



Douglas, Wyoming, October 23, 2009. The Northern Laramie Range Alliance (NLRA) today released the following statement concerning the decision by the Converse County Planning and Zoning Commission on October 20 to recommend to the Converse County Board of County Commissioners that it adopt a three-month “freeze” on new large-scale industrial development throughout Converse County:

The Planning and Zoning Commission’s recommendation to institute a freeze to allow the County and its citizens time to consider and act on decisions about where and to what scale to permit new industrial development is well-intentioned, given the rapid pace of industrial-scale wind development over the past several years.

However, the Northern Laramie Range Alliance reiterates that it does not believe that such a moratorium is necessary or appropriate in the high plains areas of Converse County, where wind energy development is already occurring, where the impact of such development and the related infrastructure is much less, where land ownership and usage patterns are much more conducive to large-acreage wind energy development, and where there has been far less public concern expressed. In fact, as it has previously stated to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of County Commissioners, and the Legislative Task Force on wind, as well as in numerous other public forums and communications, the Alliance welcomes the efforts of REAL and others to encourage responsible, well-sited wind energy development in the high plains areas of this County.

The resolution requested by the NLRA, and the moratorium sought by the NLRA to allow time for the resolution to be considered, are specifically limited to the areas south and west of I-25, which comprise less than a third of the total land area of Converse County. These mountainous areas have wide variety in the size of landholdings and in the uses to which the land is put, and the community at large uses these areas extensively for hunting, fish and other forms of outdoor recreation, which distinguishes them from the high plains areas elsewhere in the County. Industrial-scale wind development is not appropriate in these mountain areas.

Moreover, as the NLRA noted in its petition and presentations, leasing and special use permitting activity by developers now underway in these mountain areas would lead to large-scale wind energy development and related transmission development. That activity is going forward despite intense citizen opposition, without the involvement of Converse County government and irrespective of the permanent negative impact on these lands. This is why the NLRA has requested a 3-month moratorium on large-scale industrial development in the mountain areas of the County.

For further information, see the Alliance website, www.NLRAlliance.org, or call Sharon Rodeman at 307-258-1713.