



16 April, 2008

Board of Ellis County Commissioners
Ellis County Courthouse
1204 Fort Street
Hays, KS 67601

Dear Commissioners,

This letter is respectfully submitted to you pursuant to the Hays Wind project's previous and upcoming Conditional Use Permit applications. As you know, Section 32-107 of the Ellis County Adopted Zoning Regulations stipulates that an applicant must wait one year from the date of denial of an application until it may apply again. However, it states that "The Governing Body may waive the limitation for good cause if there is a substantial change in the application as proposed." Please consider the contents of this letter to be a brief demonstration of substantial changes made to the project as proposed for a Conditional Use Permit and the good cause in granting the waiver of the one year waiting period.

The State of Kansas is currently undergoing rapid growth in wind energy. In recent months, the Smoky Hills Wind Project has completed initial phases of construction in Ellsworth and Lincoln Counties. Three other commercial scale wind projects have contracted with an energy purchaser, and initial construction is underway or is expected to begin soon. In the next couple of years the state will triple the amount of wind energy that was in place at the end of 2007. This marked upward trend was spurred in large part by the commitment Governor Kathleen Sebelius made in January, 2007 with Kansas utilities to provide 10% of Kansas' energy from renewable energy by 2010 and 20% by 2020. In September, 2007 Lieutenant Governor Mark Parkinson described his vision for Kansas' future in wind energy at the 2007 Kansas Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Conference in Topeka. His vision includes a dramatic increase in the amount of wind energy in Kansas, sustained far beyond the present surge. Kansas ranks third in the US for wind energy potential, yet it lags behind in actual wind energy production. State-level leadership in Kansas continues to pursue a desire to see Kansas increase its amount of wind energy production in order to be able to serve other states, particularly to the east and southeast, with clean renewable wind energy. Such a vision is part of a potential transformation in Kansas from an extractive economy to a sustainable economy and from its present status as an energy importer to an energy exporter.

With the foregoing in mind, it is reasonable to conclude that wind energy will continue to be developed in Kansas. It is one of the safest and cleanest forms of energy in use today.

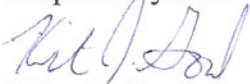
At 200MW, the Hays Wind Project represents a potential to invest more than \$40 million into the Ellis County economy over the next two decades through new jobs, landowner payments, local construction activity, and increased tourism activity, all of which is on top of any payment in lieu of taxes. Wind energy will promote Ellis County's image as progressive for business and friendly to the environment.

The Hays Wind Project has undergone numerous developments and improvements over the past few months. The overall size of the proposed Hays Wind Project remains the same, but through the use of more efficient wind turbines with larger generators we will be able to produce the same amount of energy with fewer turbines. The placement of these new turbines has been carefully designed to maximize the overall aesthetic qualities of the project area. The turbine sites that were particularly objectionable to a few neighbors have been eliminated from consideration, despite superior wind speeds in many of those locations. The minimum distance between any turbine and any residence not under easement has been doubled from the level originally proposed. In the past year, the Hays Wind project has also voluntarily subjected itself to rigorous noise standards to ensure the ambient qualities of the project area for its neighbors. We have conducted multiple ecological, environmental, and cultural studies of the project area to ensure minimal impacts. Such studies have been conducted with the input of relevant state agencies. Engineers and meteorologists have contributed to the redesign. The Hays Wind Project is also under new ownership since the filing of its previous Conditional Use Permit application. Iberdrola Renewable Energies USA ("Iberdrola") is the world's leading wind energy company with more than 7,700 MW of renewable energy installed and operational worldwide including more than 2,000 MW in the United States. Iberdrola offers unmatched experience and leadership in wind energy for its many projects.

A full reapplication for a Conditional Use Permit accompanies this letter. Should you choose to approve the waiver of the one-year waiting period based on the aforementioned changes, we will forward the same documents to the Ellis County Zoning Administrator for official submission of the reapplication at your direction.

Ellis County has a promising future in renewable energy with the Hays Wind Project, and we along with thousands of local supporters encourage you to allow us to pursue this tremendous opportunity with vigorous diligence. We thank you sincerely for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Krista J. Gordon
Hays Wind Project