

American Corn Growers Foundation

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AMERICAN CORN GROWERS ARE MAJOR SPONSOR OF WINDPOWER 2008 IN HOUSTON

Energy Independence, New Transmission, 20% Wind Energy Vision, C-BED Wind Model Are Key

HOUSTON, May 23, 2008---The American Corn Growers Foundation (ACGF) and the American Corn Growers Association (ACGA), through their *Wealth From The Wind (WFTW)* program, are a major sponsor of WINDPOWER 2008 June 1-4 in Houston, Texas. WINDPOWER 2008 is expected to be the largest wind energy conference and trade show ever held in North America with as many as eight thousand representatives of the wind industry, government and advocacy organizations participating in the activities.

Gale Lush, ACGF Chairman from Wilcox, NE said, "Wind energy is essential as a renewable, sustainable and clean energy source, and a valuable new crop for rural America. The ACGF has worked closely with wind energy pioneer Dan Juhl of Woodstock, MN since 2002. Our contract with Juhl Energy Development, Inc. was the lead factor in bringing the Community Based Energy Development (C-BED) model to Nebraska. Dan Juhl's international wind energy expertise in developing Minnesota's C-BED model, along with his commitment to rural communities, has directly resulted in a new 42 megawatt (MW) C-BED wind farm being recently announced for construction near Crofton, Nebraska. Another 80 MW wind project was also announced." Lush applauded the farm, rural and environmental coalition, NPPD and the entire Nebraska Legislature for seeing that C-BED is the ideal fit for wind energy development in Nebraska. In 2007 new C-BED policy legislation, cosponsored by Senator Dierks, Senator Priester and Senator Dubas, passed 49-0.

Dan Juhl, CEO of Juhl Energy Development, Inc. stated, "I am very pleased to have been able to bring the C-BED model and its rural economic development benefits to Nebraska, the 100% public power state. C-BED effectively puts private sector wind energy incentives to work for all Nebraska electric customers."

"Energy independence is critical for the future economic security of the United States. Rapid wind energy deployment, including a modernized, expanded electric transmission grid and infrastructure are essential. Transmission is key in the renewable energy strategy that includes the 20% Wind Energy Initiative recently announced by the U. S. Department of Energy," said Dan McGuire, ACGF Chief Executive. McGuire will be a speaker on the "Building Community Support in a 20% Scenario" panel on June 3rd at WINDPOWER. "New transmission is rural America's farm-to-market road for delivering clean, renewable wind generated electricity to American industry and U.S. consumers. Our leaders must get behind a modernized electric transmission infrastructure to move wind energy from the high wind resource areas to the densely populated urban load centers. Just as the interstate highway system was key to national security and economic development, a modern electric grid helps U.S. energy independence and economic security," said McGuire

"We commend AWEA and we salute the U. S. Department of Energy's and National Renewable Energy Laboratory's new 20% Wind Energy Initiative, a vision the U.S. urgently needs to realize," said McGuire.

The ACGF sponsorship of WINDPOWER 2008 is made possible by a W. K. Kellogg Foundation grant dedicated to creating community-based, locally-owned wind energy development projects that enhance rural economic development. The ACGF works with the U.S. Department of Energy and National Renewable Energy Laboratory Wind Powering America program on wind energy for rural economic development.