9 June 2011

Twin Falls City Council

PO Box 1907

Twin Falls, ID 83303-1907

Dear Mayor Hall and Twin Falls City Council Members:

I am respectfully requesting to come back before the Twin Falls City Council on June 20, 2011 for a letter of support to the Bureau of Land Management on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the China Mountain Wind Project.

As you remember, the economic benefits to Twin Falls could be pretty significant. For your information, we have been garnering community support for several months now, from folks like CSI (and their Wind Energy and Environmental Technology Programs), the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce, TF County Commissioners, District 23 & 24 Legislators, and many others. Please feel free to logon to our website: www.chinamountainwind.com for more information. We have developed a Community Page, too, which will highlight our support of the Twin Falls County 4-H and FFA Fat Stock Sale, our commitment to working with the CSI Renewable Energy Club, and our participation with the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laurie Lickley, Community Relations Rep.

RES Americas/China Mountain Wind Project

laurie.lickley@res-americas.com

CHINA MOUNTAIN WIND FARM

www.chinamountainwind.com

The China Mountain Wind Project is a proposed wind energy project being developed by China Mountain Wind, LLC, (a subsidiary of RES America Developments Inc.), and NV Energy. Located in Twin Falls County, Idaho and Elko County, Nevada, the project will bring renewable energy, new job creation, and economic benefits to the region. The project will consist of up to 200 wind turbines producing up to 400 megawatts (MW) depending upon final choice of turbine equipment. It will generate enough renewable energy to power more than 100,000 homes according to statistics provided by the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA).

The China Mountain Wind Project is located northwest of Jackpot in Elko and Twin Falls counties. It is estimated to bring $33.4 million in revenues to Twin Falls county taxing districts, $8.6 million in revenues to the state of Idaho, several million dollars to Idaho Endowment Beneficiaries, and approximately 750 construction jobs and approximately 45 jobs annually during operations. RES Americas is committed to creating and maintaining lasting relationships with the communities that host our projects. RES Americas is also committed to utilizing local contractors to the greatest extent possible.

The China Mountain Wind Project reflects a commitment to environmental sustainability and will provide clean and sustainable renewable energy for years to come

Get Involved

The completion of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is a major milestone for the China Mountain Wind Project. See the DEIS online: **http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/planning/china_mountain_wind.html.**RES Americas and NV Energy have been coordinating with the BLM to produce the DEIS, including conducting comprehensive surveys and analysis, since the Right of Way grant application for the project was submitted to the BLM in 2007. We firmly believe that the China Mountain Wind Project will provide a net benefit to the economy and the environment in Idaho and Nevada, while at the same time creating jobs in achieving greater energy independence.

The BLM is currently taking comments on the DEIS through July 6, 2011. We encourage you to **submit comments** (on-line: at above link, e-mail: **id_chinamtn_eis@blm.gov** or mail: Project Manager, China Mountain Wind Project EIS, BLM JFO, 2536 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301). **We are urging the BLM to approve a Right of Way (ROW) grant authorizing the entire 400 MW China Mountain Wind Project (Alternative B1 in the DEIS) to proceed with construction and operation.**

For more information or to volunteer:

Laurie Lickley, Community Relations Representative,
(208) 420-7975 or **laurie.lickley@res-americas.com**

Suzanne LetaLiou, Development Manager,
(503) 219-9000 x4 or **suzanne.liou@res-americas.com**

Scott Barker, Project Manager
China Mountain Wind Project EIS
BLM, Jarbidge Field Office
2536 Kimberly Road
Twin Falls, ID 83301

June 20, 2011

Dear Mr. Barker:

The Twin Falls City Council serves as the governing body of the community, functioning very similarly to the board of directors of a large corporation. All functions of city government fall within the purview of the City Council. Therefore, we respectfully submit our support of Alternative B1 (full build-out) in the BLM's Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the China Mountain Wind Project.

Our mission, as stewards of public trust, is to meet the current and future needs of the community, promote citizen involvement, preserve our heritage, conserve and protect our social and physical resources and enhance the quality of life in Twin Falls. Part of our Strategic Plan includes supporting development of high quality employment, commercial activities, and industrial development.

Wind energy is now one of the most cost-effective sources of new electricity generation, competing with the new installations of natural gas and costing less than either coal or nuclear power. According to the American Wind Energy Association, wind power accounted for 40% of all new energy chosen by electric utilities in 2008 and 2009. Not only does wind provide a clean source of energy, it creates opportunities for communities like Twin Falls.

In our opinion, Alternative B1 utilizes the best wind resources in Idaho and maximizes all of the wind resources in the project area. This makes the China Mountain Wind Project very cost-competitive and ensures local communities receive the most economic benefits from the project's construction and operation.

The wind that blows pretty consistently in southern Idaho costs absolutely nothing. Steady and cost-effective energy sources are critical to the growth and development of our communities. A 2010 NREL Wind Resource Study found that today's wind farms produce enough electricity to power all of Virginia, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. The U.S. Department of Energy's July 2008 report makes clear that we can increase wind energy's contribution to the U.S. electricity supply to 20% by 2030. Moreover, the report found that installing more wind power would foster rural economic development, job creation, and energy price stability.

Who wouldn't want to see more than $30 million going to the Twin Falls area communities? And, how about creating jobs in Idaho? A project of this magnitude offers to bring in up to 750 jobs during construction and roughly 46 full- and part-time jobs during operations. In March 2011, the Bureau of Labor Statistics figured Idaho's unemployment rate at 9.7% and Nevada's unemployment rate at 13.2%; I can only imagine how a project like this would positively impact those numbers.

Twin Falls stands to gain substantially from a project of this magnitude, and we encourage the BLM to select Alternative B1 in the Final EIS, which not only avoids, minimizes, and mitigates impacts, but also brings valuable economic advantages to this community.

Respectfully Submitted,

sample letter