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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW NEBRASKA WIND WORKING GROUP
TO FOCUS ON INFORMATION AND EDUCATION**

GRAND ISLAND -- Two state senators and an agricultural leader announced today the formation of the Nebraska Wind Working Group to develop the state's wind energy potential. The Group is co-chaired by Senator Cap Dierks of Ewing, Senator Don Priester of Omaha, and John Hansen, President of the Nebraska Farmers Union; Larry Pearce, Nebraska Energy Office, serves as Vice-Chair. Financing for the group comes from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Energy Department's Wind Powering America initiative. As a state and federal partnership, the Wind Working Group will have access to NREL's expertise to help develop Nebraska's wind resources.

The Nebraska Wind Working Group will be similar to wind working groups already established in many other states. The focus of the group will be to provide education, outreach and information. The Nebraska Energy Office will provide administrative support for the group.

The Wind Working Group will identify and bring together small and large wind stakeholders, conduct public information and outreach on the potential of wind energy, and encourage information sharing among wind energy stakeholders. The Wind Working Group will work with Nebraska's unique public power structure to find appropriate ways to move wind energy development forward in the state.

President Bush set a national goal of using wind energy for 20 percent of the nation's electricity demand by 2030. Nebraska, ranked 6th in the country in wind energy capacity, is a pivotal state in wind energy development in the attainment of the national 2030 goal. The development of Nebraska's wind energy resource potential could contribute over \$7 billion to the state's economy, particularly in rural areas.

The Wind Working Group will use the leadership, commitment, and innovative approaches used to create the state's successful ethanol industry.

Nebraskans interested in wind energy development are encouraged to become involved in the effort. More information on the Wind Working Group is located at <http://www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind-working-group/nwwg.htm>

NOTES TO MEDIA

Remarks

The text of remarks by the three Wind Working Group chairs are posted on the Wind Working Group web site listed above.

Related Web Sites

National Renewable Energy Laboratory <http://www.nrel.gov/>

Nebraska Energy Office <http://www.neo.ne.gov/>

Wind Energy Resources <http://www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind.htm>

Wind Powering America <http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro/windpoweringamerica/>

U.S. Department of Energy <http://www.energy.gov/>