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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**Statement of Rep. Kristi Noem**  
**Before the House Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Legislative Hearing on**  
**HR 2170, HR 2171, HR 2172, and HR 2173**  
**June 23, 2011**

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Mr. Chairman,

I ask unanimous consent to make an opening statement and that my statement be submitted for the record.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. And thank you Chairman Hastings for your leadership on this issue. The Utilizing America's Federal Lands for Wind Energy Act is just one part of the Committee's initiative to cut unnecessary bureaucratic red tape for renewable energy development. My bill will speed up the production of clean, renewable American energy by streamlining the process to develop onshore wind power on Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands. Currently, it can take an industry up to 4 years to even decide if a location is suitable for a wind project. My bill could reduce that by around 2 years in the initial process by streamlining the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

This bill sets a firm timeline for issuing permits on federal land and streamlines the regulatory requirements for installing temporary towers to test and monitor weather. Requiring burdensome, duplicative reviews for these temporary structures is unnecessary and slows down production of this clean energy source. Especially during a tough economic climate and gas prices around \$4 dollars a gallon, it is important to have an "all of the above" American energy policy, and wind energy is certainly in that category. Our nation has a vast amount of resources here at home, and we need to make sure we are using our federal lands for common sense, clean, renewable energy production.

My home state of South Dakota is a great example. We are blessed with enormous potential for producing wind power. The U.S. Department of Energy has indicated that there are "excellent-to-outstanding" areas for wind production throughout the state.

South Dakota is also home to 9 Indian reservations, and there is a lot of potential for wind development in Indian Country. They often have to go through a lengthy process as well for renewable energy development. This bill could serve as a model for streamlining the process for wind development on Indian land. In 2003, the first utility-scale Native American wind turbine

was installed on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in my state. That was after an eight-year preparation! This wind turbine is now generating energy for businesses on the reservation. They are able to sell their excess green energy to local power cooperatives and create jobs in an area where unemployment is around 80%.

This is just one example of how wind power can benefit local communities and create jobs. It is our job to ensure that excess government regulations do not get in the way. I look forward to hearing from the witnesses on their perspective on these bills.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.