



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 233

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SB 332

February 16, 2011

Senator Van Dyk
Senate Energy and Telecommunications Members

RE: SB 332 Increase Montana renewable energy portfolio standard

Dear Senators,

Due to a previously scheduled meeting in Great Falls, I'm not able to attend the hearing for SB 332.

We support SB 332 as it helps ensure economic development in parts of Montana that sorely need the jobs, infrastructure and increased tax revenue associated with large scale renewable energy products.

Within the central part & hi-line of Montana, we have had members work on every windfarm that's been built. Our research shows that over the next couple years there are at least eight windfarms scheduled in central Montana & the hi-line, with a total valuation of \$2.2 BILLION and 1,480 megawatts of electricity.

We've been able to train countless apprentices & young journeymen on these projects which improves the developing workforce in Montana and also helps us gear up for the impending loss of our soon to be retiring members.

We don't believe that more renewable energy projects will lessen the importance of our coal & hydro facilities. We believe we should have as many electrical generation facilities as we can in this great state of ours. Montana needs a fully diversified complement of electrical generation that includes coal, hydro, wind and whatever else we can build that will help improve our economy and create more good paying jobs that are associated with these types of Montana projects.

SB 332 is a jobs creating bill and Montana sorely needs this type of vehicle to put people back to work.

Thank you,

Keith Allen
Business Manager
Master Electrician