

Attachment 1.02
Letters of Support

Sedgwick County Planning & Zoning Department
315 Cedar Street; Suite 200
Julesburg, CO 80737

February 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Support of NRS Overland East Wind Project

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in response and support of the National Renewable Solutions' (NRS) wind project known as Overland East. As graduates of Julesburg High School and residents of northeast Colorado for decades, we have grown-up, graduated, farmed, and taught science here. We believe the Overland East Wind Project is good for the local community for many reasons, especially as it expands to the proposed 1250MW project.

With family in northeast Colorado encompassing nearly 80 years and four generations, we have watched the region grow, adapt, and strengthen itself through many challenges. Resilient and flexible with a bend-but-don't-break attitude describes those who call Sedgwick County home. Furthermore, adapting to change for the betterment of the community is paramount.

We participated in NECO years ago, lost money, and time, and hope. The Overland East Project restores that hope with a new plan and a second chance for the community. Renewable energy will come; it's not a matter of if, but when. Energy prices continue to rise both domestically and internationally; fluctuations in the global economy are felt directly here at home. Friends across the nation suffer with electric bills of \$600/month, and cost to create and maintain those sources continues to rise as every cent is squeezed from operational efficiencies. Like a solid retirement portfolio, renewable energy brings diversification and long-term stability.

From a Colorado-centric perspective, I have worked for decades with high-tech companies internationally and with the National Renewable Energy Labs in Golden. NREL is part of the Department of Energy focusing on renewables. NREL has projects ranging from wind & solar to geothermal and fuel cells. NREL was heavily involved in developing ethanol technology which helped stabilize corn markets since the 1980's. Vestas, maker of wind turbines and employer to thousands, has been in Colorado for over a decade. NJC in Sterling has a WindTech training program for local high school graduates. Overland East could employ upwards of 40 high-paying high-tech jobs. The entire food chain is here. From R&D to manufacturing and support, the natural progression and benefit is at our door. We just need to open it.

For those second, third or fourth-generation farmers, we understand the challenge; farming is hard when fuel prices are \$6 per gallon and wheat prices fluctuate from \$4 to \$12/bushel. To remain solvent and profitable, diversification is key. Farmers, cities, and communities should come together towards this common goal of prosperity, stability, and consistency.

Farming income is the mainstay of this economy. The city and county need consistency amongst the headwinds of a shrinking tax base and aging population. Payments from NRS to Sedgwick County and its residents will benefit everyone. Millions of dollars will be injected into the economy in many ways. From high-paying jobs to direct monies to the County, we support NRS' Overland East Wind Project for a stable economy for decades to come.

Sincerely,
Robert J Brown
Connie L Brown (Blochowitz)



Kelly Kinnie
5777 US Hwy 385
Julesburg, CO 80737
February 20, 2024

Dear Sedgwick County Commissioners',

I am a landowner and longtime resident of Sedgwick County and I am serving on the advisory board for the Overland Pass Energy East project. I would like to start out by showing my support for this project and how it will help this community and why Sedgwick County needs to help where it can.

I remember many years ago when Seaboard Foods LP came to this community and how many locals were not in support of it. Making statements like "The smell will be awful" or "They will only be here for 10 years and then pull out after the buildings need replaced". I could go on, but they are not the purpose of this letter. However, with the nonsupport of Seaboard coming in at that time, I would like to remind everyone what they have done for this community. They support our local schools, businesses, and have increased the value of our county. Now we have National Renewable Solutions bringing the Overland Pass Energy East project to our area. Once again, I have heard negative things about "wind farms". Well, let's talk about what NRS can bring to Sedgwick County.

With a 750MW farm this could mean a \$2.68 million in tax revenue for our county. Then you could add the landowner payments of \$3.75 million that could flow into the county. This alone will have a nice impact for the county. With 2022 being the worst year our farm has ever seen and with things getting harder in the ag sector, something like this can only help our bottom line in agriculture.

Now lets look at what jobs this could provide in the area. During the construction stages it is my understanding that it could provide up to 200 short-term construction jobs from which, when possible, will be local. Then 20-25 long-term jobs for maintenance and service needs. Now some of the long-term jobs may be locals already, but think if they weren't. This means new possible families in our community. This could then flow over into our schools and other businesses with spouses and children seeking schooling and employment as well. I have seen NRS have a presence in our communities already. They have been at our county fairs and also helped out other local organizations. Our county has let too many things pass by its doors in the past. So, when an opportunity like this comes about, we need to be willing to accommodate where we can.

Thank you all for your consideration in this matter and I hope you will make a planned and informed decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Kinnie', written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Kinnie

Kimberly Orth
409 West 6th Street
Julesburg, CO. 80737
February 29, 2024

Dear Sedgwick County Planning & Zoning Board,

I am writing this letter in support of National Renewable Solutions (NRS) and their Overland Pass Energy Project being developed within Sedgwick County to harness wind energy. I have been part of their Advisory Board and have seen the effort, planning, and care that the NRS team has put into this project.

I believe that this project will be a state-of-the-art wind project that will help to supplement farming and ranching which is the core of our community. At the first public hearing for this project there were 182 proposed turbines within the scope of the project which the company would like to expand upon. An additional 7,000 acres have been signed up (private and state land) since that initial permit with the possibility of even more prior to the final deadline and has included contracts with some who were initially opposed to the project.

Jobs, investments, and an increased tax base to our community will help to improve the health, safety, and welfare of our community through the increased revenue of this project. This clean energy project will help support the future success of our community which has been gradually decreasing through the decades due to decreased population and business opportunities. The increased revenue from this project will help support our county's ability to maintain our County-owned medical facility which is vital to our citizens, will allow infrastructure improvements throughout the County that have been on hold, will attract young farmers to stay on family farms with less stress regarding annual weather and market values, and will be a shot-in-the-arm for local businesses during the construction phase and the influx of workers needed for the continual maintenance of the project.

Our County needs this project to reverse our declining population and increasing poverty rate. We have approximately 32% of our current population over the age of 65 as there are not enough business opportunities to support young families and encourage them to live here. An increased revenue stream will attract more business, activity, and involvement in our hometown.

It is the hope of our citizens that this project will indeed bring back the optimism and increased trade that we had at one time when we had a major business in our County. New times, new business, and new hope would transform the County and thus its citizens. I hope that you can see the value in supporting this project as well. I am a life-long committed citizen who was born here, raised my family here, followed by career path of teaching here for 32 years and I want to see this County thrive again.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this project.
Respectfully,


Kimberly K. Orth

Town of Ovid

211 Main Street – PO Box 396
Ovid, Colorado 80744

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April 3, 2024

Overland Pass Energy 125 Cedar Street Box #4 Julesburg, Co 80737

Dear Overland Pass Energy

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Overland Pass Energy's proposed wind energy project in Sedgwick and Phillips County. As a resident and advocate for the economic development of Sedgwick County, I believe that this initiative holds significant promise for our community's future.

The potential benefits of the wind energy project to Sedgwick County cannot be overstated. Not only will it contribute to the diversification of our energy sources, but it will also generate substantial income through permits and tax revenue. This additional revenue stream has the potential to greatly enhance our local economy, providing funding for essential services and infrastructure projects that benefit all residents.


Moreover, Overland Pass Energy's commitment to renewable energy aligns with the growing global imperative to combat climate change and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. By investing in wind energy, we are not only securing a sustainable future for our community but also contributing to the broader effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change on a global scale.

I commend Overland Pass Energy for their dedication to responsible energy development and their engagement with local stakeholders throughout this process. Their commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement sets a commendable example for other energy companies to follow.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Overland Pass Energy's wind energy project and urge all relevant stakeholders to support its approval. I am confident that this project will bring lasting benefits to Sedgwick County, both economically and environmentally, and I look forward to witnessing its successful implementation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or support.

Sincerely,



Frankie Hernandez

Mayor

February 16, 2024

Sedgwick County Commissioners
Julesburg, CO 80737

Dear Sirs,

This letter is written in support of wind energy in Sedgwick County. As agriculture is the main industry in our county, we need diversification. Overland Pass Energy offers that diversification in their proposed projects. We are fortunate that they have chosen our county for these projects as there are many other locations they could choose.

I realize that there is some controversy with these projects. However, when you weigh the economic benefits to landowners, as well as the county coffers, I believe it is an easy decision. The vast majority of our young people leave our community because of lack of jobs. Hopefully, wind energy will provide options for good jobs and income. I trust that Overland Pass Energy will do all they can to mitigate the negative actions of their projects.

In the past, the Board of Commissioners has supported wind energy and I am confident that you will continue your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Carlson

**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



04/18/20224

Overland Pass Energy

125 Cedar Street Box #4

Julesburg, Co 80737

(952) 697-9679

(970) 466-0579

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Sedgwick County Economic Development, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for Overland Pass Energy's wind energy program, specifically regarding the placement of windmills in Sedgwick County and Phillips County. We believe that this initiative will not only contribute significantly to the advancement of renewable energy but also serve as a catalyst for economic growth and community development in our region.

The decision to invest in wind energy aligns perfectly with our county's commitment to sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. By harnessing the power of wind, we are not only diversifying our energy portfolio but also reducing our carbon footprint, thus contributing to a healthier and more sustainable future for generations to come.

Moreover, the establishment of wind towers in Sedgwick County presents a unique opportunity to bolster our local economy. We are particularly excited about the prospect of employing residents of Sedgwick County in the construction of these towers, providing valuable job opportunities and stimulating economic activity within our community. Additionally, the long-term maintenance and operation of these windmills will continue to create employment opportunities, ensuring that the benefits of this project extend far beyond its initial implementation phase.

Overland Pass Energy has consistently demonstrated its commitment to excellence and innovation in the field of renewable energy. We are confident that their expertise and dedication will result in the successful execution of this project, delivering tangible benefits to our county and its residents.

125 Cedar St Box #1

Julesburg, CO 80737

PHONE (970) 474-3504

www.sedgwickcountyeconomicdevelopment.com

Michelle Stang

Executive Director
(970) 520-3065 **CELL**
sced@pctelcom.coop

**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**



In conclusion, we wholeheartedly endorse Overland Pass Energy's wind energy program and look forward to collaborating closely with your team to bring this transformative project to fruition. Together, we can build a more sustainable future while fostering economic prosperity and opportunity for all.

Thank you for considering our support, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further assistance or collaboration.

Warm regards,

Michelle Stang
Michelle Stang

Executive Director

Sedgwick County Economic Development

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Michelle Stang

Executive Director

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GO Liquor LLC
125 1st Street
Julesburg, CO 80737


To Whom It May Concern,

As a business owner in Julesburg I would like to express my support for the proposed Overland Pass Project through National Renewable Solutions to be located south of town. Every business within our County has struggled to survive since losing the Great Western Sugar Company back in 1976. We used to be a bustling hub of activity with more than double the population that we have now. Families shopped locally, sent their children to our local schools, and were involved in the economic development of our county. Farmers thrived with the sugar beet industry and thus so did the farm implement businesses, local retail businesses, and individual families being employed to work there directly or through re-haul trucking of beets from various sites to the factory. It was amazing how the loss of one business in our County affected all segments of our lives.

With the prospect of another large business coming to our County and the related commerce that it could generate, I am excited to think how we might all benefit from this project. The increase in our labor force, their needs for daily living, their desire for free-time activities, and their involvement in our community are all important and help to multiply the economic impact this project will have on our County. The acquisition of one business can alter the path of loss we have experienced into one of growth.

One person, one business, one desire might not survive, but when we support each other's dreams of success, we all benefit. I hope you will support this project as well as our family has.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Orth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "O".

Ed Orth,
Business Owner