

Remarks to  
DOE/EPA Green Power Conference/Press Event  
September 30, 2002

P.J. Dougherty  
Wind Powering America  
U.S. Department of Energy

Thank you Brent Alderfer and thanks to Community Energy and its partners for the invitation and for organizing today's event. Thank you also to our three honorees:

- U.S. Army
- Catholic University
- National Geographic Society

Special thanks to Washington Gas Energy Services, a local organization that is now providing clean power as an option throughout its service territory – giving its customers real choice.

These organizations and the people in them are being honored for a number of important reasons:

- They share a common vision for our nation's energy future;
- They have taken a leadership position on the role of renewable energy can play in their organizations;
- They have taken action by purchasing renewable energy.

Simply put, **they have given us Vision, Leadership, and Action...**

These characteristics are important for a number of reasons. First, we have a great national energy resource in wind power, even here east of the Mississippi. Second, we can realize great benefits from developing wind power, including:

- enhancing our nation's energy supply with a domestic resource;
- stabilize our electricity prices;
- stimulate our rural economies;
- cost-effectively comply with enhanced air standards;
- be good neighbors in our communities.

However, without a clear vision, strong leadership, and action we will never realize these benefits.

DOE's Wind program, and its sister elements within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, play an important role in securing these benefits. All EERE programs do basically two things:

- Lead the nation's investment to develop the best advanced energy technologies and practices;
- Provide limited financial and technical support to help people decide if adapting these technologies and practices in their homes, communities, and businesses is appropriate for them.

In other words, we give people the tools and information they need to make an informed decision for themselves. On behalf of our stakeholders and partners, we're grateful to our management and leadership for giving us the opportunity to continue to provide these critical products and services across the country.

Today's honorees have done their analyses and made their decision -- they voted YES on renewable energy and their investment will enable additional projects to be developed and stimulate additional economic growth.

The opportunity for others to do the same exists here and across an increasing number of states. So if you are on the fence, let me leave you with one final thought...

...**RATIONAL PEOPLE** can debate what is the appropriate national vision on energy issues, particularly the role of wind and other renewables and energy efficiency in our nation's energy mix;

...**REASONABLE PEOPLE** can disagree on the policy, procedures, and protocols we should use to get there;

But...

...**RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE** take action.

**Vision, Leadership, Action.** You have our thanks for showing us what those three words really mean.