

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

October 10, 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.

With family in northeast Colorado encompassing nearly 80 years and six 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 20 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 continue to rise, and wheat prices fluctuate from \$4 to \$12/bushel. To remain solvent and profitable, diversification is key. Farmers, cities, and communities must 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