



Thousands of voters in Lincoln County sign petition referring controversial setback ordinance to public vote

Dakota Power Community Wind takes next crucial step in making clean, sustainable energy production a reality

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CANTON, S.D. – Supporters of a proposed wind farm to be constructed northeast of Beresford filed petition paperwork this morning in Canton with Lincoln County Auditor Marlene Sweeter. Once certified the petition would refer a recent wind energy ordinance change to a countywide vote to be held in July.

“It’s an understatement to say we’re very encouraged by the thousands of individuals throughout Lincoln County who signed this petition and want to overturn this unreasonably strict ordinance that makes wind energy production in Lincoln County unfeasible,” said Brian Minish board member with locally owned Dakota Power Community Wind. “Voters in Lincoln County know that a wind farm would mean millions of dollars for the county, schools and townships in terms of tax revenue generated. It’s very clear, that in this first phase of the election process, voters are making their voices heard loud and clear: they want wind energy production to become a reality in Lincoln County.”

Faced with the heavy task of gathering more than 1,700 signatures from Lincoln County registered voters, supporters began circulating the referendum petition last week after the publication of the new setback ordinance. Supporters achieved their goal of having the requisite number of signatures far ahead of the statutory 20-day deadline.

“Gathering nearly 2,100 signatures in a little more than a week is a true testament to the enthusiasm the voters of Lincoln County have for wind energy,” said Minish. “While circulating the petition it was a pleasure to hear thank you from the numerous voters who want to see clean, sustainable energy production become a reality in Lincoln County. From parents and grandparents looking at the funding this project would bring to schools, the county and townships to our ag producers, farmers and individuals who believe that landowners should be able to choose what they do on their family’s land, the support for Dakota Power Community Wind has really been overwhelming. We’re looking forward to the next phase of this process that will bring us one step closer to making wind energy in Lincoln County a reality.”

Sweeter will next certify the signatures and set an election date for the latter part of July.

“Once we have our petition certified and we have a date on the calendar we’ll formally kick off our campaign and let everyone in the county know just how important it will be to get out and vote,” concluded Minish.

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