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### **Nebraska Wind Working Group Praises NPPD's Doubling of its Renewable Energy Goal**

LINCOLN, NE – The Nebraska Wind Working Group praised the doubling in Nebraska Public Power District's renewable energy goal. During its board meeting last week, Nebraska Public Power District officials raised the utility's previous goal of having 5 percent of its fuel resources come from renewable energy, to 10 percent by the year 2020.

"We are extremely pleased with NPPD's recent board action increasing its renewable energy goal and with the board's recognition of the important role that renewable energy must play in Nebraska's economic future," said John Hansen, co-chair of the Nebraska Wind Working Group. "The board's action is an important step forward."

Nebraska Public Power District set the higher renewable energy goal as part of its review and update of the utility's strategic plan.

"We are at the same place today in developing Nebraska's wind resources as we were years ago in developing the state's ethanol industry," said co-chair and State Senator Cap Dierks. "NPPD is a critically important partner as more and more of state's vast wind resources are developed. Wind energy development will one day play as important a role in the economy as ethanol does today."

"I commend NPPD for setting renewable energy goals to meet our electricity needs," said co-chair and State Senator Don Preister. "But seeing those goals are met is far more important. There is industry consensus that utilities must prepare for greenhouse gas regulation. Development of renewable energy will be critical to meeting these requirements."

### **Nebraska Wind Information and Education Tour Concludes**

On Friday in Lincoln, the Nebraska Wind Working Group completed a five city wind energy information and education tour that included stops in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Ainsworth, Norfolk, and Lincoln. "The public response to the meetings was extraordinary. Hundreds of people have attended the sessions," said Hansen. "It's clear that Nebraskans understand and support developing the state's wind energy resources." Hansen said that most of the presentations from the tour will be posted on the Working Group's web site.

The state Wind Working Group is chaired by State Senators Cap Dierks and Don Preister and ag organization official John Hansen. The Nebraska Wind Working Group is a state and federal partnership with the Nebraska Energy Office, U.S. Department of Energy and Wind Powering America that utilizes the resources and expertise of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to help Nebraskans wisely and effectively develop the state's wind resources. You can find out more about the partnership online at <http://www.neo.ne.gov/renew/wind-working-group/nwng.htm>.

Nebraska's wind energy resources are ranked sixth in the nation and can play a vital role in meeting the President's goal of using wind energy to supply 20 percent of the nation's electricity demand by 2030. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates meeting this goal would bring in excess of \$7 billion to the state's economy – particularly in rural areas – and improve the quality of the environment for current and future generations of Nebraskans. Electricity generated from Nebraska's winds offers promise for both in-state use and energy export.