

SOUTHERN
DISTRICT
COUNTIES

BACA COUNTY

BENT COUNTY

CROWLEY COUNTY

*COSTILLA COUNTY

ALAMOSA COUNTY

OTERO COUNTY

SAGUACHE
COUNTY

MINERAL COUNTY

RIO GRANDE
COUNTY

CONEJOS COUNTY

HUERFANO
COUNTY

*PUEBLO COUNTY

PROWERS COUNTY

LAS ANIMAS
COUNTY

Mac McLennan
Director, Governmental Affairs
Tri-State Generation & Transmission

Dear Mr. McLennan:

The Southern District of Colorado Counties, Inc. wishes to encourage utility companies and the Governor's office to help build transmission lines for renewable energy in Southern and Southeastern Colorado. Two of the eight generation development areas (GDAs) capable of producing 1 gigawatt or more from wind and the only two solar GDAs identified in the state are located in the Southern and Southeastern parts of Colorado. These GDAs alone constitute 39 GW (42%) of the potential wind energy and 26 GW of solar energy mapped in this report.

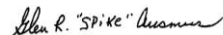
As Colorado continues to reach towards our Renewable Energy Standard, development of transmission lines in these Southern GDAs will provide infrastructure necessary to solidify Colorado as a national example for renewable energy.

Currently, investment in the Southern parts of the state, such as the proposed Southern Colorado Transmission Project, and the proposed Lamar-Vilas line, would make it possible for additional wind development, like the Titan Wind Energy Project in Kiowa County and the Tessera Solar project in Saguache County to be completed.

While recognizing the need for a larger integrated transmission grid for the state and nation, utilities and the state should not lose sight of the existing opportunities to bring renewable energy onto the grid. We hope policy changes in the future will lead accelerating transmission lines built to access the best renewable energy Colorado has to offer.

We ask the multiple organizations and collaborations involved in Colorado's renewable energy generation to continue to work with local governments to find solutions to expedite connection of valuable Colorado renewable resources to the western electric grid. We also encourage the State and utilities to take into account the suggestions offered in the REDI report. The REDI report identifies Colorado's need for new transmission infrastructure that will not only help the state exceed the renewable energy standard goals set for 2020, but will also provide jobs, infrastructure and rural development necessary to give our state the competitive edge in this developing industry.

Sincerely,



Spike Ausmus
Baca County Commissioner
President, CCI Southern District

*Costilla and Pueblo Counties abstained from this letter