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Dec. 7, 2005

DOCKET 02-REN-1038
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California Energy Commission
RE: Docket No. 02-REN-1038
Docket Unit, MS-4
1516 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
And via EMAIL to: docket@energy.state.ca.us

Dear Commissioners;

It is with gratitude for your thoughtful consideration that I write to you with serious hopes that you realize the critical need to increase the incentive rebates for residential wind energy.

Every month I receive calls from an average of about 5 different grid electric users seriously interested in wind energy. This is because of the already long visible residential and industrial wind turbines successfully used in this natural wind resource area.

A CEC study has concluded that at least 40% of the state's renewable needs can come from this area, and this has led to a mandate to add an additional capacity of 4,000 MW transition capacity to our current state-leading production capacity of 670MW wind power.

But, tragically, when these interested consumers add everything up, they do not find it cost effective because of the drastically decreased wind incentives offset by rising costs of wind energy systems, no property tax increase exemption like solar has, and no Federal tax credit.

Sadly, the higher costs of solar installations, combined with mountain clouds, etc., prevents my converting these homeowners and farmers to solar power, which I do sell as well. These potential renewable energy customers end up very disappointed and frustrated.

I was far more successful in closing sales when the incentive rebate/buy-down for wind energy was on parity with solar incentives. This is further complicated by the fact that a 10kW I previously could sell for just over \$30,000 installed in 2000 now costs at least around \$50,000 because of no more available used towers, increased equipment costs, record steel prices making towers so expensive, plus increased labor, permitting and tax costs.

Please, it is very essential for the good of all Californians and our precious environment, that you give wind power the support and encouragement that it truly deserves – especially when we have such great wind resources as we do in these areas.

Most sincerely, I pray you see the wisdom of re-embracing residential and small business wind power.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hank Swells".