

Western Area Power Administration
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

I have seen the benefits of wind energy development with the construction of the first two wind towers South of Minot by Basin Electric and Verendrye Electric. I was clerk/treasurer of Freedom Township where the two wind towers are located, when they were built until this past year when I opted to take early retirement. During the tax years of 2004 through 2007 the towers have been in our township, we have received over \$73,500.00 in tax revenue from this source of energy. These funds have been put to work improving our township roads.

My involvement as a past board member of the rural fire district, I have seen the benefits of the added tax revenue in purchasing much needed fire equipment.

As a patron of South Prairie School, I am excited to see the impact the wind towers have on the revitalization of the school district through the tax revenue from the wind energy.

As a farmer, landowner, grandparent of children that will be attending South Prairie School, I have seen the economic benefits of these two existing wind towers and look forward to the proposed wind farm.

Having farmed all my life, I support wind as a alternative source of energy to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. Continued development of wind generation in this region will make our nation one step closer to achieving our goal of clean energy.

Michael H. Smith