

CAP X 2020 Public Hearing Testimony
June 26, 2008, 1:00pm Lakeville South High School
Lakeville, MN

Good Afternoon. My name is Brian Budenski. I live in Eureka Township. I am currently 1 of 5 supervisors on the Eureka Township Town Board. I am also a member of the Citizens Energy Task Force.

There are many reasons why I am here today and I will summarize them.

The citizens of the United States are living in a time unlike any other in the past. An unpopular war, never ending threat of global terrorism that could bring any or all countries to its knees, starvation, poverty, global warming, and the list goes on.

I will talk about our energy policy. (or lack thereof)

The CAPX 2020 power line proposal favors large remote energy sources to transmit energy from coal plants and other fossil fuel plants. This is not the solution to our countries energy dependency. Wind energy is!

Wind energy is the fastest growing segment of the \$650 billion annual worldwide electricity market. For the past 10 years, the global wind energy market has been growing nearly 30% annually. Global Wind Energy Council is forecasting 155% growth in the global wind market by 2012.

Asia, and particularly China will likely play a key role in the industry's future growth because of that region's insatiable demand for energy and its industrial infrastructure and manpower. Asia is becoming a powerhouse for wind turbine production. In China, more than 40 companies are presently involved in turbine manufacturing, and by 2010, the country is expected to emerge as the leading global wind turbine producer.

In 2007, wind was one of Americas' fastest growing sources for electricity, second only to natural gas for the third consecutive year. There are wind farms in 34 states. Minnesota tops this list with the most installed megawatts with Iowa a close second. The upper Midwest states are called the "Saudia Arabia" of wind power.

Wind Power has no hidden costs, and it has become more cost effective with each new round of technological advancements. Since wind is free, the price of wind power is stable, unlike electricity from fossil fuel powered sources, which depends on fuels whose prices are costly and may vary considerably.

A study conducted by energy experts from Stanford concluded that, by building approximately 250,000 new turbines, America could eliminate almost two thirds of its coal generated electricity.

Each megawatt of wind produces about \$230,000 worth of electricity per year. That revenue pays the debt that purchased the project equipment, pays taxes and maintenance and all other expenses, including a very nice management fee to the local C-Bed owners. C-Bed is short for: Community based energy development. The C-Bed statute requires that over the life of the project, 51% of the revenue must go to the qualifying owners and other local entities, such as they are. That's where more local jobs and local economic development comes from.

In Eureka Township, in Dakota County Minnesota we have the 2nd highest elevation (Buck Hill Ski area is higher) in the county. This parcel of land is a perfect wind farm location and C-Bed. It also would be cost effective with one of the six "sweet spots" identified along the CAP X 2020 corridor that if utilized would eliminate the CAP X 2020 power lines entirely.

Therefore, my testimony today addresses only one of our counties many concerns but a very important global and local concern. Wind energy is the future and the future is now. Coal and fossil fuel is not endless, wind is. We as a nation and a state must embrace new technology that will only improve our environment, economy, and our countries future for ourselves and generations to come. Let Minnesota show this country how we can overcome our dependence on fossil fuel for electricity and we will be forever remembered for this groundbreaking achievement.

Thank you,

Brian J. Budenski