



City and State Leaders to Welcome Attendees *Central High School JROTC to Present Colors*

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LINCOLN – Omaha City Council President Ben Gray and Nebraska State Senator Ken Schilz will welcome attendees of the eighth annual Nebraska Wind and Solar Conference to Omaha at the Omaha Hilton, 1001 Cass St on Wednesday, November 4 at 8:15 a.m. The Central JROTC will present the colors before opening remarks.

Council President Gray is in his second term of representing City Council District 2. His voice and face are familiar to the community as he can be seen in the classroom, on television, on the stage in local theatre productions and many community meetings. Council President Gray was the Executive Producer of “Kaleidoscope” on ABC’s affiliate station KETV for over 30 years, and won multiple local, regional and national awards as a reporter, photojournalist and host of a TV show.

“We are pleased to have Council President Gray welcome the attendees to Omaha for our conference as he is well known and respected for his involvement in the Omaha community,” said conference co-chairman Adam Herink. “He believes in practicing social and community responsibility which is an integral part of the renewable energy industry.”

From the opposite end of the state, Senator Schilz represents Nebraska’s Legislative District 47, which consists of the State’s southern panhandle. He was elected in November 2008 and serves as the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee. Senator Schilz graduated from the University Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and returned home to Ogallala to work on the family farm, and later becoming the general manager of the McGinley Schilz Feed Yard.

“Senator Schilz is a pro-active leader for the wind and solar industry through legislation and advocacy,” said conference co-chairman John Hansen. “The part of the state he represents has tremendous wind resources, wants to move forward with wind development, and is frustrated when they can see miles of wind turbines across the state line in Colorado. He has been a consistent leader in supporting wind and solar energy legislation in the Legislature while also helping our state develop a more comprehensive state energy policy. Sen Schilz has been a leader in helping develop the necessary consensus and support to move renewable energy legislation forward.”

Registration is \$160 until October 25th and student Registration is \$65. Rooms are still available at the Hilton Omaha, which includes free parking. Those not staying at the hotel will receive a reduced daily parking rate of \$5. Standard and student registration includes the Consumer Energy Showcase, Tuesday, November 3rd from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Hilton Omaha. The event is open to the general public for a \$5 admission fee and includes parking. Registration and hotel registration information is available at the conference website <http://nebraskawindandsolarconference.com/>.

To view last year’s presentations, go to <http://www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind-working-group/2014conference/2014conference.htm>.