

# TWO RIVERS ECONOMIC GROWTH

A coalition for the future development of Valley County

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March 15, 2005

The Honorable Representative Alan Olson, Chairman  
Members of the Federal Relations, Energy, & Telecommunications Committee  
Montana State Legislature  
Helena, Montana

**RE: SB 415**

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support of SB 415, the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act. I believe that SB 415 will substantially benefit Montana's economy, and I urge that you pass the bill out of the Federal Relations, Energy, & Telecommunications Committee.

Two Rivers Economic Growth, Inc. is working closely with Wind Hunter, LLC in developing the first 50 MW phase of a 300-500 MW wind farm in Valley County, approximately thirty miles north of Glasgow. Wind Hunter is currently acquiring three other areas in Montana, which have similar same wind potentials. Montana's renewable wind resources are immense, and this bill represents an important first step to tapping the benefits of these assets for the citizens and state. Wind power, and other renewables, enhance our energy security and reduce our reliability on foreign energy, keep energy dollars at home, diversify our energy supply, keep our air clean, improve public health, create jobs, enhance our coal and gas energy production, and can add substantial income to the state treasury.

SB 415 provides developers, like Wind Hunter, with an incentive to invest in Montana and bring significant benefits to the rural parts of our state. Renewable projects, such as wind, solar and biomass are becoming new cash crops for rural landowners, helping to increase and diversify farm revenue streams and to counteract swings in commodity prices. Renewable energy development can provide a long-term source of jobs, income and tax revenues for rural communities.

For all of these reasons, I ask you to support SB 415.

Sincerely,



Larry Mires  
Executive Director