



**FILED WITH  
Executive Secretary  
November 23, 2015  
IOWA UTILITIES BOARD  
NOI-2015-0001**

November 23, 2015

To: Iowa Utility Board

From: Patricia Higby, Energy Education and Outreach Coordinator

Subject: NOI-2015-0001 Order Soliciting Additional Comments Regarding Iowa Code Chapter 476C

As an energy educator and member of both the Iowa Wind Energy Association Board and the Office of Consumer Advocate Consumer Advisory Panel I submit these comments about additional amendments to 199 IAC 15.19 which implements Iowa Code Chapter 476C. They are not a legal analysis, but based on the general implications and consequences of the proposed changes.

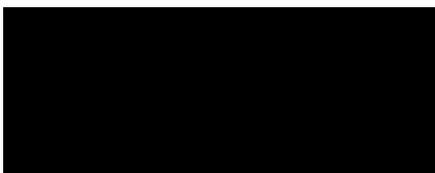
First, I congratulate you on your work to remove "stale" projects from the queue, which has helped move viable projects forward. My concern is for proposed changes that would restrict future applications, especially from community wind projects. As shown by past community wind projects, these rely on a collaboration of several partners to secure funding. Such collaboration may take additional time to develop. Please consider these needs as you review ownership limits and project progress reporting.

As I'm sure you know, community wind projects provide rural communities both economic and environmental benefits. As an educator my favorite benefit is the increase in funding to rural schools from local wind farms!

In summary, thank you for the work you have done to weed out projects unlikely to be completed, thus advancing more viable projects. Please proceed cautiously, however, in restricting future applications. It is important to nurture, not impede, community wind projects.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia Higby  
[higby@uni.edu](mailto:higby@uni.edu)  
319-273-6012