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IP-7145/WS-24-349

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Albert Lea Economic Development Agency (ALEDA), I am writing to express strong support for the Bent Tree North Wind Farm project currently under consideration by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

This project represents a significant investment in southern Minnesota, with long-term benefits for Freeborn County and the surrounding region. Over its expected 30-year lifespan, the Bent Tree North Wind Farm is projected to generate over \$100 million in local economic impact, including tax revenue, landowner lease payments, wages, and other local economic contributions. These dollars help support public services, stabilize rural economies, and strengthen our local business community.

In the near term, the construction phase is expected to create between 100 and 150 construction jobs, with a strong emphasis on hiring local contractors and sourcing materials from area suppliers. The influx of workers and activity will provide an immediate boost to Freeborn, Waseca, and Steele counties, benefiting restaurants, hotels, fuel stations, and retail businesses across our region.

The project's estimated 150 megawatts of wind power will provide clean energy to roughly 50,000 homes annually, helping Minnesota move toward a more resilient and sustainable energy future. The design also minimizes land disruption, each turbine is expected to occupy a minimal footprint of approximately two acres, allowing agricultural activity to continue around the turbines throughout their operational life.

At ALEDA, our mission is to support responsible projects that drive investment, retain and create jobs, and improve the long-term vitality of our communities. The Bent Tree North Wind Farm project aligns with these goals and reflects the kind of forward-looking development we strive to promote.

We respectfully urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to approve the Bent Tree North Wind Farm project. It plays an important role in the economic and energy landscape of southern Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'PQ' followed by a flourish.

Phillip Johnson
Executive Director
Albert Lea Economic Development Agency

From: [Wufoo](#)
To: [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)
Subject: Submitted Public Comment Form
Date: Monday, July 7, 2025 9:48:00 AM

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Name *	Phillip Johnson
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Provide the docket's number.	IP-7145/WS-24-349
Leave a comment on the docket. *	The Albert Lea Economic Development Agency is in full support of the project. Please see the attached letter for our comments.
Attach a File	<div></div> <div>bent tree wind farm north 2025_aleda_support letter ip7145_ws24349.pdf 113.55 KB · PDF</div>