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## Wind Works for Kansas Day at the Capitol

**Kansans gathered to discuss with legislators the true costs and benefits of the Kansas wind industry.**

**Topeka, KS**— Hundreds of Kansans gathered at the Statehouse on Tuesday, February 25th, for Wind Works for Kansas Day. Senator Marci Francisco welcomed the crowd in the 1st floor rotunda in front of the Faces of Wind Exhibit. The exhibit was a 6ft by 30ft Wind Works for Kansas sign with the letters covered in thousands of photos of Kansans who support wind energy. Senator Elaine Bowers and Representative Steven Becker, added onto Senator Francisco's message on the importance of wind energy in Kansas.

*"The wind industry has invested more than \$7 billion in the state and helps to grow our economy in Kansas,"* Senator Bowers announced to the crowd. She recognized Cloud County Community College wind students for their attendance at Wind Works for Kansas Day from the Senate Floor.

Following the speeches from the legislators, Kansans delivered over 2,000 signed postcards to Representative's offices all over the Statehouse with hopes to encourage them to support the State's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).

Approved in 2009, the RPS required the six regulated electric utilities to have 10% of their energy capacity from renewable sources by 2010, 15% by 2016, and 20% by 2020. To date, four of those six utilities have met the 2020 target, six years early. KCP&L will meet the 20% target upon completion of the 200 MW Waverly wind farm in Coffey County in 2015, and Westar will only be ~100 MW shy of their 20% target after construction is complete on the Kay County wind farm in Oklahoma just south of Arkansas City.

After the postcards were delivered, volunteers joined legislators for a Renewable Energy luncheon on the 4th floor of the Capitol to learn about the economic benefits of wind energy in Kansas and the results of a recent Renewable Energy Statewide Poll which showed overwhelming support for renewable energy. Senator Hawk, Senator Faust-Goudeau, Senator Francisco, Senator McGinn, Representative Clayton and Representative Becker were among many legislators who stopped by to show their support.

Presenters included Britton Gibson, from Polsinelli Shughart; Karin Brownlee, Kansans for Wind Energy; and Dorothy Barnett, Climate + Energy Project.

Wind Works for Kansas is the collective efforts of [Climate + Energy Project](#), [The Wind Coalition](#), [Kansans for Clean Energy](#), and [Kansans for Wind Energy](#).

### **About The Climate + Energy Project**

The Climate + Energy Project (CEP) is a non-partisan 501c(3) organization working to reduce emissions through greater energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. Located in America's Heartland, CEP collaborates with diverse



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partners across the nation to find practical solutions for a clean energy future that provides jobs, prosperity and energy security.

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For more information about this topic please contact Dorothy Barnett, Executive Director of the Climate + Energy Project, by calling (785) 424-0444 or emailing [barnett@climateandenergy.org](mailto:barnett@climateandenergy.org).