson
1440 Mountain View Dr.
Missoula, MT 59802

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jeannie Gripentrog <jmg@montana.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 10:58 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Jeannie Gripentrog
jmg@montana.edu
4 Black Powder Trail
Bozeman, MT 59715
406 585 0073

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Andrea Rumpel <Fionnghula@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 11:16 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Andrea Rumpel
Fionnghula@hotmail.com
Missoula, MT 59801

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Louis Schmidt <lmschmidt63@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 9:42 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Louis Schmidt
lmschmidt63@yahoo.com
555 Kaeding Creek Rd.
Whitefish, MT 59937

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: gregory knipe <gregknipe@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 9:58 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

gregory knipe
gregknipe@gmail.com
2025 college
Bozeman, Mt 59718
218-365-5761

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Connie Poten <rattlefarm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 10:04 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

Dear Ms. Nowakowski,

This letter is to express our whole-hearted support for clean, renewable energy. We support the current renewable energy standard, and also of course support expanding the use of renewable energy.

Coal is a real detriment to our community in Montana, and it is costly both in rate hikes and environment. Wind and solar are industries waiting to happen in Montana, we have plenty of both. Our tracking solar installations here at our vineyard are tremendously effective and efficient. Clean energy is just that, clean. It doesn't leave a toxic scar on the landscape, it has the potential of creating plenty of jobs, and it doesn't require pipelines, trucks or trains using fossil fuels to haul it around.

The next legislature should uphold and expand these renewable opportunities.

Sincerely,

Connie Poten

--

Constance J. Poten
4175 Rattlesnake Drive
Missoula, MT 59802
406-549-4647

DISCLAIMER:

This e-mail is only intended for the person(s) to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential information. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us immediately by reply e-mail and then delete this message from your system. Please do not copy it or use it for any purposes, or disclose its contents to any other person without permission from its author. Thank you for your cooperation.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lowell Uda <lowelluda@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 10:43 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

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Lowell Uda
lowelluda@yahoo.com
5329 Glacier Point Loop
Helena, MT 59602
406 513-1723

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dixie Hooper <Dxhooper@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Dixie Hooper
Dxhooper@yahoo.com
1100 s4th st w
Missoula , Mt 59801

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: ontherun@aboutmontana.net
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 12:03 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

The RES has not resulted in significant increases in electricity prices.

Coal supporters would have Montanans think coal is the cheapest way to generate electricity when the opposite is true. This month's rate increase approved by the PSC is going to cover the cost of an outage at the Colstrip coal-fired plant. New sources of renewable energy brings new jobs. Montana ranks 3rd-highest in wind energy potential but ranks only 21st in wind power generated. Building to achieve that potential will mean construction and long-term jobs in Montana. The next legislature should expand the RES to make sure we realize the renewable energy potential unique to Montana. Clean, renewable Montana energy will leave a better legacy for future generations.

We must be responsible stewards and do what we can to protect the earth for future generations. That means we limit dirty carbon pollution and turn to clean renewable energy. Renewable energy can also create good new jobs that can't be outsourced by making our energy cleaner and more efficient.

Thank you

Gil Jordan & Kimberly Pinter
PO Box 130373
Coram, MT 59913

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Crystal Charvat <crystal.charvat@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 12:16 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Crystal Charvat
crystal.charvat@yahoo.com
825 SW Higgins
Missoula, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mariah Gladstone <walkingraven1@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 12:35 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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--

Mariah Gladstone
walkingraven1@msn.com
1537 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601
4064594080

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Allie Savage <savage.allie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 12:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Allie Savage
savage.allie@gmail.com
716 1/2 N. Church St
Bozeman, MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Nancy Jochem <njochem@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 12:55 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

Dear Ms. Nowacowski,

I am contacting you to state my position regarding the need to further develop renewable energy, such as wind and solar power, in Montana. I believe we need to expand the RES to increase Montana's production of clean, renewable energy because climate change is a serious threat.

Best,
Nancy and Dan Jochem
Bozeman
406-587-0530

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: William H Clarke <wclarke440@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 3:10 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Cc: Theresa Keaveny, Montana Conservation Voters
Subject: Support the Renewable Energy Standard (RES)

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

I installed 12 solar panels in my backyard in October, 2012, and I couldn't be happier with their performance.

It amazes me that I can generate so much power, and that doing so is utterly quiet and clean.

I only needed nine panels to cover my usage, but I put 12 in so that I could compensate for some of the other carbon releases that I generate (gasoline, natural gas).

At the end of my first anniversary date, in April, 2014, I had generated 1,218 kWh more electricity than I used. (Although my goal was to generate more than I used, it still bugs me that Northwestern Energy gets to just take the excess, without ANY compensation whatsoever; at least NWE should stop whining that people like me "don't contribute enough to the cost of the grid".)

I'm also a member of Montana Conservation Voters, and they want me to tell you this:

- The RES has not resulted in significant increases in electricity prices. Coal supporters would have Montanans think coal is the cheapest way to generate electricity when the opposite is true. This month's rate increase approved by the PSC is going to cover the cost of an outage at the Colstrip coal-fired plant.
- New sources of renewable energy brings new jobs. Montana ranks 3rd-highest in wind energy potential but ranks only 21st in wind power generated. Building to achieve that potential will mean construction and long-term jobs in Montana.
- The next legislature should expand the RES to make sure we realize the renewable energy potential unique to Montana. Clean, renewable Montana energy will leave a better legacy for future generations.

In conclusion, please make the RES stronger (and make NWE compensate those who produce excess power).

Yours truly,

William H Clarke
1330 Lower Lincoln Hills Dr.
Missoula, MT 59802-3340
406/549-6214

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Roy O'Connor <rsoc2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 5:20 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I would like to express my support for The Renewable Energy Standard and maintaining our goal of 15% of energy produced in Montana coming from renewable energy sources by 2015. Focusing on creating new and renewable energy sources in Montana not only protects our environment, but creates high paying and permanent jobs for Montanans. It brings in outside money and technology as well, and provides options for our young people to stay in Montana and work in fields with unlimited potential.

This will become a self fulfilling prophesy, and will lead to more and better options for Montana jobs and energy creation, as well as opening new buyers for this clean energy. It is now price competitive with other energy production, with out the future costs of cleanup and health issues.

Please keep the RES on our books, and in our future.

Thanks for considering my comments,

Roy O'Connor

POBox 244

Clinton, Mt 59825

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gerre Maillet <mailletga@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 5:32 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Gerre Maillet
mailletga@gmail.com
2915 O'Shaughnessy #201
Missoula, Montana 59808
406-552-5179

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lee Metzgar <leemet@bigsky.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 5:53 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Keep Our RES

Members of the ETIC,

Please count me among the Montanans who support retention of the 15% clean-energy standard. I consider it crucial to encourage use of renewables wherever possible.

Respectfully,

Lee H.. Metzgar

Lee Metzgar
703B Skyla Ct.
Missoula MT
59801
406-251-6105

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jonathan and Janet Kempff <jnjmt@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 10:16 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Ms. Nowakowski and committee,

I commend you on the thoroughness of your report regarding the impacts of Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard. I am just an interested citizen and I was able to follow a lot of the information. It seemed that you strived to present the data without throwing in opinion. I appreciate that.

Here are my comments:

1. By not answering some of the questions on your questionnaire, the respondents might have intentionally (or inadvertently) skewed your information. What I mean is: they might have left something blank if the truthful answer wasn't how they wanted to portray the topic.
2. It is predicted that cost of installation and maintenance of renewable energy systems will continue to drop as there is more production and improved technology. Maybe that comment doesn't belong in your report, but it is a positive outlook for future cost savings for the utility companies and the consumer.
3. People visit Montana and spend a lot of money here because it is gorgeous. We should do everything possible to keep our clean air.
4. The renewable energy development that has been done in Montana so far seems to be, in general, very positive for the state. Continuing with the RPS as directed in the law, and possibly continuing to increase the percentage, seems as if it would be a good economic choice for Montana.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Janet Kempff
Bozeman, MT.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Hugh Zackheim <montanazac@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 11:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standards

I strongly support maintaining - and strengthening - Montana's renewable energy standards. Montanans are exceptionally industrious people - let's make sure we have the opportunity and the incentives to use our ingenuity to develop energy resources that will help our economy and our environment.

To keep going down the path of centralized power (in more ways than one) is poor policy, and seriously underestimates the strengths of Montana citizens. Why force Montanans to send their hard-earned money to out-of-state corporations, when we can innovate, build, and help our economy by developing renewable energy resources?

The Renewable Energy Standards point the way to a positive future for Montanans. Get on board and keep these standards.

Thank you.

Hugh Zackheim
315 Ming Place
Helena, MT 59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: BJ Blackburn <edge3115@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 8:03 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

We support clean, renewable energy! Montana should grasp our position as one of the most capable wind producing states, and stop trying to convince the world that there is such a thing as 'clean' coal. That is another fairy tale the coal supporters would have Montanans believe besides the myth of the cost factor, which has not materialized.

Montana needs to expand the RES to make sure that we realize the renewable energy potential unique to our state, which will not produce the devastation that other extraction energy produces.

Please listen to the voices of the conservation movement to protect Montana's wellbeing for future generations.

Thank you!

Bonnie and Thomas Eldredge

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Elizabeth Skinner <easkinneer2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 10:25 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Elizabeth Skinner
easkinneer2@gmail.com
5051 Prospector Gulch Rd
Helena, MT 59601
406-443-5613

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Brian Green <gggmontana@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 10:26 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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Brian Green
gggmontana@msn.com
5051 Prospector Gulch Rd
Helena, MT 59601
406-443-5613

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: mimi van straatens <mwvanstraaten@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 4:02 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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mimi van straatens
mwvanstraaten@yahoo.com
12500 big davis
three forks, mt. 59752
4062850031

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Marilyn Hill <snowsquidmax@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 7:28 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--

Marilyn Hill
snowsquidmax@gmail.com
PO Box 160277
Big Sky, MT 59716
406 995-4238

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tana Patterson <tananmontana@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2014 9:35 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS comment

Dear Ms. Nowakowski:

I am a well educated, yet limited income 5th generation Montanan who, despite my near poverty has "stepped up to the plate" to address climate change instead of cowardly denying it. I use renewable wind generated electricity brought thought the existing power grid to my modest home by using a wattage exchange program through Pear Energy and Northwestern Energy. It costs a tad more but I figure a 5th generation Montanan should do what she can to save the environmental quality and all the economy that relies on sustainable practices in this great state.

If I, a hard working low income Montanan, can put my money where my mouth is, then the State of Montana can do the same by keeping the Renewable Energy Standard. In other words Montana, get your nose out the butt of all those extractive industry rapist-polluters, look at where all the sustainable jobs of today and tomorrow REALLY are (renewable are the fastest growing job market on the globe) and cowboy up for a better Montana.

Sincerely

Tana Patterson
1712 Lewis Ave.
Billings, MT 59102

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mark Juedeman <mjuedeman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2014 6:21 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

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Mark Juedeman
mjuedeman@gmail.com
1805 Virginia Dale
Helena, Montana 59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tom Glover <tomglover@mcn.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2014 10:56 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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--
Tom Glover
tomglover@mcn.net
1318 16th St So
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-761-1309

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: andrew lowe <pabstslayer@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2014 6:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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andrew lowe
pabstslayer@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Christine Deveny <cdeveny@mt.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2014 7:38 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Christine Deveny
cdeveny@mt.net
626 2nd Street
Helena, MT 59601
4064422617

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Travis McAdam <trav_mac@lycos.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 9:13 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

Since 2005, Montana's renewable standard has spurred development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities from Fairfield to Baker.

Since 2005, Montana's RES has:

- Contributed to significant environmental and economic benefits across the state.
- Contributed nearly half a billion dollars in direct investment to Montana's economy.
- Created over 1,800 good paying jobs across the state.
- Shown that renewable energy projects are a good deal for consumers. The energy from Spion Kop and Judith Gap projects is some of the least expensive for NorthWestern Energy's customers.
- Helped clean up and diversify Montana's energy mix.
- Avoided over 4 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.
- Protected Montana's water quality because renewable energy emits zero pollutants into our drinking water.

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--

Travis McAdam
trav_mac@lycos.com
61 Wathena Dr.
Butte, Montana 59701
406-565-3205

June 17, 2014

Legislative Services Division
Attn. Sonja Nowakowski
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I understand that you have begun a review of our state's renewable energy standards, and I urge that you focus your efforts on two important points.

First, requiring investor-owned utilities to acquire an increasing percentage of their energy from renewables is the incentive we need to create good jobs and a healthy economy in our state.

Montana has immense potential for more renewable energy. We should take advantage of it.

Thus far, the Public Service Commission has found that wind energy has proven our cheapest source of energy. Montana ratepayers are not paying higher bills because of the required renewable portfolio.

Contractors, construction workers, and plant operators do very, very well when we expand our renewable energy sector. And let's face it, creating a wind farm or developing our solar energy potential is a huge boon for our construction industry, plus it keeps dollars local, increasing jobs for manufacturers, supply outfits, and neighboring services, be they groceries, restaurants, or local accounting firms.

It makes sense to invest in renewables. Recent studies have shown that every million dollars spent on solar energy results in five or six construction jobs and 17 permanent jobs in operations and management. For every million dollars spent developing wind energy, Montana gains 3.4 construction jobs and 6.3 permanent jobs in operations and management. (Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.)

My second point has to do with the moral dimension of your decision on renewable energy standards. Let's talk about the benefits of renewable energy.

Picture in your mind a scientific instrument like an earthquake monitor drawing a very long black line across a very long piece of paper. The line held

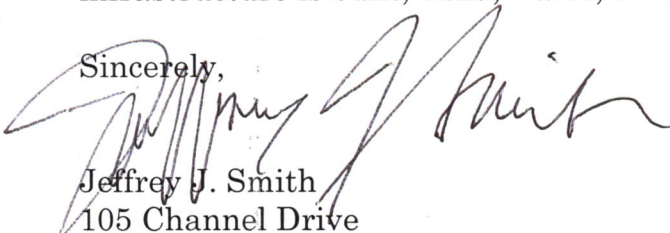
steady at 280 parts per million (ppm) carbon dioxide (CO₂) for a very long time . . . 800,000 years. All of a sudden, long about 1950, the CO₂ line turned nearly vertical.

Scientists say we can exist on this planet without serious climate disruption if our atmospheric CO₂ stays below 350ppm. Unfortunately, as author and activist Bill McKibben says, this is not a choice. It's physics and chemistry, a bottom line we are not likely to budge. A year ago for the first time since measurements began in 1958, the Earth System Laboratory on Mauna Loa in Hawaii recorded 400ppm CO₂. Scientists tell us it's the first time in five million years our planet has registered that amount of greenhouse gas.

We have entered a huge historic transition based on one inescapable fact: Our climate can't take it anymore. This is the time we need you to help guide America to reduce carbon emissions by six percent a year, to guide us back to an atmospheric level of CO₂ at 350ppm.

Americans have the technology and the know-how to chart a future 100 percent powered by wind, water, and solar energy. Millions of good jobs kick in, efficiencies of scale lower costs, and we will manage independent, even elegant sources of power. The best part of renewable energy is, once the infrastructure is built, wind, water, and solar power are forever free.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Smith
105 Channel Drive
Missoula, MT 59804

Bill Bradbury
Chair
Oregon

Henry Lorenzen
Oregon

W. Bill Booth
Idaho

James A. Yost
Idaho



Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Jennifer Anders
Vice Chair
Montana

Pat Smith
Montana

Tom Karier
Washington

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

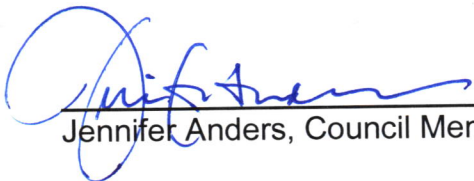
6/19/14

Sonya Nowakowski
Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

Dear Committee Members:

The Montana members of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council would like to thank the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee, its staff and all the parties that contributed to the draft Renewable Rewards and Risks study as required by SJ 6. The draft report is well researched and informative and helps us gain a better understanding of the workings of the Montana renewable portfolio standard. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to the final version.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Anders, Council Member


Pat Smith, Council Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dart Fahrenbruch <dartfahrenbruch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 4:56 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Montana's Renewable Energy Standard

ATTN: Sonya Snowkowski, Lead Staff--ETIC

My name is Darlene Fahrenbruch, Big Timber, MT. I understand comments need to be in by June 27, 2014. So, my comments are as follows. In studying the pros and cons issue of renewable energy in Montana, I am definitely for advancing wind energy in Montana.

I believe that Montana's next Legislature should invest in Montana's renewable energy ECONOMY. Also, that Montana's renewable energy standard should be at least DOUBLED.

Community renewable energy projects are good for our RURAL ECONOMY and for the RATE PAYER. These projects HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT rural and small communities in TAX REVENUE, CAPITAL INVESTMENT and in CREATING JOBS.

In regards to the Judith Gap Wind Farm Project--and all projects--ALL data should be considered and analyzed, not only the costs. The benefits of a project should also be considered. Using only costs data and not considering the benefits, in my opinion, is begging for falsehood and biased decision-making. I would like to insert here that before I had seen the wind turbines at Judith Gap, I was prepared for how ugly they would be to view. Instead, what I viewed was pleasant and artful and blended very well into the landscape, and useful to the economy.

In my opinion, energy lobbyists and their allies use biased data for political gain. Using only costs and not also the benefits results in falsehood. Energy policy should not be determined by political objectives.

We need more clean energy in Montana. Thank you for your consideration.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Christine Ross <mtchristine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2014 7:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Christine Ross
mtchristine@gmail.com
3215 Grant St.
Missoula, MT 59801
4067284881

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Courtney Lehman <courtneylehman5@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:35 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

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I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

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--

Courtney Lehman
courtneylehman5@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: kerry krebill <kerrykrebill@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:24 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

kerry krebill
8 park place
Clancy, MT 59634

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

We in Montana are lucky to have clean energy possibilities to replace the long-standing dependency on coal, oil and other sources of energy which we now know only leave our beautiful state much depleted. Please ensure that we leave a better legacy to our children and grandchildren. Thank you.

Sincerely,
kerry krebill

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rod Jude <rjjude@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:24 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Rod Jude
48065 Gallatin Rd
Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Rod Jude

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Janice Buehler <wardgirl@bresnan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Janice Buehler
118 Crestline Dr.
Billings, MT 59105

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Janice Buehler

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: rick lewis <rickw.lewis@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

rick lewis
60 Antler Trl
Ennis, MT 59729-9189

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
rick lewis

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gil Jordan <ontherun@aboutmontana.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Gil Jordan
PO Box 130373
Coram, MT 59913

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

My wife and I urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Gil Jordan & Kimberly Pinter

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Chuck Daniels <ckd569@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Chuck Daniels
53A NorthStar Ave S
Str. Marie, MT 59231

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Chuck Daniels

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Robert Errichello <geartech@mt.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:54 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Robert Errichello
100 Bushbuck Rd
Townsend, MT 59644

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Robert Errichello

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jerome Saucier <jeromesaucier@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:04 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Jerome Saucier
3438 Floyd Drive
Cascade, MT 59421

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Jerome Saucier

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Chanda Lytton <chandal@blattnerenergy.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:04 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Chanda Lytton
1969 South 9th Road
Worden, MT 59088

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Chanda Lytton

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ralph Guay <ssash3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Ralph Guay
429 S. Sanders St.
Helena, MT 59601

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Ralph Guay

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gene Grifo <grgbobcat@wildblue.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Gene Grifo
765 Bobcat Lane
Hamilton, MT 59840-9537

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Gene Grifo

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Billy Angus <wizardofhamilton@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:25 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Billy Angus
604 North 2nd St.
Hamilton, MT 59840

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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The time for ending the status quo of the so-called "traditional", outdated dirty energy (coal, oil, and gas) development is NOW.

This is the 21st Century and it's time for every home and business to be equipped with solar energy panels wildlife-friendly wind turbines dotting the open landscape for our present energy needs now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Billy Angus

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dorothy Baker <dorothy.baker@yale.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:35 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Dorothy Baker
Red Barn Road
Great Falls, MT 59404

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

Our saying in Great Falls is "if you drop something just go to east side of town and look in the ditches".

There are few places that have the open space and wind that Montana offers. Keep the Big Sky a Big Blue Sky. Wind energy is the way to go.

I write to urge you to increase and extend Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Dorothy Baker

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Timothy Peterson <gallatingulper@usadig.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Timothy Peterson
1422 Wicks Lane
Billings, MT 59105

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Timothy Peterson

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dan Avery <dgavery@bresnan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Dan Avery
3445 Burlington St.
Butte, MT 59701

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Montana, the US and the world need to get away from dependence on fossil fuels for the good of life on earth!

Sincerely,
Dan Avery

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Stephen Zettel <zettelsm@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Stephen Zettel
642 Rawlings Rd
Libby, MT 59923

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Stephen Zettel

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: S. Wolf Britain <wolflegal@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 2:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

S. Wolf Britain
Post Office Box 4665
Whitefish, MT 59937-4665

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

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I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
S. Wolf Britain

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kristin Freeman <snicklefritzin43@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Kristin Freeman
1346 River Street
Missoula, MT 59801

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Kristin Freeman

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joan Daniels <wildwestwools@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:36 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Joan Daniels
192 grey eagle rd
Stevensville, MT 59870

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Joan Daniels

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kristine Osborn <jfcdobbs88@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:36 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Kristine Osborn
2222 Pueblo
Billings, MT 59102

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Kristine Osborn

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Phil Barutha <phil.barutha@mortenson.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Phil Barutha
2763 Trade Wind Lane
Bozeman, MT 59718

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Phil Barutha

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ann King <moxieking@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:47 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Ann King
PO Box 156
Busby, MT 59016

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Ann King

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ellen Sanford <esanford@q.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:57 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Ellen Sanford
1718 Tammany
Anaconda, MT 59711

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Ellen Sanford

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Richard Lamma <rick.lamma@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Richard Lamma
PO Box 817
Missoula, MT 59806

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Richard Lamma

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: william handsaker <wlhandsaker@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 4:37 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

william handsaker
1218 cougar drive
bozeman, MT 59718

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
william handsaker

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Cookie Agnew <cookiea@mtintouch.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 4:57 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Cookie Agnew
33 Reed Lane
Big Timber, MT 59011

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Cookie Agnew

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Carol Hanson <chanson44@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 5:27 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Carol Hanson
1552 Collar Gulch Rd
Lewistown, MT 59457

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Carol Hanson

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jason Schmidt <jason@capphanes.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 5:48 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Jason Schmidt
5497 Mojave Ct
Helena, MT 59602

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Jason Schmidt

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Roberta McCanse <robertamcc8@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 5:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Roberta McCanse
270 Indian Pipe Rd
Libby, MT 59923

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Roberta McCanse

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jennifer Johnson <curgandjen@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 5:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Jennifer Johnson
4465 Robbie Lane
Billings, MT 59106

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Jennifer Johnson

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jean and Jack Atthowe <jean.atthowe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 6:08 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Jean and Jack Atthowe
730 South Sunset Bench Road
Stevensville, MT 59870

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Jean and Jack Atthowe

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tom Foolery <lazytf@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 6:28 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Tom Foolery
1 Ravin' Raven Rd.
Dillon, MT 59725

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Tom Foolery

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Norman Bishop <nabishop@q.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 6:38 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Norman Bishop
4898 Itana Circle
Bozeman, MT 59715

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Norman Bishop

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Virjeana Brown <jbrown89531@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 7:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Virjeana Brown
720 Northern Pacific Ave.
Belgrade, MT 59714

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Virjeana Brown

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Becky Grey <hik66gray@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 7:53 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

15% of energy must be derived from new clean energy projects by 2015. It is only good common sense todo so. Our c
children deserve this 15% clean energy by 2015. Becky Grey

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Erin Barb <ebarb80@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 8:19 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Erin Barb
404 E. Florence
Missoula, MT 59801

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Erin Barb

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Steve Martini <squashdoctor@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 9:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Steve Martini
255 White Pine
Kalispell, MT 59901

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Steve Martini

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Loretta Byrd <loretta.gerard.byrd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 9:54 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

Since 2005, Montana's renewable standard has spurred development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities from Fairfield to Baker.

Since 2005, Montana's RES has:

- Contributed to significant environmental and economic benefits across the state.
- Contributed nearly half a billion dollars in direct investment to Montana's economy.
- Created over 1,800 good paying jobs across the state.
- Shown that renewable energy projects are a good deal for consumers. The energy from Spion Kop and Judith Gap projects is some of the least expensive for NorthWestern Energy's customers.
- Helped clean up and diversify Montana's energy mix.
- Avoided over 4 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.
- Protected Montana's water quality because renewable energy emits zero pollutants into our drinking water.

In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Loretta Byrd
loretta.gerard.byrd@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Stan Rose <rosetanle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Stan Rose
1440 Mountain View Dr
Missoula, MT 59802

June 24, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Stan Rose

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Steve Mcarthur <Stevemcarthur@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:10 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Steve Mcarthur
3406 West Central Ave.
Missoula, MT 59804

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Steve Mcarthur

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ken McGraw <kdmcgraw0919@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:10 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Ken McGraw
2509 1st Ave S
Great Falls, MT 59401

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

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Sincerely,
Ken McGraw

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Monica Grable <hpacdirector@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:10 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Monica Grable
520 South 2nd Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Monica Grable

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lilyana Srnoguy <smlilyana@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 12:20 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Lilyana Srnoguy
2124 Rouse Ave. #1 0
Bozeman, MT 59715

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Lilyana Srnoguy

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Randall <jrandall588@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 2:41 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

John Randall
704 14th. St. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
John Randall

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Donald DeLauder <ddelauder@bresnan.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 3:41 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Donald DeLauder
116 Central Ave.
Hamilton, MT 59840

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Donald DeLauder

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Clinton Sennett <jimjsennett@aim.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 5:31 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Clinton Sennett
1430 Joyland Road
Lewistown, MT 59457

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Clinton Sennett

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Robin Powell <poitra.powell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 7:01 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Robin Powell
6 N 7th Street
Miles City, MT 59301

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

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Sincerely,
Robin Powell

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dorie Green <dorie_green@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 7:42 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Dorie Green
4050 W. Babcock #5
Bozeman, MT 59718

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

Thank you for accepting my comment.

Montana should become a leader in new, renewable resources, and that is why I am writing to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Dorie Green

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: john Linstrom <john.linstrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:03 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

john Linstrom
28917 Lost Quartz Rd
Polson, MT 59860

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
john Linstrom

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Vicky Crampton <Ranchosanmiguel@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:13 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Vicky Crampton
5891 sypes Canyon rd
Bozeman, MT 597159379

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Vicky Crampton

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dick Thweatt <thweatt@q.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:15 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

Dear Ms. Nowkowski,

I think continued support for renewable energy is essential and economically sound policy. I question the wisdom of continuing to sink ratepayer's money into fixing worn out and obsolete power generation facilities. It is time for Montana to transition to clean, renewable sources of energy, which Montana has in abundance.

Public investment in hydropower generation facilities like Grande Coulee Dam and others in the 1930s were viewed by some as wasteful at the time. But these facilities are now fundamental to the economy of the pacific northwest and the nation. We should have the foresight to invest in renewable energy by continuing the renewable energy standards.

I was not able to access the draft report on-line this morning (June 25). But I hope it clearly points out the conclusions of the National Academies of Science and the vast majority of climate scientists that climate change is occurring in large part as a result of the use of fossil fuels for generation of electricity, and that climate change is already having adverse economic impacts on Montana and the entire world, and that these changes will accelerate unless we begin the transition to renewable energy sources now. The economic costs of climate change cannot be denied or ignored and must be evaluated along side of the economic effects of the RES.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dick Thweatt
36 Harrison Avenue
Helena MT 59601



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Robert Fitzgerald <rob9fitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:23 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Robert Fitzgerald
100 4th Street East
Whitefish, MT 59937

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Robert Fitzgerald

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Nancy Carrel <jncarrel@rangeweb.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:25 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

We are strongly in favor of any legislation or action that promotes clean, renewable energy.
Please make strong recommendations in that regard.

Sincerely,
Nancy Carrel
29 Red Bluff Loop
Birney, MT 59012

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Frances Stewart <frances.m.stewart@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:31 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

Dear ETI Committee,

I am writing in strong support of increasing Montana's RES as an important first step in looking toward the future and protecting our quality of life here in Montana. The success of the RES so far, as well as the failure of NorthWestern Energy's coal and natural gas infrastructure should make your decision crystal clear. Please consider the people of Montana and not the profits of large energy companies when making your decision. We have entrusted you with the important responsibility of protecting Montana and our people. Please agree to increase the RES.

Sincerely,

Frances Stewart, Park County landowner
15 9th St. Island Dr.
Livingston, MT 59047

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Richard Ruth <richardruth369@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:33 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Richard Ruth
163 8th Ave West North
Kalispell, MT 59901-3821

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Richard Ruth

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dick Forehand <basecampimages@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 9:39 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Please accept my comments.

1. **Community renewable energy projects are good for our rural economy and the ratepayer.** When the legislature passed the law in 2005, it included a provision that at least some of the new power acquired to meet the standard had to come from small, locally owned projects. These projects have brought real tangible benefits to small communities, like Martinsdale, in the form of job creation, capital investment, and tax revenue.[\[1\]](#) The provision also makes sure that the benefits of new generation are not concentrated in just one county or with one landowner. Community scale projects spread the investment across the state of Montana. Lastly, they fall under the same cost-cap provision as any other resource to meet the standard. Contrary to the utilities' claims, these projects are not hurting the ratepayer.
2. **Don't cook the data to meet political objectives.** Some dirty energy lobbyists and their allies on the committee want to exclude portions of the data to substantiate their false claims that the sky is falling. The Judith Gap wind farm is clearly being used by Northwestern Energy to meet the standard's requirements and therefore the **benefits** of that project should be considered in the report, not just the cost. Tell the committee members to use all of the data before coming to conclusions, including the Judith Gap wind farm.
3. **The facts speak for themselves – there has been no substantive increase to rates associated with the standard.** The Montana Consumer Counsel analyzed the impact the RES has had on Montana's ratepayers and found that the law "...has had relatively minimal rate impact on (customers)." Despite the rhetoric that we have been hearing for years, the acquisition of new clean energy resources has not increased your utility bills. The facts speak for themselves: energy from Northwestern Energy's Spion Kop wind project is the cheapest energy in the utility's energy mix.[\[2\]](#) The committee needs to be consistent with the facts and find that the impact to Montana customers as a result of the RES has been negligible.

Thank you, Dick Forehand, Box 1632, Red Lodge, MT 59068.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kathy Sinnott <kesinnott@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 10:02 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standard

Dear members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,
I am writing to urge you to support the Renewable Energy Standard.
We need to continue investing in Montana's growing clean energy economy and increase the RES.
Community renewable energy projects have been good for the rural economy and the ratepayer.
The benefits of the Judith Gap wind farm (not just the costs) should be considered in your report.
Energy from NWE's Spion Kop wind project is the cheapest energy in the utility's energy mix.
The committee needs to be consistent with the facts.
There has been no substantive increase to rates associated with the RES.
Thank you,
Kathy Sinnott
PO Box 1112
Big Timber, Montana 59011-1112

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Terry Long <terryl@intergate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 10:24 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Terry Long
218 Ridgeway Drive
Lolo, MT 59847-9608

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Terry Long

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gregg and Wendy Wheeler <westernwheelers@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 11:40 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standards

Ms. Nowakowski:

I'm delighted that the Montana legislature had the wisdom to pass the Renewable Energy Standards in 2005. They should be considered just a beginning and be strengthened, not weakened, to provide economic growth and positive impact on local communities. Wind energy is generating inexpensive electricity and isn't increasing rates -- let's do more!

I hope the ETIC leads the way for the next legislature to adopt even stronger standards.

Wendy Wheeler
1716 Highland St.
Helena, MT 59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Betty Whiting <bettywhiting@bresnan.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 11:49 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standard

Dear Ms. Nowakowski,

Please extend my encouragement for increasing the Renewables to the Energy package to the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee. Montana is blessed with clear, blue skies, and plenty of wind. Even geothermals in part of the state. Increasing these activities will create more jobs and keep Montana (and the rest of the earth) clean.

Sincerely,

Betty Whiting
925 Burlington Avenue
Billings, MT 59101

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Cindy Williams <cabingrammy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 7:02 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Cindy Williams
49052 LMR Rd.
Proctor, MT 59929

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Cindy Williams

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: carl clark <ccarlrn@juno.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:02 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

carl clark
604 34 Ave NE
Great Falls, MT 59404

June 25, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
carl clark

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: lynbobhilten@att.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:03 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Sirs:

To not encourage the further development of renewable energy sources when they are available is ridiculous. The reduction in greenhouse gasses alone is worth the investment in our own future. I personally have seen the effects of global warming on the Greenland ice cap in my own lifetime. We cannot continue to utilize fossil fuels because an industry holds the political reins. The issue is global and has far reaching devastating results way past Montana's borders. I have seen what the coal pollution is doing in China because I have been there many times. We in Montana breathe the same air. It is time to change what we do in energy production. Make Montana a leading force for good, not a foot dragging follower of the politically expedient. Please represent the people of this state for the long term not the short term profit motives of the big energy producers of this state!!! Look last the short term for all our futures.

Bob Hilten

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Vant Hull <maryvanthull@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:32 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS legislation
Attachments: Dear Senator Larsen.docx

Dear Sonya, I am sure you are a very important part of seeing that things go along as smoothly as possible in the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Subcommittee, 63rd Montana Legislature, so I want you to have the attached letter which I sent, individually addressed, to each member of the subcommittee. Thank you for your efficient and good handling of all the matters you are responsible for.

Sincerely, Mary Vant Hull, 416 E. Story, Bozeman 5715, 406-404-1869.

Dear Senator Larsen,

As a member of the League of Women Voters, I'm hoping very much that you will help your Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee support the current Montana Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as well as the hoped-for 2015 increases in total energy produced from renewable resources.

We Montanans live in a more beautiful & placid place than many people in the rest of the country & all around the world, but we have an obligation as human beings to help protect our entire world from the effects of climate change.

Furthermore, renewable energy is being embraced by the smartest financial people in the country as well as "normal" people like you & me. If you've seen the June 19 issue of TIME magazine, there's an up-to-date feature article that points out with facts & figures that sustainables are now about to take off as being cheaper & more efficient than the old, dirty coal & oil industries.

For example, the article details that in the state of Georgia – a very conservative state – conservative Republicans on its utilities commission have made it the nation's fastest-growing solar state. And that same thing is happening in North Carolina & Idaho, with so many more to come.

Also as TIME says, "Wall Street behemoths like Bank of America and Goldman Sachs are pouring cash into rooftop solar, as are giant corporations like Walmart and Google,".

Sustainables are the wave of the future.

Thank you.

Mary B. Vant Hull, 416 E. Story, Bozeman 59715, 406-404-1869

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Nellieisrael@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 11:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: comment

Dear Sirs,

Keep investing in Montana's growing clean energy economy and increase the Renewable Energy Standard. Community renewable energy projects are good for our rural economy and the ratepayer. Don't cook the data to meet political objectives. The facts speak for themselves--there has been no substantive increase to rates associated with the standard. Please remember the impact on Montana's economy, environment, and energy customers.

Sincerely,

Nellie Israel
PO Box 76
Joliet, Mt 59041
406-962-3530

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lana & Charles Sangmeister <lcsangmeister@nemont.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 7:52 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: I support increasing Montana Renewable Energy Standard!

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

I recommend that the next Legislature invest in Montana's renewable energy economy by at least doubling the state's renewable energy standard. Here's why -

1. **Community renewable energy projects are good for our rural economy and the ratepayer.** When the legislature passed the law in 2005, it included a provision that at least some of the new power acquired to meet the standard had to come from small, locally owned projects. These projects have brought real tangible benefits to small communities, like Martinsdale, in the form of job creation, capital investment, and tax revenue.^[1] The provision also makes sure that the benefits of new generation are not concentrated in just one county or with one landowner. Community scale projects spread the investment across the state of Montana. Lastly, they fall under the same cost-cap provision as any other resource to meet the standard. Contrary to the utilities' claims, these projects are not hurting the ratepayer.
2. **Don't cook the data to meet political objectives.** Some dirty energy lobbyists and their allies on the committee want to exclude portions of the data to substantiate their false claims that the sky is falling. The Judith Gap wind farm is clearly being used by Northwestern Energy to meet the standard's requirements and therefore the **benefits** of that project should be considered in the report, not just the cost. Tell the committee members to use all of the data before coming to conclusions, including the Judith Gap wind farm.
3. **The facts speak for themselves – there has been no substantive increase to rates associated with the standard.** The Montana Consumer Counsel analyzed the impact the RES has had on Montana's ratepayers and found that the law "...has had relatively minimal rate impact on (customers)." Despite the rhetoric that we have been hearing for years, the acquisition of new clean energy resources has not increased your utility bills. The facts speak for themselves: energy from Northwestern Energy's Spion Kop wind project is the cheapest energy in the utility's energy mix.^[2] The committee needs to be consistent with the facts and find that the impact to Montana customers as a result of the RES has been negligible.

^[1] A study from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory showed that two 20 megawatt locally owned wind farms resulted in three times more local income than one 40 megawatt outside owned wind farm.

^[2] "Northwestern Energy Residential Rates and Electricity Supply." Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) June 2013.

Lana Sangmeister

Nye, MT

406-328-4843

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: arlo and darlene <askari@3riversdbs.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 8:58 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RES

Ms. Snowakowski,

I will make this message short, I and my wife are telling you and others in authority that the RES must be increased. It is more and more apparent that Climate Change is happening and we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. I have just read in the GF Tribune (6-25-14) an article about a bipartisan report by a coalition of financial leaders, both Republican and Democrat—Henry Paulson, Michael Bloomberg, George Schultz, Robert Rubin and others. I and my wife are farmers in north-central MT and we have noticed a change in the last 60 years pertaining to weather. It is warmer. We are harvesting apples up to the first of October.

Thanks for listening,
Arlo & Darlene Skari
Chester, MT 59522

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Verne House <house.vw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 9:52 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonja Nowakowski

ETIC staff

snowakowski@mt.gov

Subject: RPS

Montana, a state where energy production is an important part of the economy, should move aggressively to expand its production and use of alternative energy sources. Contradictory? Not at all. It simply makes good business sense. Bone fide Republican Charles Paulson, Bush's former Secretary of the Treasury, made this point in articles and interviews with the Wall Street Journal this week (<http://online.wsj.com/articles/risky-business-report-aims-to-frame-climate-change-as-economic-issue-1403578637>). He urged fellow Republicans to recognize that climate change demands business models that anticipate the risks of to businesses and whole economies. Develop / adopt alternative energies, his group says, and adopt policies that support these business models, specifically he said we should adopt a carbon tax and stop subsidies to carbon-based energy. This comes from a business perspective. As an economist specialized in resource development, I agree with his recommendations.

What does this mean for Montana? Montana's economy needs to diversify its energy "portfolio" from carbon-based fuels. Either this stuff (coal and oil) is on the way out or we are. Montana Legislature's Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee can encourage this diversification by expanding support for alternative energies. I suggest these priorities, crediting my readings of research done by Rocky Mountain Institute and the National Energy Lab: 1) Conservation has the largest payoff. 2) Solar next, because it can be installed close to consumers. (I have 2K PVC on my roof, silently working its magic, thanks to last year's subsidies.) 3) Wind is only third best because it requires remote sites so there is transmission loss. Nuclear is so expensive it should not be built and there is no nuclear waste system. Hydro sites have been built out. 4) New PV technology is being developed -- solar magnifiers and more efficient lights and such -- and ETIC should support R&D, too.

"It is a dumb bird that messes in its own nest," is an old saying. Montana's energy nest is full of dirty fracking water and toxic drilling wastes. It spills out onto the landscape, in the aquifers and over eastern Montana towns. Coal and oil interests would have us believe they are not subsidized, and

that they cannot afford to help Montana communities cope with the boomtown problems or clean up fracking water or properly dispose of drilling wastes. Irresponsible is the kindest word I can think of. The nest is ugly. Please direct ETIC staff to sharpen it pencils and calculate what is good for Montana's economy, Montana's communities and Montana's people. ETIC does not need to watch out for coal and oil. It will do a good job of that itself. ETIC will serve us well if it encourages expansion of alternative energies. Please, for the common good, do that.

Respectfully submitted,

Verne W House, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Applied Economics & Statistics

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Chris Callahan <chris.leather.callahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:26 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Chris Callahan
1409 fox street
bozeman, MT 59715

June 26, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Chris Callahan

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Stuart <stushe@hughes.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:52 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

We support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. Electric cooperatives are an essential part of Montana and her people, especially those in rural areas.

Thank you.
Stuart & Sheila McCalmont

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mark Johnson <mcjohnso123@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:52 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS - VOTE "NO" TO CHANGES

Importance: High

It is important that there be no changes to the existing RPS. Electric rates are already rising at a pace that is too high for many Montanans to afford. My electric cooperative receives over 95% of its energy from low-cost federal hydropower, so to mandate replacing an existing, low-cost, carbon-free resource with an intermittent resource that is not baseload generation, costs 2-3 times as much, and creates operational problems on the transmission system does not make any sense.

Please inform the Interim Committee to vote "NO" on any changes to the existing RPS.

Thanks,
Mark Johnson

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Theresa Haynie <thaynie@mcelec.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:00 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Ms. Nowakowski,

I support the **existing** RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Yours truly,

Theresa Haynie

Office Manager
McCone Electric Co-op., Inc.
110 Main Street
PO Box 368
Circle, MT 59215
Phone: 406-485-3430 or 1-800-684-3605
Email: thaynie@mcelec.coop

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Patty <pattym@midrivers.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:52 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

We support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thank You,

Richard & Patricia Malcom
Goldenwest Electric Cooperative Member
414 Big Hill Rd
Baker, MT 59313

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Barbara Harris <barb.harris@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:57 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable energy

Please forward to members of the Interim Energy and Telecommunications Committee. Thank you.

Subject: Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear member of the Interim Energy and Telecommunications Committee:

Please support the current Montana Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as well as anticipated increases in the percentage of total energy produced from renewable resources.

I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Montana who "support the development of clean and renewable energy resources and support increasing transition from fossil fuel dependence to reliance on renewable energy resources."

League members recently reviewed the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee Renewable Rewards and Risks - Draft Report which reinforced our support for transitioning from fossil fuel to renewable energy resources as quickly as possible. We are aware of the challenges faced by utility companies in seeking the most efficient and cost effective means of supplying energy to consumers. We are convinced that when environmental costs are considered in the equation, renewables are, by far, the most efficient and cost-effective energy source.

We appreciate and strongly support the actions taken by Montana legislators over the past decade to encourage development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects through RPS legislation;

We recognize and support the significant tax revenues and economic development in communities with new renewable energy projects

We recognize and support independent efforts by utility companies to include renewable energy in their strategic plans.

We believe that regulatory requirements are necessary to overcome a natural resistance to change and to address the unmeasured value of a clean environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Harris

712 Touchstone Drive

Helena, Montana 59601

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Phyllis Anderson <pwandrsn@centurytel.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:58 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Sonja,

This is in regard to the RPS rules under consideration now. I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. The Electric Cooperatives and their rates are critical to many of Montana's citizens.

Thank you for your help on this.

Phyllis Anderson
pwandrsn@centurytel.net



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Susann Beug <ssbeug@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:59 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

The current renewable energy standard has had a positive impact on our state. It should be continued and expanded into the future for the following reasons:

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Susan Thraen <susan.thraen.mec@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:00 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Proposed RPS legislative changes

As a Trustee for Missoula Electric Cooperative, I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives and respectively request that the standard NOT be revised at this time.

Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS because:

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Respectfully,

Ms. Susan Thraen, trustee
Missoula Electric Coop

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Judith Adrian <judieadrian@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:07 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Judith Adrian
6006 Mainview Dr
Missoula, MT 59803

June 26, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Judith Adrian

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Georgia Chinadle <agchinadle@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:08 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

We support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Allen and Georgia Chinadle
10970 Hingham Rd N
Hingham, Mt. 59528

agchinadle@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

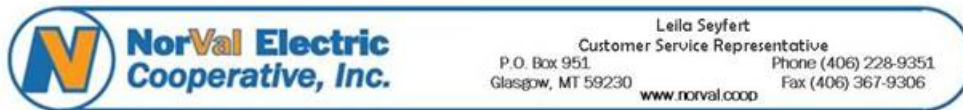
From: Leila Seyfert <leila@norval.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:09 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Sonja,

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. I urge the committee to reconsider any changes to the existing program.

Sincerely,

Leila Seyfert



Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rita Williams <rwilliams@seecoop.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:13 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Ms. Nowakowski:

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thank you.

Rita

Rita M Williams
Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc
Ekalaka, MT 59324
rwilliams@seecoop.com
406-775-8761

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Scott Westlund <swestlund@sheridanelectric.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:22 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I fully support the RPS as it is. **I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.**

Scott Westlund

*Manager of Marketing and Member Services
Sheridan Electric Cooperative
Medicine Lake Montana, 59247
Phone 406-789-2231
Cell 406-765-7080
Fax 406-789-2234*

"Everyone tries to define this thing called Character. It's not hard. Character is doing what's right when nobody's looking". --J.C. Watts--

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ethel Macdonald <ethelmacd@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:27 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Ethel Macdonald
316 West Central Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801

June 26, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Ethel Macdonald

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Norm & Michelle Tebay <normike@tebayranch.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:31 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

As a director on the Vigilante Electric Co-op board, and a consumer as well, I find it not to be in the best interest to increase the RPS standards for the co-ops. We already have the greatest renewable power with our provider (BPA) providing clean hydro to our members.

Adding new renewables would only raise the rates to our members, and we must remember that renewables such as wind and solar require a firm power source to come on line when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Many co-ops have chosen to purchase additional renewable energy, and continue to do so. Vigilante has done this in the past and offered to our members as a choice, but even those Federal agencies who were required to purchase those "renewables" would not sign up as we had to charge one cent more for that energy.

Please consider these points when thinking it to be beneficial to increase the RPS.

Norman Tebay
Director
Vigilante Electric Co-op

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lou and Betsy <betsatthebend@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:43 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Consumer Input Re: Expansion of Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Sonja,

As customers of Flathead Electric Cooperative, we have appreciated the ongoing diligence of the FEC board and leadership in keeping energy costs as low as possible. Especially as retirees living on fixed income, energy costs are extremely important to us. With costs continuing to rise every other year or so from major suppliers such as Bonneville, we simply cannot afford to see another expansion of renewable energy charges on top of what we are already absorbing.

We urge your support of Montana Electrical Co-ops continued ability to purchase low cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower. We must ensure that the member-owners do not absorb, in addition to already rising costs, expanding increases as the result of the need to meet a mandate to purchase more costly renewable energy. Enough is enough ! Co-ops west of the divide such as Flathead Electric are already making a 90% buy of renewable hydropower!

Your consideration of consumer and operational concerns on this issue are very much appreciated. We urge your defeat of RPS.

Sincerely,
Lou and Betsy Platt

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rick Knick <rknick@sheridanelectric.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:44 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Committee,

Please consider leaving the Renewable Portfolio Standards in their present form. Electric co-ops such as Sheridan Electric are doing everything we can afford to do in regards to using renewable energies in our energy portfolio. In our current energy mix, we have 15% wind/waste heat recovery/solar and 18% federal hydro. Our carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource energy mix is over 30% which is well above the national average. Co-ops in the state of Montana have been innovative and proactive on this issue because our Members demand it. The RPS has worked well in the past and we believe it will work well going into the future.

Thank you for your time,
Rick Knick
General Manager, Sheridan Electric Co-op
Medicine Lake, Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Susann Beug <ssbeug@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:45 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

The states current renewable energy standards have had a positive impact on our state. These standards should remain in place and be expanded into the future for the following reasons:

---Provide jobs in local communities throughout the state. Less stress on local infrastructure than current oil and gas development.

Better quality of life within communities, more sense of community.

---Generation of electricity closer to home makes our state less vulnerable to events such as weather in other parts of the country

which can disrupt our power supply. Also less impacted by world events.

---Use of renewable energy makes us less vulnerable to wild market fluctuations in the cost of fossil fuels which are common with these energy sources. For the most part the fuel for renewable energy is free!

---Although the initial cost of implementing the use of renewable energy may be higher the long term costs are comparable to fossil

fuels without the environmental impact.

---The impact of obtaining energy from nonrenewable sources (fossil fuels) on our environment must be recognized and dealt with

sooner rather than later. Expanding sources and volume of renewable energy is one way to address this issue

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Marj Cunningham <marj@rangeweb.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:50 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Marj Cunningham, Office Manager
Mid-Yellowstone Electric
203 Elliott Avenue
P.O. Box 386
Hysham, MT 59038
406-342-5521
marj@rangeweb.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Stephanie Wallace <sawallace31@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:53 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee Members,

It has come to my attention that you are considering the expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements for the 2015 Legislative session.

Please do not put unnecessary pressure on electric cooperatives and my electric cooperative in particular to purchase larger amounts of higher cost renewable energy. My not-for-profit Cooperative is doing their best to keep my community's electricity reliable and affordable and already strives to add renewables into their existing portfolio when it makes sense both from a reliability and financial perspective. They don't want to place undue financial hardship on their member-owners or displace their already cost effective hydro power which is clean and cost effective!

Unnecessary mandates will force cooperatives to purchase new renewable energy which is generally much higher priced. The Board of our cooperative does their due diligence on every project proposal that comes before them in order to make sure it is in the best interests of the members of the cooperative, the community, and the environment. It should be up to the individual cooperatives and their respective boards and employees to make these critical financial decisions to voluntarily purchase additional renewables when it makes financial sense to do so.

And they have. In addition to our clean federal hydro power, my cooperative partnered with the county landfill to build the state's first gas to energy production resource. They also partnered with the city of Whitefish on a hydro facility and a local timber company on a biomass energy production project. These actions speak clearly to their commitment to renewables when properly vetted and financially sound. To ask them to do more and displace the primary, cost effective hydro power would cause many residents who continue to struggle economically a great deal of hardship.

Please help keep electricity affordable in Montana and DO NOT expand the current Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wallace
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member and Supporter

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jim Maunder <jmaunder@ravallielectric.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: I Support the Current Montana State Renewable Portfolio Standard As it Is.
Attachments: IMG_8716_2.JPG; IMG_7628.JPG

Good morning Sonja,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I've been an Energy Specialist for more than 29 years. I've worked for the State of Montana and 2 rural electric cooperatives in western Montana. I'm deeply concerned about keeping rural Montana electric rates affordable and keeping the current RPS will help ensure they will remain low well into future. My electric co-op purchases renewable, clean, carbon free Hydro-electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration. 84% of our power supply is clean hydro with another 1% renewable wind. The remaining mix is 10% from the Columbia Generating Station (nuclear plant) and non-specified purchases.

A recent press release from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) indicated that Energy Efficiency (EE) is the cheapest resource for our nation's electric utilities (<http://aceee.org/research-report/u1402>). REC has been involved in Energy Efficiency since 1979. We have programs that we offer our members to help make their homes and farms more energy efficient. Our EE programs not only save our members money each month and they are all cost effective usually paying for themselves in under 10 years.

Renewable energy is more expensive than our current hydro-based supply and it must be firmed with another resource. REC has supported the current RPS by offering our members the ability to net-meter alternative renewable systems. We currently have 13 net-metered solar systems on our lines. We even offer them a yearly "true up" starting on April 1 – March 30 of the following year. What we've found is our distribution system acts as battery for the net-metered system meaning in the course of the year the homes use all the electricity they generate and more. Not one of the systems has a positive balance at the end of the net-metered year. In fact a few systems are using more electricity after they've installed a solar system than they used prior. (REC monitors all of your net-metered systems to see what they actually send back.)

We would highly recommend the Telecommunications Committee require all new renewable energy systems be required to monitor their generation output on the consumers side!!) This would provide valuable information to suppliers, utilities and the legislature on how well renewable systems work in Montana. The data collected would show how viable and reliable these renewable systems are our Montana environment!

In addition, we've seen systems that were installed facing East instead of South. This means they might generate electricity in the summer months but in the winter when the sun is low on the horizon the members system generates very little electricity. And winter is when any utility including REC would benefit from having a renewable system installed. We've also observed systems that were installed on the roofs of our member's homes that are covered in snow because of the shallow angle of the roof so they generate very little electricity in the winter as well. We've attached a couple photos for your review.

We hope you'll see that REC is doing their part to offer our members carbon free cost effective electricity. We encourage you to keep the current RPS in place. Our members would see a significant rate increase if we are mandated to purchase higher cost renewable energy. Feel free to contact us if you have questions or would like more information.

Thank you.

Jim Maunder
Manager of Member Services
Ravalli Electric Co-op
jmaunder@ravallielectric.com

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Nowakowski, Sonja

From: D.Braaten@flathead.coop
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:08 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. Thank you Duane Braaten

Sent from my iPhone

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bob Bailey <bailey59828@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:12 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support current RPS

Sonja, I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Bob Bailey
Director
Ravalli Electric Co-op

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Barb Sherrard <bsws770@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:13 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Supporting existing RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Barbara Sherrard
bsws770@gmail.com
Bigfork, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kevin R Frost <kevin.frost@farmersinsurance.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:16 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Montana RPS

I understand that an interim committee of the Legislature is studying whether to change or expand Montana's law requiring the purchase of renewable energy. We currently receive 90+% renewable, hydro power through Ravalli Electric via Bonneville Power. If Ravalli Electric is forced to purchase more expensive, wind or solar power rather than the current lower cost hydro power, it will drive our rates up. I obviously do not want this.

Kevin Frost
(406) 961-5513 Office
(406) 880-3053 Mobile

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Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Daniel OConnell <dko@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Sir,

I have been researching the RPS issue in detail. Many states exempt rural electric cooperatives for good reason. Montana should be no different. Also, we **support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.**

When renewable cost decrease, this will be incentive for cooperative to increase their RPS past 15%.

Sincerely,
Dan and Val O'Connell
PO Box 77
Emigrant, MT. 59027

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bob Lee <bobl@ravallielectric.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:32 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Cc: Kathy Lee; Bob Lee
Subject: RPS

Support for the Current Renewable Portfolio Standard.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to show my support for the Current Montana Renewable Portfolio Standard. The current standard protects the reliability and affordability of the power I purchase from my electric Cooperative.

The current standard also allows our Cooperative to purchase affordable, clean hydro power that we all can rely on. Most Cooperatives do voluntarily purchase other forms of renewable power as a part of their power portfolio. Why force them to buy more of an inferior product at a higher rate?

Members of a Montana Electric Cooperative typically live in sparsely populated areas of the State. Forcing our Cooperative to purchase more alternative power will artificially raise our rates as they are forced to pass these costs on.

Non firm "clean power" as some call it, has to be firmed up with more costly forms of power from the spot market. Why buy these less environmentally friendly forms if you don't need them?

These so called "clean power" alternatives are beginning to show their true nature in the form of manufacturing pollution and environmental damage to our lands, wild animals and birds.

We choose to live and play in Montana, we choose to be members of our Local Montana Electric Cooperative. Why wouldn't we want to keep our choice of clean affordable hydro power?

Please keep the current Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Respectfully,

*Bob and Kathy Lee
487 Hudson Lane
Victor, Montana 59875*

bobkatmt@bridgemail.com
bobl@ravallielectric.com
kathylee557@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: P G <paulgaffney1000@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Attn: Legislative Energy Committee

This is not a knee-jerk form letter, but rather a response from a concerned 17 year Park Electric Co-Op member, who can also recall when our Gallatin County family ranch first turned the Lights On in 1948. I support the existing RPS ,so as not to jeopardize the reliable and affordable electric power currently supplied by Electric Co-ops. Statistics reveal that Montana Co-Ops, East of the continental divide currently receive 15-60% of their Electric Power from Hydro and Wind. Guess what Folks , the balance of our required energy is obtained via Coal, which is both abundant and less expensive.

Obviously we have to pursue all energy options (Fossil, Hydro, Wind and Solar) in the future, however anyone suggesting that we eliminate Coal Power in the near future is either a fool or very naïve.

Regards,

Paul J. Gaffney

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Heppner Cabinets <hep_cab@nemont.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:55 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Sonja,

Just wanted to send you a note that my family and I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Requiring our coop to purchase the more expensive renewable energy would only further raise our rates which we are already struggling with.

Thanks,

Kerrey Heppner

Sheridan Electric Coop-member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mark Grotbo <mgrotbo@ravallielectric.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:56 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support the existing RPS standard

Dear Ms. Snowakowski,

Ravalli County Electric Cooperative presently purchases 100% of our energy needs from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). 85% of that energy we purchase from BPA is being generated by Hydro which we consider renewable. Over the past several years there has been a substantial amount of wind generation installed within BPA's balancing area. The amount of wind generation has been such that on several occasions there has been an oversupply of energy within the region. As renewables are not dispatchable, during high water and high wind and low demand times, with the recent court case, Ravalli Electric Members will now see an increase in their rates to pay the wind generators "not" to produce. Why would we want to further incentivize additional generation that is not dispatchable when there is not a demand for the energy. Changing the RPS will cause our reliability to decrease in our area and the rates the member pays to increase.

Having just previously moved from Shelby, MT and experiencing the two recent wind farms in that area, there is only an initial boost to the economy for a 6-9 month period with very few overall lasting jobs. Also when you factor in the discounted tax rates the counties have given, the net economic increase is not that great if considered against an increase in the RPS. Please weigh these factors when considering the true costs of installing or forcing the installations of renewable resources. If this is strictly for economic growth then put a tax on all Montanans in place to subsidize these installations and call it such. Please do not penalize my Members when those who profit are predominately foreign entities and corporations.

I'm asking to please leave the current state RPS as it presently exists. With the technology that exists today, renewables in a non-growth energy market are not needed.

As the Cooperatives are owned by the members, we have proven that we will install and implement efficiency, conservation and renewables when they make sense. Please leave this to local control and don't force a subsidy to a large corporation who hope to take advantage of the tax incentives and accelerated depreciation when their product is not needed. Thank you for your consideration.

**Sincerely,
Mark S. Grotbo
General Manager
Ravalli County Electric Cooperative**

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Nowakowski, Sonja

From: D.Grob@flathead.coop
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 12:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS increase is unaffordable for many Montanans

Dear interim committee:

It is important that Montana's many electric co-ops not be subjected to purchase more "expensive NULL CAPACITY POWER resources. Montana's Co-ops serve many of Montana's lowest income members in the remotest and least dense areas of Montana. Furthermore, many Montana co-ops already furnish RENEWABLE HIGH CAPACITY HYDRO POWER. Though, not counted, HYDRO generation is in actuality far superior to all other "renewable generation resources by the fact it is capacity rich enough to back itself and even those other capacity null resources like wind or solar.

Where "the other renewable generators like wind and solar are valuable resources, they cannot compare to Hydro resources. Only HYDRO power can supply the needed capacity to KEEP THE LIGHTS ON at all times. In fact, much hydro today backs up the null capacity renewable resources like wind & solar, which can only generate when the wind blows and the sun shines. At minus 30 degrees at midnight, you cannot count on a NULL CAPACITY generation resource, but you can count on Hydro.

Lastly, many co-ops today would have to leave their affordable capacity rich hydro on the table for NULL CAPACITY resources which will need a carbon fired or nuclear fired resource in the background to supply the capacity those resources lack to provide a reliable grid. RELIANCE ON MORE NULL CAPACITY GENERATION, otherwise known as "renewable" or as wind or solar generation present great challenges in grid reliance in today's world.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment,

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Grob Kalispell, Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: CenturyLink Customer <hossbrown@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 1:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I am a member of our local electric cooperative here in Montana and I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by local electric cooperative. Thankyou Merlin Brown

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: ron trippet <trippetsprinting@mtdig.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 1:18 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonja,

I would like you to "support "the existing RPS.

I feel that it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

We do not need or want more costs for our Rural electric coop members of which I am.

Ron Trippet

RNT, Ltd, d/b/a

Trippet's Printing

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trippetsprinting@mtdig.net

Billing address:

P.O. Box 32

Zip 59903-0032

Founded 1933 by Frank and Olive Trippet

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: dhranch <dhranch@midrivers.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 1:50 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RSP

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

We support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Please help keep electricity affordable! Thank you! Ron and Ann Bouchard

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Diana White <foxy_horses@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 2:07 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Diana White
PO Box 822
Livingston, MT 59047

June 26, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

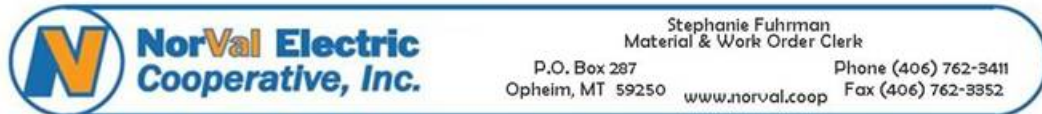
Sincerely,
Diana White

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Stephanie Fuhrman <stephanie@norval.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 2:25 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Portfolio Standard

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Thanks,



Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Sokoloski <gwec@midrivers.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 2:32 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonja,

I am writing this email in support of the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by Goldenwest Electric and other MT electric cooperatives.

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thank you,

John Sokoloski
Goldenwest Electric Coop
PO Box 177
Wibaux, MT 59353
406.796.2423
gwec@midrivers.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rollie Miller <rollie@vec.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 2:39 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Ms. Nowakowski:

This email is to relay my support of the existing RPS in Montana because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Electric Cooperatives support the current state RPS because:

- It helps protect Montana electric cooperative's ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.
- It ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy
- It preserves electric cooperative's ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy
- It recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.

Advancing the RPS would adversely affect those within our communities that cannot afford these higher cost alternatives by requiring them to pay a higher percentage of their disposable income on electricity purchases.

Thanks for your consideration!

Rollie Miller

Rollie R. Miller, PE
General Manager
Vigilante Electric Cooperative
PO Box 1049
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 683-2327
(406) 683-4328 Fax
(406) 925-1085 Mobile

This email, along with any accompanying documents, may contain confidential communications and information, and unless otherwise stated is not intended for further distribution or publication. If you believe you are not the intended recipient of this communication, please notify the sender and delete this email.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Larry Pankratz <roanwoodfarms@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 2:46 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja

Please do NOT mess with our power. We have enuf trouble keeping up with all the regs as it is.

Thank you.
Larry Pankratz

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Norman Hall <halltaxoffice@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 2:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear members of the Energy Committee,

I, in concert with Montana's Electric Cooperatives, support the current state Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the following reasons:

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thank you for the opportunity to hear from a Co-op member,

Norman L. Hall

Park County Electric member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ray Ellis <rellis@lincolnelectric.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Cc: Beckie Frediani
Subject: RPS

Dear Ms. Nowakowski:

It is my understanding that it is being recommended by some groups that the RPS standard which we currently use needs to be increased. Generally these proposals are brought forward by individuals or groups that do not fully understand the detrimental affects they have on the members of Rural Electric Cooperatives. Because of the remoteness of our territory and lack of service density our cost to serve our members is already very high and these proposals only exacerbate the problem. Lincoln Electric already receives over 80% of its energy from a renewable resource and forcing us to purchase other variable and high cost resources will affect our reliability and increase costs to those who can least afford it.

High unemployment and a low standard of living already stress a great many of our members and forcing them to subsidize large wind and solar corporations is not only wrong but an injustice! Please do not support any increase in the current RPS and help us to keep affordable energy available to the members of Lincoln Electric.

Please note that this is not a form letter and that it is written by someone who fully understands the ramifications of any proposed increase in the RPS on our members. Lincoln Electric's only reason to exist is to serve its members and look out after their welfare.

Thank you,

Sincerely

Ray

Ray Ellis
General Manager
Lincoln Electric Cooperative
406-889-3301

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Patrick Whitaker <pwwhitaker87@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:16 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

We support the existing RPS because it does not harm the affordability and reliability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Pat Whitaker , 754 Echo lake rd. Bigfork, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Debbie Biolo <debbiebski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:27 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to oppose any expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements that are under your consideration in the interim.

Increasing such requirements would affect the affordability of power to your Montana constituents, running up our utility costs in all aspects of our lives. It would also would compromise the reliability of our supply of electricity.

The current state RPS should remain as it is to avoid further financial hardship that many of your constituents are experiencing now. We cannot afford rate increases as a consequence of your actions.

Please put Montanan's needs in the forefront and protect us from utility rate increases and further financial hardship.

Respectfully,
Debbie Biolo

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Wendy Ostrom-Price <wendyostromprice@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:33 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Wendy Ostrom Price
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Matthew Clarke <mattclarkeit@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:53 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Changes

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Matthew D Clarke

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Linda Sedon <lsedonmt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS). Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Kenneth & Linda Sedon
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: ashley keltner <ashleykeltner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Ashley Keltner

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Rick Stevens <rstevens@itstriangle.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:59 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonya,

I understand that there has been considerable interest raised in the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS) as well as a desire to make changes to it. The following is why I support the statute as it currently stands.

Montana electric cooperatives purchase low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower. Individual cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource. The current statute allows those low cost purchases to continue without being disrupted by requiring them to be displaced by purchases from other renewable sources.

Electric cooperatives insulate their member-owners from significant rate increases by being able to purchase low cost hydro rather than being required to meet a mandate to purchase more expensive renewable energy. New, renewable energy is generally much more expensive than existing sources of energy.

Giving electric cooperatives the ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy is important. In addition to the hydro power being purchased, most of the co-ops east of the Montana continental divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.

It is important that we preserve the ability of electric cooperatives to be able to purchase lower-cost electricity for their rural Montana consumer/members to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power to sparsely populated, remote regions of the State. Hill County Electric Cooperative has less than one member per mile of power line to help pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively for all electric cooperatives, the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thank you for considering my concerns with changing the current RPS. Please let me know if you have questions.

Richard (Rick) Stevens

General Manager/CEO

Hill County Electric Cooperative / Triangle Communications
2121 Highway 2 W | PO Box 2330 | Havre MT 59501 | 1.877.394.7804
www.HillCountyElectric.coop | www.itsTriangle.com | rstevens@itsTriangle.net



Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Don Newton <mtelk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:59 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric.

Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Don Newton
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Lyle Phillips <filups@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives of which I am a member. This is no time to be raising the cost of energy to homes trying to recover from the recession. Renewable energy as prescribed is a farce and is not reliable energy sources. Stop the madness and continue the existing RPS.

Thanks You,

Lyle W. Phillips
2840 Rest Haven Drive
Whitefish, MT 59937

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: dan hybner <hybner@ttc-cmc.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:01 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Hi!

As a farmer-rancher in northern Montana I support the current RPS that allows our local co-op to purchase amounts of the renewable federal hydropower that make our power rates more affordable in rural Montana.
Thank you for your consideration.

Dan Hybner Rudyard, Montana 59540

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Nathan Jones <thetasigma@darkharp1.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana and stop the damn greenies from ruining trying to screw with our power!

Sincerely,

Nathan Jones
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: luanquilt@wispwest.net
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

To whom it may concern, We support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. Thank you very much..LuAn Peterson

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Gene McGlasson <gene@bythebook.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:07 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

We encourage the state of Montana to let the economy determine the use of green source electricity and not force the suppliers to use energy sources that increase the cost to their users.

Gene McGlasson
gene@bythebook.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Craig Eaton <ceaton@interbel.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:12 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Cc: ceaton@interbel.net
Subject: Renewable Portfolio Standard

June 26, 2014

Sonja Nowakowski, committee staffer.

Sonja

I am a member of Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Eureka, Montana. I am writing to support keeping the current State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for energy and to send a clear message to the State Energy Interim Committee to not add additional burdens to Montanans.

The following are some of the reasons to support the current RPS and that I take this position on a very serious issue facing rural electrical cooperatives.

- 1 Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower. Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
2. Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy. New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
3. Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy. Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
4. Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state. Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Sincerely,

Craig Eaton
PO Box 564
Eureka, MT 59917
406-253-0482

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Scott Dornfeld <smusic@midrivers.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:15 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Ms Nowakowski:

I am writing to express my disagreement with the proposed legislation requiring electric co-ops to purchase or provide renewable energy at a legislated level. We know that renewable energy(wind energy) is not very dependable when trying to put it into a power grid. I don't believe we should be penalized by higher prices for the sake of clean energy. Most co-ops already get a good portion of their power from hydroelectric sources, which is renewable. When any renewable resources become competitive with the marketplace and can be used more reliably, I would be all for it. Now, I believe, is not the time to force this on the consumers.

Sincerely,
Scott Dornfeld
Sidney, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Brice Hattel <bricehattel@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:17 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Hydro is self renewing and part of Flathead Electric Cooperative fees contribute to Fish Wildlife and Parks supporting projects that maintain water supply and environmental. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Brice Hattel

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tod and Debbie Young <ylittlefeet@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:18 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Tod Young
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Paul Watson <paul.watson.mt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:27 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Paul Watson

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joann Kizer <kizerjoann@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:35 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Joann L. Kizer

878 Hodgson Road

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kevin Hodik <kevinhodik@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:36 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hodik
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: William Spoja <spojalaw@midrivers.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:38 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Re RPS

It is my hope that we do not have an excessive RPS requirement for our cooperatives. Remember--our membership is so widely scattered in most coops that it is already difficult to keep power prices for the end consumers at a reasonable level.

Although I am not opposed to green energy per se, I think we need to be judicious about how we go about encouraging its use.

William A. Spoja, Jr.
PO Box 882
Lewistown, MT 59457

e-mail: spojalaw@midrivers.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dottie Maitland <travelindottie@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:41 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Home in Bigfork on Alpine Drive and resident of Montana where I hope common sense continues. We do not need to increase renewable energy. The cost would be extreme for rural areas and the so-called new forms of energy are more costly and less productive as we have seen time and time again. Keep common sense in our state and in our energy management. Vote against this increase that is now being marketed by green environmentalist who do not even resident in the state or use the energy or pay the taxes.

Sincerely,
Jim and Dorothy Maitland

Dottie Maitland CTP
439 Grand Avenue, Ste 107
Bigfork, Montana 59911-3614
Phone 406-249-5184
travelindottie@gmail.com
dottie@dottiemaitland.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: lastmiletech <lastmiletech@centurytel.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:45 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja; Wheelihan Dave
Subject: Just when the dust had settled....

....from the Primary Election season, and we felt a little relieved that all candidates agreed we had enough interference from Government in our private lives, we now hear your committee is interested in pushing for more intrusion into the way private citizens and their locally-owned and controlled electric cooperatives do business.

I am proud that my cooperative is invested heavily in generating renewable methane gas to energy from our local landfill. We generate from falling water on Whitefish's Big Mountain, we receive renewable energy from biofuels at the Stoltz Lumber Plant in Columbia Falls, we have researched thermal generation and have in place generous policies to encourage our members' wind and solar co-generation. Further, we buy Green Energy from Wind sources in North Dakota and Oregon.

This renewable energy costs our members many times the amount than our traditional hydropower, the cleanest, most cost-effective and dependable renewable available to Montanans.

Our energy users are not just "customers" but member-owners of our cooperative. They do a fine job of regulating us and have been generous in telling us their tolerance for increased bills brought about by adding renewables to our portfolio.

How about recognizing these efforts instead of saddling ratepayers and local self-governed businesses with more Government mandates.

Thanks for listening and good wishes in your deliberations.

Jay Downen
Whitefish
Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jarrod Palmer <jarhetann@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:48 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Jarrod M. Palmer

Your name

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dan Snellman <dan@vec.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 4:52 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I SUPPORT THE EXISTING RPS BECAUSE IT DOES NOT HARM THE RELIABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF POWER PROVIDED BY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ricky Kjos <rickykjos@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 5:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy, and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Ricky Kjos
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Tim Stephens <tstephens@parkelectric.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 5:04 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Ms. Nowakowski,

My name is Tim Stephens. I am the General Manager for Park Electric Cooperative in Livingston. I understand that the Renewable Portfolio Standard is being reviewed at this time by the interim energy committee. I want to extend my support for the current RPS without any changes. The current standard does a very good job of allowing the electrical cooperatives the ability to provide affordable energy to the rural areas of our state.

As a member of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative over 60% of our energy currently comes from a very good renewable source, the federal hydroelectric dams. We also allow our members who wish to produce their own renewable energy to connect to our lines. To require the electric coops in Montana to purchase high priced renewable energy would only do harm to the people of Montana who live and work in the residences, farms and ranches we serve. We consider our existing power supply to have some of the cleanest and most cost effective energy around.

Thank you for taking time to read this.

Tim Stephens
General Manager
Park Electric Cooperative
5706 Highway 89 South
P.O. Box 1119
Livingston, MT 59047
Office 406-222-3100

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Sonja Arnston <sarnston@mcelec.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 5:21 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Sonja Arnston

McCone Electric Co-op, Inc.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Pat and Bill Kamrath <bpkamrath@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 5:20 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: SUPPORT FOR RPS!

Attention: Sonja Nowakowski

We SUPPORT the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric co-operatives. Go co-ops!

Patricia Kamrath
William Kamrath

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Steven Quigley <stevejudyq@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 5:51 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Steve and Judy Quigley

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Merrily Dunham <merrilyrider@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 5:51 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

My husband, Larry Dunham, and I are opposed to any increase in the amount in the Renewable Portfolio Standard. We are seniors living on a fixed low income. An increase in our electric bill (which would be inevitable with this increased RPS) would severely affect us. We are members of Missoula Electric Cooperative.

Renewable energy in the form of solar and particularly wind energy is simply not cost-effective, and never will be. Our hydropower dams (a proven, **renewable**, non-polluting source of energy) provide plenty of power for Montanans, and we also have cheap power available from our coal plants. Resist the environmentalist who want to control the lives of all of us, and **VOTE NO TO INCREASED RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD.**

--

Merrily
and Larry
Dunham
Rockin' Horse Art & Framing
Condon, Montana 59826
www.rockinhorseartstudio.com

"People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it." ~~ George Bernard Shaw

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Laura McGlasson <lmcg@montanasky.tv>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 6:05 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS deliberation

To the RPS Legislative committee,

The proposed expansion of the RPS standards is an invasion of ever increasing government power seeking to dominate and replace responsible grass roots solutions to our problems - It is oppressive and destructive! Please have mercy on our people and use common sense. We cannot afford the extreme measures that “book-learned clamorers” out of touch with real life experience attempt to force on us.

Our Governing bodies are supposed to be “for us,” not against us! Please work to keep our country from being destroyed by enforcing such demands on us!! You were elected to stand in the gap between us and those who would destroy us!!

Laura McGlasson
Libby MT
406-293-2552

Why Montana’s Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops’ ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana’s electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops’ existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops’ ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.
-

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Emery K Smith <montanarider@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 6:13 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I Believe the current RPS standards are appropriate
Raising the required renewable energy purchases will mean increased costs to consumers who are strapped due to the recession
Nothing is more renewable than hydropower which does not require backing up with natural gas and the carbon associated with that

Sincerely

Emery K Smith

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Eric VanderBeek <eavanderbeek@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 6:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standard

Legislative Services Division
Attn. Sonja Nowakowski
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704.

Dear Sonja

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Montana's Renewable Energy Standards. I am writing to recommend that the next Legislature invest in Montana's renewable energy economy by at least doubling the state's renewable energy standard.

Community renewable energy projects are good for our rural economy and the ratepayer. When the legislature passed the law in 2005, it included a provision that at least some of the new power acquired to meet the standard had to come from small, locally owned projects. These projects have brought real tangible benefits to small communities, like Martinsdale, in the form of job creation, capital investment, and tax revenue.^[1] The provision also makes sure that the benefits of new generation are not concentrated in just one county or with one landowner. Community scale projects spread the investment across the state of Montana. Lastly, they fall under the same cost-cap provision as any other resource to meet the standard. Contrary to the utilities' claims, these projects are not hurting the ratepayer.

The Judith Gap wind farm is clearly being used by Northwestern Energy to meet the standard's requirements and therefore the **benefits** of that project should be considered in the report, not just the cost. Tell the committee members to use all of the data before coming to conclusions, including the Judith Gap wind farm.

The Montana Consumer Counsel analyzed the impact the RES has had on Montana's ratepayers and found that the law "...has had relatively minimal rate impact on (customers)." Despite the rhetoric that we have been hearing for years, the acquisition of new clean energy resources has not increased your utility bills. The facts speak for themselves: energy from Northwestern Energy's Spion Kop wind project is the cheapest energy in the utility's energy mix.^[2] The committee needs to be consistent with the facts and find that the impact to Montana customers as a result of the RES has been negligible.

Finally, Montana made renewable energy will boost local economies, and invigorate innovation and manufacturing right here in Montana. Wind turbines could be made right here in Lewistown providing much needed local jobs if wind farms were to increase in Central Montana.

Businesses in Bozeman, Missoula and Helena are already working to meet the growing demand for solar and wind energy installation for residential and commercial use around Montana. If Germany can reduce its dependence on fossil fuels by increasing solar energy production, Montana certainly

can do the same in a similar climate with much more sun and wind potential and land mass larger than Germany.

Its time for American ingenuity to revive itself. Enough primitive thinking and dependence on fossil fuels and old technology. Montana can and should be a national leader in renewable clean energy solutions and create the next generation of energy technology, rather than continue our push for more oil and gas extraction that is putting our clean air and water at risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

[1] A study from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory showed that two 20 megawatt locally owned wind farms resulted in three times more local income than one 40 megawatt outside owned wind farm.

[2] "Northwestern Energy Residential Rates and Electricity Supply." Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) June 2013.

http://helenair.com/news/local/new-clean-energy-jobs-in-montana-report-predicts/article_494391f4-f062-11e3-b1da-0019bb2963f4.html

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: betty luderman <bettylud@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 6:25 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonja Nowakowski

Renewable energy is not yet as affordable as the conventional energy we are currently using. Please help us to be able to afford our energy bills by leaving the renewable energy percentage as it is. I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

**Thanks
Betty Luderman**

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bryan Rogan <brogan@oversightresources.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 7:00 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja; cliff@larsenusa.com; robyn@robyndriscoll.com; ajolson@midrivers.com; Senator Edward Buttrey; mtsteenber@bresnan.net; kregier@centurytel.net; Rep.MLang@legmt.gov; McNally4MtLeg@gmail.com
Cc: Bryan Rogan
Subject: RPS

Members of the ETIC:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding the RPS report. The report identifies one of the components of the RPS (or the Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act) is clearly "economic development". The RPS is not only intended to promote the use of renewables, it is also intended to stimulate rural economic development. The legislation also put cost caps in place to protect the utility and customers.

It is with great interest that I have watched many discussions about the RPS over the years. Most if not all of these discussions have revolved around how much of a burden renewables are to the utility and it's customers. Yet in this recent report the utility acknowledges that "customer impacts were neutral", and "both benefits and drawbacks were minimal". It is also noted that Montana ranks as the lowest RPS state for incremental RPS compliance costs. So on the one hand the utility claims the RPS is a burden, and on the other hand there is minimal impact from RPS compliance. It is hard to understand how it can be both ways.

In my opinion the primary issue that has been discussed since the RPS legislation was enacted is cost, cost, cost. Although cost is a key component the legislation itself states it is not the only component. The other key component is economic development. Economic development, in my opinion, has been completely brushed aside in this discussion. I encourage the committee to place more focus on the economic development component of the RPS and support more discussion on this topic. Ultimately I feel it would be helpful to establish a method to measure RPS cost's against economic impact so that the RPS impact as a whole can be more accurately assessed. We ultimately need to get to a point where we can measure net benefit or net cost, and I don't feel we are there yet because of the continual focus on cost.

This is not to say cost isn't important, and that there isn't one. However I also feel these costs have been overblown and exaggerated. As I mentioned before the RPS report states that the utility acknowledged that the impacts were minimal. And that statement does not take into account rural economic impact. With this being the case it should be easy to draw the conclusion that if impacts are minimal, and rural economic impacts are positive, then the net benefit is positive. It sure doesn't seem like that is how renewables and the RPS have been portrayed.

Moving forward you will continue to see attack's on the RPS and the claim of how much "damage" it is causing the utility. It is worth mentioning that at least one claim of "damage" has been caused by the utility itself. Recently the utility was successful in lowering the maximum QF size from 10MW to 3MW. By doing that the PSC eliminated the one mechanism that allowed CREP projects to be successfully built outside of an RFP process. To date the RFP process has not produced a single CREP project, and the only successful CREP projects were also QF's. Now the utility is seeking it's second CREP waiver request from the PSC. It should not be a surprise during the next legislative session that we will see efforts being made to eliminate the CREP requirement entirely from the RPS. It is my hope that when the idea of eliminating the CREP requirement comes up that equal time will be spent on assessing the economic development opportunities that would be lost as well. When you measure the cost of renewables against the positive impact of rural economic development you will see the net benefit is positive.

I intend on being at the next ETIC meeting in person and would be happy to answer any questions at that time.

Sincerely,

Bryan Rogan

Oversight Resources, LLC

1087 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 2E

Bozeman, MT 59718

Brogan@oversightresources.com

Office: 406-586-8440

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bruce Tate <bruce367@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 7:22 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

To the Members of the Energy Committee/ State of Montana 6/26/2014

Please to not change the existing RPS rules for the purchase of power.

It would skew the sourcing in an un-natural way, that would depend heavily on tax subsidies to make wind and solar power "viable" , which means we would have a double cost. First in tax support costs, and also in our final energy bill, with a portion of it based on less viable sources for long-term cost efficient energy.

Hydro-power is probably the cleanest and most cost efficient source of energy known today. And the reality of re-newability is very evident...every time it snows or rains.

The high cost of energy distribution is staggering in a state like Montana with only about one million people, in the 4th largest state in the country.

To protect our industries, and our citizens, our co-ops should not have to comply with an unrealistic mix of power sources, that will increase the costs for the user. The list of un-intended consequences is great and will threaten future growth in our great state, if this is allowed to happen.

Please look at the big picture, and do the right thing!

Thank you,

Bruce Tate
1800 West Lakeshore Drive
Whitefish, MT 59937
ph 406 862-4888
Native Montanan, and retired Forest Products Sales Manager

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John <john@thedibbles.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 7:35 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Please, do not increase renewable energy requirements

As a Montana resident and a member of an electric coop, I support the current RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. Until "renewable" energy is reliable and does not increase the financial burden on citizens, the requirements should not be increased.

John Dibble
4830 Arnica Rd.
Missoula, MT 59803

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: sajbrsh . <sajbrsh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 7:57 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I am for keeping the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by the electric companies.

Sue Pinkerton

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Pat Simmons <psimmons100@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 8:55 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Please expand the Montana Renewable Energy Standard. We've done well achieving the 15% requirement with increasing wind power and conservation. Let's do more of this and expand solar power too. This is the least expensive and healthiest way for Montanans to afford to live in Montana. It is the cheapest way for energy companies like Northwestern Energy to manage their company into the future. This is the way of the future; Global Warming is real and air pollution from coal burning plants is killing Montanans. Thank you.

Pat Simmons
357 Pine Creek Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718
psimmons100@gmail.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dean Peterson <deanbpeterson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 9:06 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Portfolio Standard

Energy committee,

As president of the Board of Directors at Vigilante Electric Cooperative, I support Montana's existing RPS standards. The current RPS standards don't harm the Cooperative's ability to provide reliable affordable power to its members. Ninety percent of VEC's power comes from clean, reliable, renewable Hydro power from BPA. Hydro power leaves no carbon footprint and an argument could be made that all hydro power should be considered green energy. Co-ops in eastern Montana buy most of their power from Basin Electric with over 15% of its electric portfolio as wind energy. Allowing cooperatives to purchase renewable energy voluntarily ensures that we can provide low cost power to our members. Providing power to rural Montana often is costly because we have a very low density of consumers per mile. Many of Montana's cooperatives have less than 1 consumer per mile. To change Montana's RPS standards would cause a significant rate increase for all of the cooperatives's members. There are over 400,000 cooperative consumers in Montana and many of those households are below poverty level. To change Montana's RPS standards would be harmful to my members and all cooperative members in Montana.

Board President of Vigilante Electric Cooperative

Dean B. Peterson

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: M&C Barker <eagles2@wispwest.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Sonja,

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and the affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Thank you !

Miriam Barker

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Peggy Iba <piba@midrivers.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 9:29 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: We support RPS

Although you may think it is noble to expand renewable energy, you are raising the price on reliable electrical service. The current % mandated for renewable energy is enough. Coops are already doing their part promoting energy efficiency. Hydro power is efficient, low cost, reliable and renewable power used by most coops. Coops are great for promoting geothermal or groundsource heating which saves at least half to 3/4 on electrical usage in a home, school or business. Electric coops even offer incentives for people to install geothermal, as it saves substantially over traditional furnaces and Air Conditioning, much more than MDU and NW Energy have to date.

The EPA says GeoExchange (groundsource heating and cooling) is the most energy efficient, environmentally clean and cost-effective space conditioning system available. That's what you should be promoting. Montana is far behind adjoining states in use of geothermal systems in new installations and retrofits. I'm sure that isn't even considered in the mandated renewable energy.

When a utility spokesperson says they have maxed out the wind potential, you can bet if they are required to put in more they will not be cost effective as they have put wind power in the ideal wind locations already. You don't need a 10 year study to figure that out.

Peggy Iba
1 Sussex Court
Glendive, MT 59330
piba@midrivers.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bryce Rieger <blerieger@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 9:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonja Nowakowski and the interim energy committee

I oppose any expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements.

As a member/owner of Missoula Electric Cooperative, I DO NOT want to be forced to purchase the more expensive and UN-reliable wind and/or solar power that I find to be purely POLITICALLY motivated and not in the best interest of Montana electric rate payers.

**Thank You for considering my comments.
Bryce Rieger**

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joe Gutkoski <info@montanariveraction.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 9:58 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support Montana's RES

Dear Members of the Interim Energy Committee

I am contacting you to show support for Montana's current Renewable Energy Standard, and to show my support for increasing and extending the renewable energy standard beyond 15% by 2015.

Since 2005, Montana's renewable standard has spurred development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects across the state. These projects are not only generating emission and pollution-free power—they are generating tax revenues and economic development in communities from Fairfield to Baker.

Since 2005, Montana's RES has:

- Contributed to significant environmental and economic benefits across the state.
- Contributed nearly half a billion dollars in direct investment to Montana's economy.
- Created over 1,800 good paying jobs across the state.
- Shown that renewable energy projects are a good deal for consumers. The energy from Spion Kop and Judith Gap projects is some of the least expensive for NorthWestern Energy's customers.
- Helped clean up and diversify Montana's energy mix.
- Avoided over 4 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.
- Protected Montana's water quality because renewable energy emits zero pollutants into our drinking water.

In drafting the report, it is absolutely essential that the Judith Gap wind project be included in any economic or environmental analysis of the renewable energy standard. This project makes up most of NorthWestern Energy's 15% requirement.

Montana has a tremendous renewable energy resource. Expanding the renewable energy standard will benefit the economy, environment and consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

--

Joe Gutkoski
info@montanariveraction.org
304 N18th ave
Bozeman, MT 59715
406 567 9181

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Charlene Woodcock <charlene@woodynet.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:11 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Energy Standards

Montana has been well served by the 2005 RES. It is time now to step them up, given that the rate of climate change is increasing and we need to do all we can to slow it by turning from mining, transporting, and burning fossil fuels to building an economy based on clean, local, renewable energy sources and conservation.

Renewable energy benefits Montana consumers because it can be provided locally, the cost is stable and is not in the control of multi-national corporations as are gas, oil, and coal, which are the main drivers of climate change. And it does not wreck the state with pollution and the ugly detritus of fossil fuel development. North Dakota is suffering both environmental and social destruction while profits go to big corporations. Clean energy development benefits Montana's rural areas by providing jobs as well as more affordable energy sources and it benefits towns and cities by providing stable energy costs.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Woodcock
37 West Main St., D
Bozeman MT 59715

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Michele Wolff <wolff_michele@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 10:19 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

Michele Wolff
P O Box 1113
Big Timber, MT 59011

June 27, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
Michele Wolff

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Margie Jesson <mwjesson@wispwest.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 11:10 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Affordable electricity

To my legislature,

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Please keep our existing laws regarding our electricity providers. Someday wind and solar will fit in but not now.

Margie W. Jesson

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dena Hooker <hlm5632@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:41 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Ms. Nowakowski,

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. I am on the Board of Directors for a small electric cooperative in Montana. It is hard to making a living in this state, with most residents working more than one job just to make ends meet. I would like to ensure electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy. New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy. Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana. With our cooperative being west of the continental divide we are 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. So I would again like to stress that I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by our electric cooperatives.

Thank you:

Dena R Hooker

Board of Directors

Missoula Electric Cooperative

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dena Hooker <hlm5632@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:49 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Ms. Nowakowski,

We would like to let you know that as a small rural school in the State of Montana that we support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. Our school is on a very tight budget that cannot afford a raise in our power bill. Our Staff recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state. So please let it be known that we support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Thank you;
Ovando School Board
Ovando School
Ovando Montana

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Sharon Lasich <mtheart3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 6:17 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I urge you to support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. Our co-op, Vigilante Electric receives low cost carbon free, pollution free and renewable hydropower from Bonneville. As part of this, the Federal hydropower plants have had to pay for excess wind power that is not being used. Co-ops in our state have a much higher cost of service to the sparsely populated areas they serve, adding more cost by requiring more high price renewable energy will harm our rural areas and their economy.

Please support the existing RPS.

Sharon Lasich

Vigilante Electric Co-op

2084 MT Highway 41 S

Twin Bridges, MT 59854

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dale Schweigert <jon@midrivers.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 7:05 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

We are a small co-op Goldenwest Electric in Wibaux, MT. our rates are high enough already if this increases rates it would be devastating to our customers.
Dale Schweigert

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Brian Plunkett <plunkettbrian@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 7:16 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana. Sincerely,

Brian Plunkett
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mark Hayden <MarkH@meccoop.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 7:38 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

As the General Manager of Missoula Electric Cooperative, I am providing comments in support of the existing Montana RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives in our state. Most importantly, the current RPS helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower. In Missoula Electric Cooperative's case, we depend upon this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource for nearly 90 percent of our energy needs.

The current RPS also preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy. As mentioned above, co-ops west of the continental divide are nearly 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.

As you consider the potential impact of modifying the current RPS standards, I would ask that you recognize the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana. This is especially important to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state. Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this important matter.

Mark C. Hayden
General Manager

Missoula Electric Cooperative
1700 West Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
Phone: 406-541-6340
Cell:406-546-5001

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: David & Jo Demars <djd_jd@usa.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 7:55 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower** . Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy**. New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy** . Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state**. Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thank you,

David and Susan Demars

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jeff Larsen <jlarsen@montanasky.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:03 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Support for RPS

Please take this e-mail as our full support of the existing RPS because it helps promote reliable and affordable power provided by electric co-ops. Current RPS helps co-ops to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of hydropower; ensures electric co-op members will not see significant rate increases; preserves the ability for co-ops to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.

Please do not be fooled by a well orchestrated e-mail campaign by activists. Ordinary citizens and co-ops support the current RPS.

Jeff and Ardis Larsen
P.O. Box 773
Lakeside, MT 59922

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Penny Brambrink <mt-missy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:09 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Penny Brambrink

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ralph Dreyer <ralph@vec.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:20 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Portfolio Standard

Ms. Nowakowski,

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. I strongly disagree with arbitrarily increasing renewable energy sources that are currently much more expensive than our existing energy sources. When renewables can compete without getting subsidies it will be time for more renewables and there will not be any need to set an arbitrary standard for the amount of renewables.

Ralph Dreyer, Office Manager
Vigilante Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(406) 683-2327

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jason Williams <ja-wil@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:44 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana. Sincerely,

Jason Williams

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John L Sokoloski <jlsok@midrivers.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:44 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonja Nowakowski,

I would like to show my support for keeping the existing RPS by the following comments. The current RPS does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by my electric coop, Goldenwest Electric.

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

thank you for your time,

LaNee Sokoloski

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: C Talley <ctalley@montanasky.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:54 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to NOT change the RPS. I strongly support the current RPS, which encourages development of new renewable energy while incorporating sound business principles. My cooperative, Flathead Electric, has made great strides in adding renewables to their portfolio. However, each decision has been carefully weighed against a sound set of business criteria. We do not need even more government regulations to ruin our businesses.

It's extremely important to maintain the stable, low electric rates Montanans currently have. States that have implemented stringent RPS's have forced unnecessary skyrocketing rates. That's bad for business, bad for residents and bad for Montana. Enough costs go up that are out of our control - this is absolutely within our control!

The fact is that virtually 98% of our electricity is renewable. Hydro power is one of the most renewable sources on earth! Unilaterally displacing our low cost, renewable hydro with higher cost, less efficient sources is crazy!

I believe that most Montanans agree with me. We do not need to destroy our low electric costs by arbitrarily requiring a poor business path. The lobby of a vocal minority should not be allowed to hijack the future of Montana.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Cheryl Talley
1159 LaBrant Ridge
Kalispell, MT 59991
406-249-4145

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: janetanddave@centurytel.net
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 9:19 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing in support of increasing the renewable portfolio standard but in that increase existing hydropower is recognized and given credit for what it is; renewable energy.

Expansion of the RPS without this acknowledgement would place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. I am a member of Flathead Electric Cooperative and feel fortunate to receive the majority of my power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. I know that Flathead Electric has also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were only selected once proper oversight was performed to ensure they would not negatively affect us members. Renewable energy is the proper way for Montana to proceed into the future but without the acknowledgment of existing hydropower as a renewable energy source a poor future would be forced onto the residents of Montana.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective hydro power. If you want to increase the mandate please do so in a logical manner with the acknowledgement that current and future hydropower generation is a renewable energy source.

Sincerely,

David Bopp

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mary Jo Olson <olsonmaryjo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 9:43 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear member of the Interim Energy and Telecommunications Committee:

Please support the current Montana Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as well as anticipated increases in the percentage of total energy produced from renewable resources.

I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Montana who "support the development of clean and renewable energy resources and support increasing transition from fossil fuel dependence to reliance on renewable energy resources."

League members recently reviewed the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee [Renewable Rewards and Risks - Draft Report](#) which reinforced our support for transitioning from fossil fuel to renewable energy resources as quickly as possible. We are aware of the challenges faced by utility companies in seeking the most efficient and cost effective means of supplying energy to consumers. We are convinced that when environmental costs are considered in the equation, renewables are, by far, the most efficient and cost-effective energy source.

We appreciate and strongly support the actions taken by Montana legislators over the past decade to encourage development of clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy projects through RPS legislation;

We recognize and support the significant tax revenues and economic development in communities with new renewable energy projects

We recognize and support independent efforts by utility companies to include renewable energy in their strategic plans.

We believe that regulatory requirements are necessary to overcome a natural resistance to change and to address the unmeasured value of a clean environment.

Sincerely, Your name, address, and phone number.

(The following legislators are members of the **Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee**, 63rd Montana Legislature. If you are a constituent of any of these members, your opinion may carry more weight.

Senate Members

Senator Cliff Larsen, Chair

Email: cliff@larsenusa.com

Senator Ed Buttrey

Email: ebuttrey@senate13.com

Senator Robyn Driscoll

Email: robyn@robyndriscoll.com

Senator Alan Olson

Email: ajolson@midrivers.com

House Members

Representative Keith Regier, Vice Chair

Email: kregier@centurytel.net

Representative Mike Lang

Email: Rep.MLang@legmt.gov

Representative Mary McNally

Email: mcnallyhd49@gmail.com

Representative Tom Steenberg

Email: mtsteenbergbresnan.net)

<Background for June 2014 Action.docx>

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Robinson <jrobinson@montanasky.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 9:44 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I have heard that you are considering an expansion of the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS). I am all for doing what we must to continually improve the Nation's energy efficiency policies, but am concerned that our region doesn't get the credit it deserves for its historical use of hydroelectric power, which is the greenest power imaginable.

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

John Robinson, ASLA

PO Box 2081

Bigfork, MT 59911

406-249-4146

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Richard Whitaker <rawbgf@centurylink.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 9:49 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Existing RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided electric cooperatives. Richard Whitaker 268 Chapman Hill Bigfork Mt.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: D.Messick@flathead.coop
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:00 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Affordable Power

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Debbie Messick

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Michael Byrne <mbyrne@ravallielectric.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:10 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard)

I am a member and an employee of Ravalli Electric Co-op and I support the existing RPS in Montana. Ravalli Electric currently purchases its power from BPA which is primarily hydro-power generation (~90%) which in my eyes is about as renewable as you can get. Hydro-power is a carbon-free and pollution free renewable resource which is very cost effective. If Montana passes an expansion of renewable energy purchases, this is going to mean increased rates for our members of which I am one and for what gain? We replace low cost renewable hydro with other high cost renewables such as wind and solar which would still need to be firmed up with other energy sources due to their unavailability at key times (wind does not blow, sun does not shine). Until a cost effective storage solution for these products is developed, hydro will continue to be by far the most effective renewable product. Let's leave the RPS rules as is until we truly have cost effective solutions for these other products. Requiring more renewable energy will add an unneeded burden of increased costs to our members in a time when the down economy is already affecting their pocket books.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this subject!

--

Michael Byrne

Manager of Finance/IT

mbyrne@ravallielectric.com



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Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Annie Terracciano <Annie.Terracciano@nli.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:15 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Ms. Nowakowski,

Northern Lights, Inc. (NLI), is a member owned rural electric cooperative that serves approximately 18,000 members throughout western Montana and northern Idaho. 65% of NLI's load serves residential and seasonal homes.

It is extremely important to preserve the lower-cost electricity in rural Montana. Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

NLI supports the existing Renewable portfolio standard (RPS) because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Annie Terracciano, CPA
General Manager
Northern Lights, Inc.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jami P <jamip@lyrec.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:37 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Thanks,
Jami

Jami Propp
Member Service Coordinator
PO Box 1047
Sidney MT 59270
(406) 488-1602
(406)488-6524 fax



Lower Yellowstone

Rural Electric Assn. Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Joy Britton <joy@vec.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:41 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: GRASSROOTS ACTION NETWORK

Importance: High

Sonja,

Pursuant to the recent email, I am and have been a member of Vigilante Electric Cooperative, Inc. for 31 years and **I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives and I do not feel that the government needs to make any changes!**

Joy Britton

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Pam Wilcoxson <pamw@lyrec.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:46 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives!

Pam Wilcoxson

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Assoc.

3200 West Holly St.

PO Box 1047

Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

6.25.14

I AM WRITING TO COMMENT ON THE RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD (RES) UNDER REVIEW BY THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE'S ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE (ETIC). I BELIEVE THAT COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ARE GOOD FOR BOTH OUR RURAL ECONOMY AND THE RATEPAYER. THESE PROJECTS HAVE BROUGHT REAL TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO SMALL COMMUNITIES IN THE FORM OF JOB CREATION, CAPITAL INVESTMENT, AND TAX REVENUE. THEY ALSO FALL UNDER THE SAME COST-CAP PROVISION AS ANY OTHER RESOURCE TO MEET THE STANDARD. CONTRARY TO THE UTILITIES' CLAIMS, THESE PROJECTS ARE NOT HURTING THE RATEPAYER.

SOME DIRTY ENERGY LOBBYISTS AND THEIR ALLIES ON THE COMMITTEE WANT TO EXCLUDE PORTIONS OF THE DATA TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR FALSE CLAIMS THAT THE SKY IS FALLING. THE BENEFITS AS WELL AS THE COSTS OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE REPORT.

THERE HAS BEEN NO SUBSTANTIVE INCREASE TO RATES ASSOCIA-

TED WITH THE STANDARD, AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES, HAS NOT INCREASED UTILITY BILLS.

I RECOMMEND THAT THE NEXT LEGISLATURE INVEST IN MONTANA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY ECONOMY BY AT LEAST DOUBLING THE STATE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD. HAPPY SUMMER.

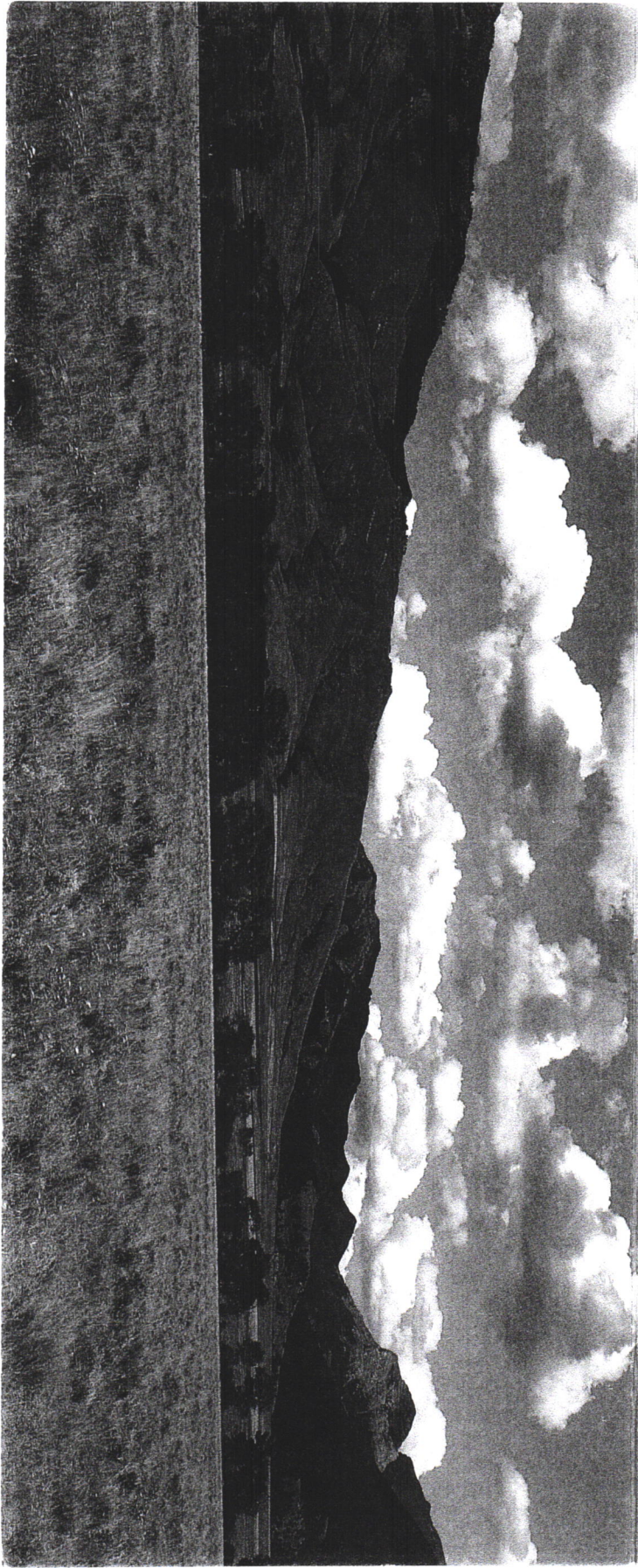
SINCERELY,

JOHN

RECEIVED

JUN 7 4 2014

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE



*Montana's Madison Range
Near Cameron, Montana*

Photographs by Ray Miller
2260 Cornelius Road
Ronan, MT 59864
406-676-2102

1991



Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

Brent McRae
President

DeeDee Isaacs
Vice President

Leonard Sivumaki
Secretary/Treasurer

David M. Wheelihan
Chief Executive
Officer

June 27, 2014

The Honorable Cliff Larsen, Chairman
Members of the Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

RE: RPS Study

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments regarding the committee's study of the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

MECA, which represents 24 retail electric distribution cooperatives serving more than 40 percent of the state's population, supports the current state Renewable Portfolio Standard.

As not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric utilities, we support the current RPS because it:

- Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower. Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent or more of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy. New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy. Co-ops west of the continental divide are 90 percent or more dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state. Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively by far the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

501 Bay Drive

P.O. Box 1306

Great Falls, MT

59403

Phone: (406) 761-8333 • Fax: (406) 761-8339 • meca@mtco-ops.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Ron Ohlin <rohlin@YVEC.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

As a Cooperative Board member, I support the existing RPS since it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: zadows@midrivers.com
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: ELECTRIC COSTS

Dear Sonja:

Life is hard enough for most people....please don't pass legislation that will cause electric bills to skyrocket. We have to be logical when passing laws concerning energy costs. Most people will NOT be able to afford the increases associated with the cost of power if using coal fired plants as they operate today are done away with. The technology to cut the carbon emissions does not even exist yet.

PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE AND VOTE AGAINST ANY THING THAT WILL CAUSE ELECTRICITY RATES TO GO UP!!

Sincerely,

Margo Zadow
zadows@midrivers.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Sherry Corneliusen <sher@midrivers.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:53 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS and MT Electric co-ops

We support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. We feel it is important to preserve the low cost electricity in rural Montana. We definitely do not want to see rates increase. Thank you.

Sherry & Arvid Corneliusen
1014 Road 248
Glendive, MT 59330
sher@midrivers.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Brandon Wittman <BWittman@YVEC.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:56 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. buys approximately 17% of its power from The Western Area Power Administration and the remaining comes from Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative through Basin Electric Power Cooperative based in Bismarck, ND. As a cooperative we are not for profit and any regulation or mandate that increases our costs gets proportionately passed on to our customers. Basin's current mix of power includes about 15% wind power a portion that Basin produces themselves and some they buy through a power purchase agreement.

Combining the WAPA and the wind through Basin, our cooperative has well over 20% of our portfolio coming from non-carbon sources. However, the current law does not recognize the hydro. Changing the RPS to a higher percentage would force us to buy more expensive power to replace the low cost power we currently purchase. It would raise rates!

Additionally, we offer a green product to our customers as an option for those that wish to buy it. Of the 18,500 meters we have on our system only 6 have opted to actually buy the green product. The RPS is a backdoor way to make everyone participate in buying more expensive power because of the wishes of a few.

Thanks

BJW
CEO/General Manager
Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dan Swartz <dswartz@YVEC.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:59 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the current level of RPS as it does not harm the reliability and affordability of the power that electric co-ops currently receive. Our co-op currently receives 17 percent of our power from hydro, which is as renewable as possible and approximately 15 percent from wind sources. We already receive a large percentage of our power from renewable sources as do most co-ops in Montana. I feel a change in the law would be unnecessary. Dan

Swartz. Yellowstone Valley Electric. Board Member

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bart Peterson <BartP@meccoop.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support **the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.**

Sent from my iPhone

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jon Eckhardt <jeckhardt@centurytel.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:05 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Jon Eckhardt

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dick Weldon <dweldon@YVEC.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:07 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: rps

sonja i am opposed to the 2015 legislature expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements it would harm our coops

Richard A. Weldon
3745 Moonshine Trail
Billings, MT 59101
Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jon Eckhardt <jeckhardt@centurytel.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:08 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the **current** renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Jon Eckhardt

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bill Keller <bkeller@YVEC.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:08 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Rps

I am a board member of Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative. I am opposed to the 2015 Legislature expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements.

Bill Keller.

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Larry Kaufman <lkaufman@YVEC.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:08 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Renewable energy should include hydropower. Yellowstone valley electric coop has about 15%

Of its power from WAPA and the rest from Basin elect COOP which has about 15% renewable,

Any addition to the RPS is not necessary and only presents add added costs to our customers

Larry Kaufman
Yellowstone Valley Electric COOP
Director
Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Pam Wilcoxon <pam.wilcoxon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:10 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the RELIABILITY and AFFORDABILITY of power provided by my electric cooperative!

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dave Kelsey <dkelsey@YVEC.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:10 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonja,

As a director at Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative, I would like to express that our cooperative supports the current state RPS.

YVEC currently gets approximately 17% of its electric power purchase requirements from hydro sources and in addition we are currently buying additional renewable power in the form of wind energy which brings our cooperative to well over 20% renewable power in our energy portfolio .

The current state RPS helps protect Montana electric cooperatives ability to continue to purchase low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.

It ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increase as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.

It preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy. Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative currently offer "green energy " to our customers if they want it. We serve 18,500 meters and only 6 have chosen to purchase the green product as it is more expensive.

It also recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns,

Dave Kelsey, YVEC director

Sent from my iPad

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Chuck <woodchuck@bigsky.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:17 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Renewable portfolio standard

Hello Sonja; I support the existing RPS because it doesn't harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by Electric Co-ops across Montana. I don't think we should be asked to subsidize power from so-called renewable energy sources. The true renewable is hydro-electric. I am a member in two cooperatives in western Montana.

Thank you

Charles Morlock Missoula MT.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Earl Messick <ebmesck@kvis.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:17 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

ENERGY COMMITTEE

I am expressing my concerns about the proposed (RPS) Renewable Energy Standards.

I do not see a need to change the RPS as this will affect the rate payers of Montana. At present the co-ops in Montana receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from carbon-free, pollution free renewable resources.

By continuing to leave the RPS where it is it ensures that electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.

Please preserve the ability of electric co-ops' to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy. The co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide receive from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower.

By not mandating different Renewable Energy Standards this will preserve the lower cost electricity in rural Montana. If the RPS is changed this will be higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the State. Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one (1) member per mile of power line. This would contribute to a huge increase cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Thanks for the continuation of the existing Renewable Energy Standards.

Earl Messick

Libby, MT

email= ebmesck@kvis.net

[email=e.messick@flathead.coop](mailto:e.messick@flathead.coop)

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jeri Cote <jcote@itstriangle.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:24 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I am sending this e-mail in support of the existing RPS, as it does not harm reliability & affordability of power provide by electric cooperatives.

Thank you,
Jeri Cote

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: M.Radel@flathead.coop
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:28 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Re: Renewable Portfolio Standards

Sonja Nowakowski,

I just heard that the interim energy committee is being urged to expand the existing Renewable Portfolio Standards. I am opposed to changing the portfolio standards when we have been so proactive to initiate our own renewable projects without any mandate.

To date, we have helped in the restoration of small hydro in Whitefish, Montana; assisted in the development of biomass generation in the Flathead Valley and partnered in the development of a methane gas to energy facility at our local county landfill. Although the project didn't produce any immediate results, we explored the opportunity to harness geothermal energy without any prodding from organizations or individuals beyond our service territory.

We are a proactive electric cooperative dependent upon a clean, affordable and very renewable hydro system. We have demonstrated the ability to look into our members' future and successfully take the necessary steps to initiate other renewable energy options.

Our approach has been prudent to the needs of our members and fiscally responsible at keeping electric rates affordable. We work closely with members who struggle to pay their electric bills and do not want to burden them with unwarranted rising costs. Those who are proposing increasing these standards aren't accountable to our members. While we are, we have recognized and taken opportunities to initiate other renewable generation projects.

Please let the interim committee know that our growing success doesn't depend on changing the existing standards.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Radel
Community Projects
Flathead Electric Cooperative, Inc.
406-751-4429

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Southeast Electric <seco@midrivers.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:40 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I SUPPORT THE EXISTING RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by rural electric cooperatives.

Furthermore, if the RPS is expanded, and more pressure is put on co-ops to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy, there could be a significant rise in rates.

Jack Hamblin

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kina Jo Kuhn <kkuhn@blackfoot.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:44 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Kina Jo Kuhn
IT Technician II



Blackfoot Telecommunications Group
1221 North Russell Street
Missoula, MT 59808
V: 406-541-5443
www.blackfoot.com

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: John Hanson <jph2615156@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:46 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RSP

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RSP).

Expansion on the RSP is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of high-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RSP for Montana.

Sincerely,
John P. Hanson
Hungry Horse, MT.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: kalar@3rivers.net
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:47 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: rps

Dear committee members. As a rural electric member consumer, I request that the committee not make a recommendation to the legislature to increase or mandate that RECs be required to purchase additional renewable energy purchases. Such a change would not be good for electric cooperatives. That is because it would put more pressure on our co-ops to buy larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy, thus affecting the affordability and reliability of our power. Cooperatives already purchase renewable power, which is subsidized by our nations tax payers, and is also more expensive than other forms of generation. Please keep the rate payer in mind when considering a change in the RPS requirements.

Thank you

Larry Nelson
Shelby Mt.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Garth Stevens <gstevens@cybernet1.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 11:49 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: Please vote against expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements

Gentlemen/Ladies,

As you contemplate expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements, I would urge you to vote against expansion of those requirements.

In the future, as renewable technologies get better and become more competitive, it will be natural to move in that direction.

Currently however, these technologies are only marginally viable and expanding the renewable energy purchase requirements would just put additional burdens on the already struggling residents of Montana.

I know that our power costs are less here than in many parts of the country, but that and the scenery are the only two real bonuses to living here.

As my daughters get their college educations, I do not foresee any of them coming back to Montana. They can make so much more money and live for less elsewhere.

I grew up here and I love Montana. Please don't make it any harder to make a living here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Garth Stevens
P.O. Box 365
Stevensville, MT 59870
406-777-0882 – Home
406-381-4461 - Cell

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Scott Sweeney <fergusmgr@ferguselectric.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:14 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

ETIC Committee members and Sonja,

As the manager of Fergus Electric Cooperative in Lewistown/Roundup I strongly encourage the committee to not change the RPS. All Montana electric co-ops are working hard to keep electric rates stable (especially the 4 co-ops in Southern) and I think changing the renewable portfolio standard is likely to increase electric rates.

Sincerely,
Scott Sweeney

Big Flat Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 229
Malta, Montana 59538
406-654-2040

June 27, 2014

Sonja Nowakowski
Committee staffer
Interim Energy committee
Helena, MT 59526

Dear Sonja:

By way of introduction Big Flat Electric is a small electric cooperative located in northeast Montana. The service area of Big Flat Electric covers close to 10,000 square miles. The area is bordered in the north by the Canadian Border and on the south by the Missouri River. The density of miles of line to meters connected is 1.25 meter per mile. To put it in perspective, the size of our service area is large enough to put eight (8) Rhode Islands within our boundaries.

Big Flat Electric supports the current State RPS for the following reasons:

- It helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of Federal hydropower. Hydro power **leaves no carbon footprint and is the cleanest most renewable resource there is.**
- Because of our small size serving mostly residential ranches, farms, and the southern portion of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation our rates are already high. Forcing a higher RPS will force even higher rates as a result of mandates for the purchase renewable energy.
- The existing RPS preserves electric co-op's ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy. Of the power purchased by Big Flat Electric through Central Montana G&T, 67% is hydro and 33% is from Basin Electric. Total power generated by Basin Electric includes over 15% wind generation. Big Flat Electric has been doing this **without mandates.**

In conclusion, we urge you to support the current State RPS.

Sincerely,
/s/ Jeanne Barnard, Manager
Big Flat Electric Co-op., Inc.

Cc: Representative Mike Lang

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Keven Kuhn <KevenK@meccoop.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:28 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: re: RPS

Good afternoon, I would like it to be known that I am in favor of keeping the CURRENT Renewable Portfolio Standard. I am a current cooperative member and I am in favor of utilizing federal hydropower which is a low-cost, carbon-free and a pollution-free renewable resource. The current RPS supports this. Do NOT change the RPS to mandate the purchase of renewable energy. This would adversely affect what Montana Coop members have to pay for power. The fact is we have been using a renewable energy for a long time, we should be rewarded for that, not punished!

Sincerely,

Keven Kuhn

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mayre Flowers <flowers@digisys.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:34 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Cc: Mayre Flowers
Subject: RSP

Please include in your public comment record my request that the legislature support expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements. Our long term economic future I believe will be best served by doing all we can in the state to increase the use and purchase of renewable energy now and into the future.

Mayre Flowers

PO Box 3094

Kalispell, MT 59903

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: nordski@centurytel.net
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:42 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I am writing in support of keeping the renewable energy purchase requirements, as it now stands and not increase the Electrical CO-OPs of Montana requirements to buy more "Renewable Energy" which could cost the residence's to pay more for electricity. I base this on the following:

- **It would allow Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.**
- **New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy**
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.**

**Thank you
Marvin Berg
PO Box 7844
Kalispell, MT 59904**

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Kris Birdwell <kris@lewistownlaw.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:49 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Ms. Nowakowski,

For the reasons set forth below, I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Kris A. Birdwell
Stogsdill & Birdwell, P.C.
224 W. Main, Suite 511
Lewistown, Montana 59457
Telephone (406) 538-2623
Facsimile (406) 538-4716

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Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Scott St. John <scott@norval.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:53 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Hello Ms. Nowakowski,

I am writing you today to ask the Interim Energy Committee to support the existing Renewable Portfolio Supply. As a member and employee of our local Electric Cooperative, NorVal Electric Cooperative, I know what is at stake should the RPS be expanded. Power prices will rise even higher than they are forecasted to today as more expensive renewable generation is needed to meet expanded portfolio requirements. As a rural community, we are even more dependent on affordable electricity as we do not have access to natural gas. Huge spikes in the price of propane this past winter made heating bills difficult for many of our neighbors. I personally know of several people who switched back to electric heat to take advantage of more affordable and stable rates.

As a Co-op, we are already at an economic disadvantage as we serve very sparsely populated and remote regions. Having low-cost hydroelectric power in our power mix that is recognized as renewable helps to keep our rates low so that we can afford to maintain our infrastructure and continue to provide reliable power.

Thank you for your time,
Scott St. John



Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Bev and Dick Sherman <yogosherman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:59 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

My wife and I own and operate two homes. One serviced by the Flathead Electric Co op and the other by our own solar energy system. Our Co op electricity is far superior than solar. Possibly a law requiring renewable energy is a big and costly mistake. We urge you not to pass the RPS. Richard and Beverly Sherman 35 Bay Harbor Dr Bigfork

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Monte Eliason <monte.swan@usamontana.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 1:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Committee Members: Come on, let us not further burden electrical rate payers by the possibility of mandated purchase of expensive renewable energy. I support staying with the current RPS.

Monte Eliason
Swan Lake, MT

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Janine Rife Didier <fergusap@ferguselectric.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 1:21 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Importance: High

Attn: Sonja Nowakowski, committee staffer

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee

Re: RPS

I support the existing Renewable Portfolio Standard because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. The existing RPS preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.

Many rural electric cooperatives, like Fergus Electric Co-op, have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

I strongly urge ETIC to keep the existing RPS in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Janine

Janine Rife Didier
Financial Analyst/Payroll Administrator
Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc.
84423 US Highway 87
Lewistown, MT 59457-2058
406-538-3465
fergusap@ferguselectric.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

June 26, 2014

Sonja Nowakowski, committee staffer.

Sonja

I am a member of Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Eureka, Montana. I am writing to support keeping the current State Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for energy and to send a clear message to the State Energy Interim Committee to not add additional burdens to Montanans.

The following are some of the reasons to support the current RPS and that I take this position on a very serious issue facing rural electrical cooperatives.

- 1 Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower. Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
2. Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy. New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
3. Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy. Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
4. Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state. Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Sincerely,

/s/Wendy M. Eaton

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Guy Johnson <fergusengineer@ferguselectric.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I have some concerns about the proposed changes in the RPS that may be presented to the 2015 Legislature. I am in favor of the current RPS requirements and do not want to see any increases in the amount of expensive renewable energy purchased for our customers.

Fergus Electric Cooperative serves approximately 4000 members with nearly 4000 miles of powerline. We work very hard to keep our costs to our membership as low as we can and any increase in costs from expensive energy purchases, taxes, and operating costs directly impacts the small farm and ranch operating expenses. We are seeing a decline in the farm and ranch community due to higher operating costs and the farm and ranch population is aging because the younger generation cannot afford to make a living in the business that their family has worked generations to build. Any increase in energy cost even makes this task more difficult for the younger generations. Renewable energy is currently subsidized by the federal government in order to make it more salable to the utilities. Without this subsidy, the generated cost of power is more expensive than any other form of generating electricity. We have access to the cleanest form of generation available with the hydro-electric dams currently in use. Don't make it harder on our younger generation by pricing them out of their heritage.

Guy R. Johnson
Staking Engineer
Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc.
84423 US HWY 87
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-3465

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Mike Kays <mkays@mcelec.coop>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 2:55 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Cc: Arne Sutton; Brent Kluth; Brent McRae; Conrad Moline; Dean McCabe; Don Bogar; Kirk Haynie; Patti Murphy; Ruth Hinnaland
Subject: Support for retaining the current MT RPS requirements

Ms. Nowakowski:

This message is in support of the current MT Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).

As the manager of a small remote Eastern MT electric cooperative with 2,600 members, I am required to oppose the current initiative to change our state's RPS requirements. Our cooperative currently utilizes clean, pollution-free hydroelectric power for approximately 60% of the power needs of our membership. The remaining 40% of our requirements are supplied by Basin Electric Power with a 15% renewable portfolio mix, mainly wind power, backed up by firm natural gas and coal generation.

To serve our 14,400 square miles of territory we have built over 3,800 miles of line to serve our membership. This means we have a line density of 0.6 members per mile. This exceedingly low density (the 15th lowest in the entire United States) means that each member must pay all costs of constructing and maintaining a two miles of power line. For comparison, a typical Investor-Owned Utility has more than 100 customers to pay for these same two miles of line. This example is illustrative of the extreme rate disparity already existing between MT's urban and rural citizens in attempting to enjoy the same quality of life. To further impose additional costs upon our rural citizens (meaning most of Montana's population) in a misguided attempt to "green" Montana according to some activist's agenda is, in my humble opinion, a complete abrogation of the legislature's duty to best serve our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my common-folks opinion.

Mike C. Kays

General Manager
McCone Electric Co-op, Inc.
P.O. Box 368
Circle, MT 59215
(406) 485-3430
mkays@mcelec.coop

June 27, 2014

Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

Re: Request for comments on the draft report "Renewable Rewards and Risks:
A look at the impacts of Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard"

Members of the Committee and staff should be congratulated for taking on the task of reviewing Montana's 2005 Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act and producing this draft report. The draft report is an important but by no means exhaustive nor conclusive look at Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Renewable Northwest has made several of our concerns and views known throughout the Committee's examination of the state's RPS. Below we add to our testimony throughout the committee's study on just two aspects of the draft report.

Cost and Benefits:

One of our concerns throughout the study has been that a consistent and fair approach in accounting for the costs and benefits of RPS eligible projects be applied to the study conclusions.

One approach would simply count the costs and benefits for all energy projects primarily used to meet the state's RPS. This "compliance" approach is probably the simplest and most straight forward approach the Committee can take in analyzing the economic impacts of the state's RPS. For that reason, we recommend it as the preferred approach for drawing any conclusions from the report. Such a "compliance" approach would include all of the RPS eligible qualifying facilities (QFs) on NorthWestern Energy's system, some of which are above NorthWestern's portfolio rate, others below, as part of the RPS's impact. It would also include the Judith Gap wind farm, regardless of when the decision to build the wind farm was made, and regardless of the Legislature's contemplation of the Judith Gap wind farm before passing the state RPS.

Another approach, to look only at the energy projects the RPS is directly responsible for enabling, is exceedingly difficult and probably both overestimates and misunderstands the role of the state's RPS. Though, on first examination, the RPS may appear a hard target for renewable energy procurement by Montana's investor owned utilities, through the cost cap the RPS has always provided an off ramp if the target could not be met cost effectively. Further, the RPS offers a great deal of flexibility in terms of what resources are required to meet the RPS. The resources may vary in type: wind, solar, biomass, small hydro and now hydro efficiency upgrades. The resources

3Degrees
American Wind Energy Association
Atkins
Blattner Energy
Bonneville Environmental
Foundation
Center for Energy Efficiency &
Renewable Technologies
Christenson Electric
Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
Climate Solutions
Columbia Gorge
Community College
Community Renewable
Energy Association
DNV GL
Ecofys
EDF Renewable Energy
EDP Renewables
Environment Oregon
Environment Washington
Eurus Energy America
FirstWind
GE Energy
Geothermal
Resources Council
Green Mountain Energy
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Iberdrola Renewables
Idaho Conservation League
K&L Gates
Kapla Law PLLC
MAP
Montana Environmental
Information Center
MontPIRG
Natural Capital Partners
Natural Resources
Defense Council
NextEra Energy Resources
Northwest Environmental
Business Council
Northwest SEED
NW Energy Coalition
OneEnergy Renewables
Oregon Solar Energy
Industries Association
Orion Renewable Energy
Group LLC
OSPIRG
Oregon Tech
Portland Energy
Conservation, Inc.
REC Silicon
RES America Developments
Solar Oregon
SolarCity
Stoel Rives, LLP
SWCA Environmental Consultants
Tonkon Torp LLP
Vestas Americas
Warm Springs Power &
Water Enterprises
Washington Environmental Council
WashPIRG
Western Resource Advocates

may also vary in size, location, and even in what entities have responsibility for integrating the resources onto the grid. With this kind of flexibility generally provided for, it is difficult to wholly credit specific projects to the existence of the RPS. Rather, the RPS is a powerful incentive for utilities to find and procure cost competitive renewable energy resources, but only one of several incentives that have made the state's RPS so successful. In short, the state's RPS has worked with hand-in-hand with other state and federal policies to drive more renewable energy generation within the state. Declaring with certainty what projects were constructed due solely to the passage of the RPS in the report's conclusions would undoubtedly be a matter of great debate and one that we recommend avoiding.

Market signal:

The other aspect we want to touch is what we view as the limited view of the economic impacts of Montana's RPS. Prior to passage of the state's RPS Montana had less than 2 megawatts of wind energy installed. Since the passage of the RPS Montana has seen more than 660MW of wind energy development. Nearly two-thirds of that capacity is not used to meet the state's RPS, yet it was attracted to Montana in part by the existence of the RPS.

Supportive renewable energy development policies are very important to wind energy developers and, especially in early days of wind energy's ascendancy as a mainstream resource through the 2000s, RPS' served as a good stand-in signal for a state's receptiveness to wind energy projects, even when the energy is intended for export.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: gahogens765@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 3:20 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sent from my iPad I support the existing RPS, because to does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Don Prevost <donp@lyrec.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 3:59 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Legislative Interim Committee


Our Cooperative supports our current State RPS. Our current power mix has about 15% Hydro from Western Area power Administration and 15 % wind from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. We need to be able continue purchasing power that is affordable and reliable which does not increase rates to our members. We need to preserve our current portfolio in order to maintain rates that are affordable to our members that live in rural Montana. Thank You for your assistance.

Don

Donald Prevost
CEO/General Manager
Email - donp@lyrec.com
Cell - 406.480.2461
Work - 406.488.1602



Lower Yellowstone
Rural Electric Assn. Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Nowakowski, Sonja

From: louis dubs <dubs@bresnan.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 4:07 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Ms. Nowakowski,

We strongly support the existing RPS because it DOES NOT HARM the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric coops.

Thank you very much.

Louis & Kathy Dubs

Customer of Yellowstone Valley Electric, Beartooth Electric and Park Electric Cooperatives.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Barb Sherrard <bsws770@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Wade Schott

Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Jim McKay <jimm@ravallielectric.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 4:57 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Sonja

It is my understanding the 2015 Legislature is considering the expansion of the renewable energy purchase requirements. I have not seen any expansion numbers but you can be assured that renewable portfolio will cost the electric consumer 30% to 100% more than what Montana Cooperatives consumers are currently paying for a kilowatt-hour. I oppose any expansion. There have been opportunities for the rate payer to voluntarily support renewable resources and received little or no interest so I believe I speak on behalf of most rural electric consumers.

Jim McKay
Manager Eng & Operations
Ravalli County Electric Cooperative
jimm@ravallielectric.com
406-961-3001 ext 215

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June 27, 2014

COMMENTS OF THE MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER

MEIC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee's (ETIC) draft study and findings on Montana's Renewable Energy Standard (RES). We value the time and significant effort that ETIC committee members, and staff in particular, have devoted to the RES study throughout this interim.

MEIC was among a diverse coalition of organizations, businesses, and individuals who supported the passage of Montana's Renewable Energy Standard in 2005. Similarly, during the 2013 Legislature, MEIC supported SJ6 which outlined ETIC's study of Montana's RES during the 2013-2014 interim.

SJ6 outlined economic, environmental and consumer impacts of Montana's RES that the committee would examine as part of their study. Our comments focus primarily on the conclusions that ETIC should make regarding the impacts of the RES. These conclusions are based on the information that ETIC received from public comments, questionnaires, and additional research throughout this interim. Additionally, we suggest some recommendations that ETIC should make to the 2015 legislature, based on the study and success of Montana's RES.

Economic Impacts

The Renewable Energy Standard (RES) has been a benefit to Montana's economy.

The RES has helped contribute to new, renewable energy generation projects across Montana. Since 2002, wind has made up over half of the state's new nameplate electric generation capacity. It's no coincidence that all of the wind projects have come online after Montana's renewable standard passed in 2005. Montana's RES was a signal that the state was "open for business." Since 2005, renewable energy companies and utilities have chosen Montana as the place to build their renewable energy projects. A primary reasons is because we have a renewable energy standard.

It would be appropriate for Montana's RES study to incorporate jobs, capital investments, and lease payments associated with all new renewable energy projects as economic benefits of Montana's RES. The RES still provides significant economic benefits even if the study only counts those projects that utilities are using to meet Montana's nominal RES requirements. Hundreds of construction jobs and dozens of permanent jobs have been created because of renewable energy projects that help electric utilities meet Montana's RES.

During the interim, there has been some discussion about whether or not to consider the economic development associated with Judith Gap as an economic benefit of the RES because the project broke ground prior to 2005. The chicken and

egg question of Judith Gap wind is moot for several reasons. Primary among these is that Judith Gap is helping meet NorthWestern Energy's (NWE's) renewable energy requirements. In fact, the 135 MW wind farm contributes over two thirds of the renewable energy that NWE needs to meet its overall 15 percent standard. Job and other benefits associated with Judith Gap should be part of ETIC's findings on economic benefits resulting from Montana's RES.

Environmental Impacts

Renewable energy, like all types of energy generation, has impacts on the environment. Overall, Montana's RES has resulted in a net environmental benefit because it displaces water and air pollution. Any impacts that wind energy may have on individual birds and bats are outweighed by its broader and more permanent environmental benefits, such as improved air quality. Renewable energy generation does not emit a single ton of dangerous carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, or mercury pollution. As a pollution-free resource, renewable energy just doesn't benefit the environment, it also avoids significant costs to our economy.

Montana's RES has led to a more diversified generation portfolio. Prior to 2005, less than 1% of Montana's energy generation came from wind. Now, over 4% of our energy generation comes from wind. 2005 marked the beginning of the growth in non-hydro renewable energy generation in Montana. It is no coincidence that Montana's RES passed in 2005.

An environmental assessment is also based on whether the RES has helped displace fossil fuels. It is impossible to determine whether a wind farm for example, would have been a coal or natural gas plant, had it not been for Montana's renewable energy standard. There are several regulatory and market factors that cause utilities to pursue certain resources over others. In the short term, Montana's 15% RES is not going to drive significant displacement of fossil fuels. This is because the standard only applies to larger regulated utilities and competitive electricity suppliers. Furthermore, Montana's electric load is not large enough to drive significant demand for new renewable energy projects to meet the 15% renewable standard.

From a broader perspective, state renewable energy standards are one of the primary factors driving the transition towards renewable energy and away from certain fossil fuels. Over time, renewable energy is displacing more expensive fossil fuels.

Consumer Impacts

ETIC has devoted considerable time to evaluating the impacts of Montana's renewable energy standard on consumers. The RES has been a net benefit to consumers. Based on responses from utilities, the impacts of the RES on consumers have been negligible. Their conclusion was based on the costs to the utility. Their assessment compares costs of RES resources compared to other resources and the market. The utilities did not consider other economic and environmental benefits of

renewable energy that flow directly to consumers. These include hedging volatile prices associated with fossil fuels, market price suppression, lower long-term risk and cost, and rate stability. It is important to separate impacts on utilities with impacts on consumers. While some utility costs and impacts are indirectly passed to consumers, there are many broader benefits that accrue directly to consumers that the utilities don't take into account in their cost analysis.

Recommendations

We recommend that the RES study's findings and conclusions reflect the economic and environmental benefits of the RES. We also recommend that the findings give equal weight to costs and benefits associated with the RES. If a particular project is factored into the costs it should also be factored in to the benefits.

We would also recommend extending the RES beyond the status quo. Public comment and testimony throughout this interim demonstrates broad support for extending the renewable energy standard. This would ensure that Montana continues to reap more of the economic and environmental benefits that renewable energy provides.

Sincerely,

Kyla Maki
Clean Energy Director

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: patrice silvestrone <patrice4067@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 5:37 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

you support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Doug Lair <lairs@mtintouch.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 6:33 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Standards-Reduce or eliminate but DO NOT EXPAND

Dear Ms. Nowakowski and Committee Members,

RPS standards are failed social engineering requirements that skew efficient delivery of electricity (i.e. wind turbine farms), increase so2 and co2 emissions in some cases (by modulating coal fired plants off peak performance) and promote inefficient alternative energy sources at consumer expense. Promoters and a few benefit while the rest of us pay the bills.

I do not support an expansion of RPS requirements. I am sick and tired of paying for bureaucratic folly! Hydro and natural gas should be our preferred electrical generation drivers for large scale electrical production.

Doug Lair
Big Timber, MT 59011
Park Electric Cooperative Member

Reference Bentek study of the Denver airshed

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Dan Skattum <skattums@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 7:08 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Please don't force all users to pay for the higher cost of green energy.

But if customers want to voluntarily pay extra that should be their opinion no matter the size of group (REA).

Dan Skattum
2011 House Member Livingston

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: lakesidemerc <lakesidemerc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 7:03 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: FECOOP

Many of us more conservative, support the efforts of the co op to keep costs down.
I hope you do also.
Jeremy Newell

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Tab® 3 Lite

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Patrick McNulty <pmcnulty@ttc-cmc.net>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Comments to Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee:

I am opposed to increasing Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Saddling Montana's citizens with higher electric rates will cause more people to avail themselves of Energy Share and similar charity programs, and will make many Montana businesses less competitive or perhaps no longer economically viable.

Attempting to mandate more wind and photovoltaic generation when the electric grid has difficulty handling all that is presently available, would send the wrong economic signals. In order to connect to the grid, wind and solar power require expensive firming (standby generation or some form of energy storage) to compensate for those times when electricity is not being generated or more is being generated than the grid can take (too little or too much wind, night and cloudy days, generation peaking out of sync with load peak, etc.) as well as additional expensive upgrading and/or construction of transmission systems. It takes lots of money, lots of time (many years if not decades), and unfortunately lots of litigation to solve transmission capacity and firming capacity.

A higher RPS may also cause electric customers in Montana to unwittingly bail out a Spanish company which used the "Build It and They Will Come" philosophy in proceeding to build a big wind-farm near Ethridge Montana. But the merchant-line transmission projects which they assumed would be built, have not yet materialized, and some of those proposed transmission projects have been abandoned. San Diego Power and Light signed a long term power purchase contract, but is now attempting to get out of that contract.

The grid problems are not just a Montana issue. Setting a RPS which is higher than those of surrounding states and provinces may cause some of the costly infrastructure to be sited in Montana where the customers of Montana's Investor Owned Utilities and Electric Co-ops would be forced to pay a disproportionate share of the costs for projects that would benefit a much wider area. Yes we would benefit from some construction jobs and a few long term jobs, but our rate payers might wind up subsidizing the rate payers in other states.

--

Patrick McNulty
956 S Buffalo Canyon Rd
Buffalo, MT 59418
(406)374-2284
e-mail: pmcnulty@ttc-cmc.net

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Marta Moore <martamoore@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 10:23 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana. Sincerely,

Marta Moore
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: JACI YZ <hackway@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 3:09 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS for Montana

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Kovnesky
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: anita Brougher <brougherak@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 8:33 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

anita Brougher
PO Box 943
Lincoln, MT 59639

June 28, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
anita Brougher

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: julie wulf <jwulf27@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS Comments

julie wulf
po 211
lakeside, MT 59922

June 29, 2014

Dear Sonja Nowakowski,

To the members of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee,

I am writing you today to urge you to consider increasing and extending Montana's renewable energy standard as we move beyond 2015. Renewable energy development in our state has been a good thing for hard working Montana families, and we should be encouraging more clean energy development. Billions of investment, millions in paid tax revenues, and thousands of jobs are the direct result of our renewable energy standard.

This should be the beginning of a robust clean energy economy in Montana. Clean energy like wind power is proven to be a clean, affordable and reliable source of power both for our state and for the states in the West that we export our energy to. We should pursue all opportunities to increase our clean energy resources as its value will only continue to increase, and costs continue to decline.

Sincerely,
julie wulf

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Allen Martinell <allenmartinell@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2014 2:49 PM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

>
>
> To: Sonja Nowakowski, committee staffer
>
> Hi,
> My name is Allen Martinell. I have been member of the board of trustees of Vigilante Electric Coop Inc. for 32 years and a lifelong resident of Beaverhead county. I support the existing Renewable Portfolio Standards because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives. The current RPS helps protect Vigilante Electric and member of the other Montana coops' ability to continue to purchase low cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower. Vigilante is a full requirements customer of BPA.
> The current RPS ensures cooperative members do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy. It also provides coops with the ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable purchases of renewable energy. It recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote areas of the state.
> Thank you for considering these comments.
> Allen Martinell
>
>
>
>
>
>

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: Brenda Bond <brendab@lyrec.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 10:43 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

I support the existing RPS because it does not harm the reliability and affordability of power provided by electric cooperatives.

Why Montana's Electric Cooperatives Support the Current State RPS

- **Helps protect Montana electric co-ops' ability to continue purchasing low-cost renewable energy in the form of federal hydropower.** Depending on the co-op, Montana's electric cooperatives receive from 15 to 90 percent of their power from this carbon-free, pollution-free renewable resource;
- **Ensures electric cooperative member-owners do not see significant rate increases as a result of the need to meet a mandate for the purchase of renewable energy.** New, renewable energy is generally much higher in cost than co-ops' existing sources of energy;
- **Preserves electric co-ops' ability to continue voluntary purchases of renewable energy.** Co-ops west of the continental divide are more than 90 percent dependent on renewable hydropower. Co-ops east of the continental divide obtain from 15 to 60 percent of their electricity from renewable hydropower. In addition, most of the co-ops east of the divide buy power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which has more than 15 percent wind energy in its electricity portfolio.
- **Recognizes the importance of preserving lower-cost electricity in rural Montana to offset the generally higher cost of delivering power in sparsely populated, remote regions of the state.** Many rural electric cooperatives have less than one member per mile of power line to pay the cost of delivering power over what is collectively the largest power distribution system in Montana.

Brenda Bond
Lower Yellowstone REA
brendab@lyrec.com
Phone: 406-488-1602
Fax: 406-488-6524

Nowakowski, Sonja

From: kelly <kellychristine99@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 11:50 AM
To: Nowakowski, Sonja
Subject: RPS

Importance: High

Dear Interim Energy Committee,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you help Montana electric cooperatives maintain affordable and reliable power by supporting the current renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Expansion of the RPS is going to place pressure on electric cooperatives to purchase larger amounts of higher-cost renewable energy and I am afraid this would cause undue hardship on the residents of my community and throughout the state of Montana. Our cooperative is fortunate to receive the majority of its power in the form of low-cost, clean hydro power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Flathead Electric also voluntarily expanded their power supply portfolio in recent years to include a gas to energy landfill supply, a small hydro project and a biomass project. These projects were selected by Flathead Electric after the board and staff performed due diligence to make sure the projects didn't negatively impact power supply reliability or affordability of rates to members of the cooperative.

Please don't mandate further renewable purchases that will displace our cost-effective, green hydro power causing financial strain to members of Flathead Electric. Please maintain the current state RPS for Montana.

Sincerely,

Kelly Spooner
Flathead Electric Cooperative Member