


GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOLS
Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs
Regular Meeting – Monday – November 10, 2008

TO: Dr. Mike Riggle

FROM: Dr. Craig A. Schilling 

DATE: November 10, 2008

RE: **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Support of House Bill 6660 & the Wind Farm Energy Alliance for School Districts

During last year's legislative session IASBO supported legislation, which allows school districts to indirectly operate wind turbines, not located on their property. This legislation opened the door for intergovernmental agreements where district's can use their combined resources to create wind farms to generate electricity.

HB6660 is a "net billing" legislation, which would allow a school district to swap electricity generated on the wind farms for electricity used in their district. Literally, this would allow a school district, like Glenbrook, to pay for electricity from a green source – wind. The payback of this type of wind farm is approximately six years. As part of the federal bailout there is a large sum of money available for clean renewable energy sources. Illinois has never received any of these dollars. At this time we are requesting the board's support for this legislation. By going on the record with our support it will allow Glenbrook to participate in the intergovernmental agreement for the wind farms should it come to fruition.

What could this mean for Glenbrook? Our best guess is probably an offset of up to \$250,000 per year in electrical costs.

CAS/lbw

Attachments

pc: Board of Education

Resolution to Support Net Aggregate Metering for School Districts

Whereas Many school districts have been working to improve the environment through the implementation of a renewable source of energy that may provide electricity to all their buildings; and

Whereas the State of Illinois has passed legislation that will allow school districts in Illinois to own and operate wind turbine farms; and

Whereas current legislation does not mandate that the three electrical providers in Illinois allow school districts who own a wind turbine farm to have net aggregate metering for the electricity; and

Whereas Representatives Crespo has proposed amended legislation to mandate that electrical providers offer net aggregate metering to all school districts that own a wind turbine farm;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Education of School District ____ supports legislation in their renewable energy initiative on behalf of all school districts in the State of Illinois.

Signed this ____ day of _____ 2008

President of the Board of Education

_____ School District _____

Wind Farm Alliance for the Benefit of School Districts in Illinois

On August 23, 2007, Illinois Public Act 095-0390 went into effect permitting that “a Illinois school district may own and operate a wind generation turbine farm, either individually or jointly, that directly or indirectly reduces the energy or operating costs of a school district.”

While the ability to own a wind turbine farm granted in Public Act 095-0390 is a great step in assisting school districts to free itself from the dependence of traditional electricity, the inability to reap the financial benefit due to the location of wind turbine farms and their distance from school districts remains problematic.

The majority of school districts in the State do not have the land or the access to some of the best-proven wind resources that are located in central Illinois.

To remedy this deficiency legislation was introduced in the Illinois House in July 2008 under HB 6660 by Representative Fred Crespo.

HB6660 would mandate net aggregate metering for school districts that own a wind turbine farm regardless of where it is located in the State of Illinois and require electrical companies to give each district that is a participant in a wind farm intergovernmental agreement one kilowatt credit for each kilowatt produced by a wind turbine against the aggregate bills of the district at the current cost of electricity.

This will result in significant savings on utility bills for participating districts, and that savings can be spent on more direct educational needs. It will also mean that participating school districts will not have to ask for more tax dollars as electricity costs increase in the future. This will also be good for electricity-producing companies because they will not have to make a capital investment or provide ongoing maintenance for equipment that produces green renewable energy.

With the renewal in October 2008 of the Federal Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBS) schools will have access to interest free loans to build the proposed wind farm. This would mean a faster return on investment for our school districts so that more dollars can be used on ever-increasing special education costs.

School Districts have formed the Wind Farm Alliance to stand up for what is the right thing to do for Illinois and our global environment. By creating more wind farms we will be reducing our carbon impact on the atmosphere and setting an example for our students and all our citizens. Saving money for the taxpayer, conserves money for education, helps the environment, and provides a civic example to students is an action worth supporting.

The Wind Alliance of School Districts in Illinois sincerely hopes you will support passage of HB 6660 .

For more information contact Gary Ofisher via email at gofisher@esd20.org

Renewable Energy Solutions Wind Farm Energy Alliance for School Districts



Alliance Objectives

- 1. Use currently approved Public Act 095-0390 to form a wind turbine farm alliance of School Districts.**
- 2. Obtain legislative approval of HB 6660 sponsored by Rep. Fred Crespo to mandate net aggregate metering for school districts that own a wind turbine farm.**



What Is House Bill 6660

- **House Bill 6660 will mandate that any school district, community college, or municipality that builds a wind turbine farm will have access to net aggregate metering for each facility owned and operated by a school district.**
- **This means that the electrical companies must give each district that owns a farm 1 kilowatt credit for each kilowatt produced by a wind turbine against the aggregate bills of the district at the current cost of electricity.**



Erie School District 1



“That’s what we were searching for – a way in the future, [to be] independent of the demands on energy, or the cost of energy that may be brought in by companies.”

**-Superintendent
Mike Ryan**

The first district in the state to connect all schools to their wind turbine without net metering.

- **Additional cost of project to hard wire all the schools in the district to its one wind turbine was over \$1,000,000.**



Keeneyville School District 20



“Due to the rising cost of energy, and the significant needs of our educational programs, only through creative technology, will we be able to meet the District’s mission.”

**-Superintendent
Dr. Carol Auer**

District 20’s estimate of hard wiring its three school districts to its proposed turbine is estimated to cost over \$1,000,000.



The Power of Wind

Why Wind, Why Now?

- **Positive Environmental Impact**
 - Reduced CO₂ emissions
- **Utility Cost Containment**
 - Commodity Independence
- **Learning Opportunity for Students**
- **Increased Revenue for School Districts to Fund Unfunded Educational Special Education Mandates**



Do We Know The Wind Is There

"Seven meteorological towers have been measuring wind for the past two years in McClean County, Illinois."

Based on the wind data collected

" it is expected that electricity can be generated well over 91% of the time with minimal disturbance to the surrounding communities and wildlife"



How Will The Farm Be Funded

- **The Federal Clean Renewable Energy Bond Program (CREBS) is the source of funding for the wind farm.**
- **The CREBS Program allows renewable energy projects to obtain interest free financing.**
- **This program has been renewed under the Economic Bail Out Plan approved in October 2008.**



What Are Our Next Steps



Timeline

- Passage of Net Aggregate Metering Legislation.
- Formation of Intergovernmental Agreement after passage for all districts interested in joining the Wind Turbine Alliance.
- Implementation Process
- **TAXPAYERS SAVE MONEY!!**



“Even a journey of a
1000 miles begins
with a single step.”

Wind Turbine Farm

- Questions

