



Senator Roger Webb
Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee
Montana Senate
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Chairman Webb and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee regarding **SB134** that will allow for aggregate net metered renewable energy systems.

Moodie Wind Energy is a subset of Moodie Implement Company, a 4th generation John Deere dealer throughout Central Montana. Moodie Wind Energy focuses on bringing onsite wind energy solutions to farmers, businesses, communities and non-profit entities.

Net metering is the single most important vehicle to support relatively small scale renewable energy systems to be realized. Net metered systems:

- Help the utility by distributing electricity generation throughout the grid as opposed to centralized generation, thereby reducing energy loss via transmission and reducing the need for additional transmission infrastructure
- Insulate owners of net metered systems from the uncertainty of utility prices, which are inherently volatile
- Help conserve finite resources for future generations

I have met with many agricultural producers and businesses that have been interested in pursuing a renewable energy system. Typical ranchers and farmers have multiple meters spread throughout their operation, at their home, shops, outbuildings and irrigation systems. This legislation would allow a single renewable energy system to be installed to offset more than one of their meters. Larger systems will be installed to offset the multiple meters which will be stronger investments for the owner. Aggregate net metering will not only open up new markets but also strengthen the current market that Moodie Wind Energy is in. Farmers and ranchers who make the investment in a renewable energy system will be able to fix a portion of their energy expenses and will be insulated from volatile energy costs.

A few examples of entities with NorthWestern Energy service territory that I have engaged with about onsite wind energy, who could utilize and benefit from aggregate net metering are:

- Montana State University – Northern in Havre
- Great Falls College Montana State University in Great Falls
- Wheat Montana in Three Forks

- New Rockport Hutterite Colony in Choteau
- Mike Huber in Choteau
- Errol Galt in Martinsdale
- Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes in Fort Belknap

The projects that this legislation will support are helping Montanans create their own energy, instead of relying on an out-of-state utility to provide all their energy. Carrying your own weight is a rural-American ideal that should be supported by the Legislature.

Lastly, implementing practices to conserve our natural resources is not a partisan issue. Conservation is both a Conservative and a Liberal pillar that both parties should be able to get behind. I ask you to please support SB134 and allow for aggregate net metered renewable energy systems.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jon Foster

Wind Specialist

Moodie Wind Energy