

Senate Utilities Committee  
Testimony on HB 2127  
March 13, 2007

I am Dr. Richard Underbakke from Cloud County Community College in Concordia, KS. I am here to testify in support of HB 2127. In particular, there are two components that are of interest to me and will greatly support the needs of students and their educational programs at Cloud County Community College. I need your support on the size limitations for turbines owned by community colleges. Page 2, lines 4, 5 & 6, state that community colleges can own turbines up to 1.5 Megawatts (mW). This is critical to Cloud County Community College and the success of our Wind Energy Technology Program. The larger turbines have different technology than those smaller than 1mW. If we are forced to purchase a smaller turbine, we would not have the technology to train students on state-of-the-art turbines like they will experience in the workplace.

Cloud County Community College is also supportive of the language on page 3, line 34, through page 4, line 1. A turbine of this size is not efficient for the College; however - as stated above - we need this size of turbine to support the curriculum in our Associate in Applied Science degree in Wind Energy Technology.

The section including page 4, line 1, through page 4, line 35, increases funding alternatives for colleges wishing to build a wind turbine. It is critical for us to be able to utilize the most efficient use of public funds during the purchase of a wind turbine.

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