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# Missouri Laborers' Legislative Committee

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April 1, 2010

Chairman Robert M. Clayton III  
Commissioner Jeff Davis  
Commissioner Kevin Gunn  
Commissioner Terry Jarrett  
Commissioner Robert Kenney  
Public Service Commission  
Governor Office Building  
200 Madison Street  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

**FILED<sup>2</sup>**

APR 05 2010

Missouri Public  
Service Commission

Re: Case No. EX-2010-0169. Implementation of Missouri's Renewable Electric Standard and its Potential for Positive Job Creation and Economic Development

Dear Chairman Clayton and Commissioners:

We are writing today in regard to the Public Service Commission's (PSC) rulemaking to implement Missouri's Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). On behalf of our more than 10,000 working men and women members in Missouri, we encourage the Commission to move forward in a manner that supports the voter's intent in passing the RES of having renewable energy delivered to Missouri utility customers and supporting the development of new industry in the state.

Our organization represents more than 10,000 men and women across Missouri who are members of the Laborers International Union of North America. Ours is a diverse membership with significant presence in both urban and rural areas of the state. Our members are primarily engaged in the construction sector and have experience in the construction of renewable energy projects.

The voters of Missouri demonstrated significant vision in passing the RES and if implemented properly, that vision will provide multiple benefits to utility customers, the state, and local communities. Our members are not only utility customers, but are also actively engaged in the construction of renewable energy projects in Missouri and across the Midwest. We see first-hand the significant positive impact to families and communities in rural areas that a vibrant renewable energy industry can provide. We believe the promotion of these positive impacts is consistent with the voter's intent in passing the RES and it is our strong desire and encouragement this be taken into account as the Commission considers this matter further.

## **AFFILIATES**

Local 42, St. Louis - Local 53, St. Louis - Local 110, St. Louis - Local 264, Kansas City - Local 319, Joplin  
Local 579, St. Joseph - Local 660, St. Charles - Local 662, Jefferson City - Local 663, Kansas City - Local 829, Ste. Genevieve  
Local 830, Ste. Genevieve - Local 840, Rolla - Local 916, Farmington - Local 955, Columbia - Local 1104, Cape Girardeau  
Eastern Missouri Laborers District Council - Western Missouri & Kansas Laborers District Council

Implementing the RES in a manner that significantly increases the demand for renewable electricity generation will spur investment in a significant amount of dollars and the development additional power projects in Missouri. Presently, seven wind energy projects are proposed for development in Missouri and are in various stages of planning or construction. These projects represent an estimated total investment value of approximately \$3.275 billion dollars, and nearly 1,700 megawatts of new production capacity. This level of new investment and production capacity is exemplary of the potential that exists for our state and our skilled men and women who work in the construction industry.

These investments in new capacity provide both urban and rural electricity customer benefits by acting as a buffer against volatility in the fossil fuels market. The added benefit of developing new industry has particular importance in rural areas. The development, construction, and operation of wind energy projects are long-term investments that infuse significant dollars into local economies. These investments result in needed opportunity for local businesses and Missouri's workforce. The recent development and construction of a significant wind energy project in Missouri demonstrates the positive impact the development of a vibrant renewable energy industry can have. This particular project involved the erection of 100 towers. This project is estimated to deliver 150MW of new capacity with an estimated total project investment value of \$300 million, supporting 2,500 jobs—including manufacturing of the turbines. Some specific examples of this project's impact on the local economy include the need to provide over 40,000 yards of concrete and employment of more than 100 construction workers for nearly one year. **As many as 40 northwest Missouri Laborers have been employed during each phase of this project resulting in approximately \$2.8 million in wages and benefits (health insurance and pension contributions).** In northwest Missouri, where construction work is often sparse, these jobs are crucial to the construction workforce and our membership.

In closing, it is our belief the intent of Missouri voters in approving a renewable electricity standard was to have renewable energy delivered to Missouri utility customers and support for the development of new industry in the state. We again encourage the Commission to move forward in a manner that supports the voter's intent in passing the RES of having renewable energy delivered to Missouri utility customers and supporting the development of new industry and jobs in the state of Missouri. The result will provide multiple benefits to utility customers, the state, local communities and the men and women of the Laborers' International Union in Missouri.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adam R. McBride".

Adam R. McBride  
Director