

Testimony for SB 332

Hello Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Julia Page and I am from Gardiner, Montana. I am here today to ask for your support and a yes vote on SB ~~332~~ 332a

Montana's current renewable energy standard has been a good deal for Montana citizens – it is a solution to our energy challenge that we know works. Increasing the state's renewable energy standard to 25% by 2025 means greater energy security for this country and the people of Montana. We cannot continue to allow foreign dictators to control our energy supply. It is a fact that all 3 members of the Montana congressional delegation recognized when they signed on to the 25x25 initiative.

Not only does clean energy mean national energy security, it means security for Montana's families and ratepayers as well. Clean, renewable power offers consumers a cheaper, least-risk option in an uncertain energy future and keeps more money in the pockets of hard working Montanans. According to NorthWestern's filings with the state's Public Service Commission, new wind power purchased to meet the RES has been cheaper than the traditional mix of coal and hydroelectricity, even when extra costs are considered to manage the variability of wind. An increase to the RES means a commitment to providing Montana consumers with cheaper energy bills.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for your consideration of my comments and I urge you to vote yes on SB 332.