



## Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

May 21, 2013

The past two weeks, the news world has been abuzz with wind and wildlife energy in Nebraska and beyond. Following is only a sampling of what the media has been saying...

### Around Nebraska...

**Nebraska Legislative Bills** related to renewable energy, wind energy, and/or transmission, are at the end of the message.

### *Legislative Bills in the News*

**Gov. Heineman: Wait on wind power legislation (LB104)**. As debate looms on legislation that could lead to Nebraska getting a \$300 million wind farm, Republican Gov. Dave Heineman reiterated his opposition Monday to the tax breaks that could pave the way for the project. But Heineman said he opposes Lathrop's measure because the Legislature is preparing to study how best to overhaul Nebraska's tax system. ([http://journalstar.com/legislature/heineman-wait-on-wind-power-legislation/article\\_e95b69ef-7117-5be6-af9c-d740b694a7ff.html](http://journalstar.com/legislature/heineman-wait-on-wind-power-legislation/article_e95b69ef-7117-5be6-af9c-d740b694a7ff.html)).

**Local View: When opportunity knocks (LB104)**. There is an old saying: When opportunity knocks, open the door, because it may not knock again. This saying is true in Nebraska in 2013. Huge economic opportunities from wind development are knocking on our door, but the Legislature needs to use the right keys this year for Nebraska to receive its benefits. If we fail to do so, the opportunity likely will be lost forever. LB104 provides a key to convert the wind that is constantly blowing through our state into dollars for Nebraskans. ([http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/local-view-when-opportunity-knocks/article\\_add4edc6-3c33-568e-aad7-e43e1c479747.html](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/local-view-when-opportunity-knocks/article_add4edc6-3c33-568e-aad7-e43e1c479747.html)).

**Local View: A better way to encourage wind development (LB402)**. Wind and its potential to generate electricity comprise one of Nebraska's greatest natural resources. We are wise to encourage its development. But it is essential we do so in a manner that ensures the people of Nebraska receive a fair return. ([http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/local-view-a-better-way-to-encourage-wind-development/article\\_f2073f90-3963-5b10-bf1c-295d0442cd06.html](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/local-view-a-better-way-to-encourage-wind-development/article_f2073f90-3963-5b10-bf1c-295d0442cd06.html)).

**[Letter, 5/14: Improve wind energy bill](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-improve-wind-energy-bill/article_fa2d13fd-6744-5de5-afda-62ccbe399e48.html)**. The Legislature is considering **LB402**, a bill to give tax incentives to companies helping to tap the vast resource of alternative energy, particularly wind. This certainly is a welcome piece of news to a ready public. Part of the good life we Nebraskans cherish is clean water and air. ([http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-improve-wind-energy-bill/article\\_fa2d13fd-6744-5de5-afda-62ccbe399e48.html](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-improve-wind-energy-bill/article_fa2d13fd-6744-5de5-afda-62ccbe399e48.html)).

**[Letter, 5/15: Don't neglect wind power](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-don-t-neglect-wind-power/article_b3b6e8f3-f9e0-531e-a45d-4db849d4c1bf.html)**. Wind power development in Nebraska is an almost perfect way our government can create many jobs and great wealth that will go on for many years. Sadly, we have neglected this opportunity and denied our citizens better lives. We rank fourth in wind power potential and 26th in doing anything about it. ([http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-don-t-neglect-wind-power/article\\_b3b6e8f3-f9e0-531e-a45d-4db849d4c1bf.html](http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-don-t-neglect-wind-power/article_b3b6e8f3-f9e0-531e-a45d-4db849d4c1bf.html)).

### **Other Nebraska News**

**[LES seeks to triple wind energy use](http://journalstar.com/news/local/les-seeks-to-triple-wind-energy-use/article_9d7402a0-fbde-524c-8af1-d289859cfcae.html?comment_form=true)**. Lincoln Electric System wants to as much as triple the amount of wind energy it has now within the next two years. ([http://journalstar.com/news/local/les-seeks-to-triple-wind-energy-use/article\\_9d7402a0-fbde-524c-8af1-d289859cfcae.html?comment\\_form=true](http://journalstar.com/news/local/les-seeks-to-triple-wind-energy-use/article_9d7402a0-fbde-524c-8af1-d289859cfcae.html?comment_form=true)).

**[Residents in southeast Nebraska worried about windmills](http://www.ketv.com/news/local-news/Residents-in-southeast-Nebraska-worried-about-windmills/-/9674510/20121726/-/e7isr5z/-/index.html)**. Wind energy development is changing the landscape in southeast Nebraska. Just outside Beatrice, there's concern that windmills may ruin the historic surroundings near Homestead National Monument. (<http://www.ketv.com/news/local-news/Residents-in-southeast-Nebraska-worried-about-windmills/-/9674510/20121726/-/e7isr5z/-/index.html>).

**[Iowa blowing Nebraska away on wind power](http://journalstar.com/business/local/iowa-blowing-nebraska-away-on-wind-power/article_eb6ab247-ff12-5de5-a360-7b49c77cfa2f.html)**. It's a touchy subject among Nebraskans invested in or watching the development of renewable sources of energy. Nebraska has more potential to turn wind into power, but Iowa's doing it to a vastly greater degree. ([http://journalstar.com/business/local/iowa-blowing-nebraska-away-on-wind-power/article\\_eb6ab247-ff12-5de5-a360-7b49c77cfa2f.html](http://journalstar.com/business/local/iowa-blowing-nebraska-away-on-wind-power/article_eb6ab247-ff12-5de5-a360-7b49c77cfa2f.html)).

**[Group opposes NPPD spending on wind, energy efficiency](http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/group-opposes-nppd-spending-on-wind-energy-efficiency/article_c3f262a0-1af9-5d41-92e7-03975baba7e1.html)**. A group of Nebraska electric utilities is asking the state's largest power supplier to eliminate proposed investments in wind energy, emissions-reduction measures and energy efficiency programs to lower costs passed on to customers. ([http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/group-opposes-nppd-spending-on-wind-energy-efficiency/article\\_c3f262a0-1af9-5d41-92e7-03975baba7e1.html](http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/group-opposes-nppd-spending-on-wind-energy-efficiency/article_c3f262a0-1af9-5d41-92e7-03975baba7e1.html)).

**[Nebraska's wind power continues to lag behind Iowa](http://www.omaha.com/article/20130513/NEWS/130519910/1707)**. Nebraska's wind power production continues to lag behind Iowa and other nearby states that offer better incentives. (<http://www.omaha.com/article/20130513/NEWS/130519910/1707>).

**[Omaha wasting wind potential](http://www.fierceenergy.com/story/omaha-wasting-wind-potential/2013-05-20)**. Residents of Omaha, Nebraska are not taking pollution from coal-fired power plants sitting down. Nearly 1,000 signatures from North Omaha residents, health professionals and students have been submitted to the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), calling on the utility to address the community's public health concerns by phasing out coal burning at the North Omaha power plant. (<http://www.fierceenergy.com/story/omaha-wasting-wind-potential/2013-05-20>).

**[Register early for wind conference](http://columbustelegram.com/banner-press/news/register-early-for-wind-conference/article_2be0d1e3-38df-5eb5-8944-242400c7509f.html)**. The Nebraska Wind Conference Committee is encouraging attendees, exhibitors and sponsors to register early for the sixth Annual Nebraska Wind Conference scheduled for November 13-15 in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. The Conference Committee includes members from state agencies, Nebraska utilities, the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, farm and ranch organizations, and private entities to help develop the state's wind resources. This year's theme is "Harvesting Nebraska's Potential." ([http://columbustelegram.com/banner-press/news/register-early-for-wind-conference/article\\_2be0d1e3-38df-5eb5-8944-242400c7509f.html](http://columbustelegram.com/banner-press/news/register-early-for-wind-conference/article_2be0d1e3-38df-5eb5-8944-242400c7509f.html))

## **Around the Nation & World...**

### ***Wind and Wildlife***

**[NWCC Wind Wildlife Research Meeting IX – Meeting Proceedings](http://www.nationalwind.org/assets/research_meetings/NWCC_WWRM_IX_Proceedings_05-13-13_.pdf)**. Wind energy is able to generate electricity without many of the environmental impacts (conventional and toxic air pollution and greenhouse gases, water use and pollution, and habitat destruction) associated with other energy sources. This can significantly benefit birds, bats, and many other plant and animal species. However, the direct and indirect local impacts of wind plants on birds and bats continue to be an issue. The populations of many bird and bat species are experiencing long-term declines, due to the effects of a wide range of human activities, including energy production and consumption. These proceedings document current research pertaining to wildlife fatalities; habitat and behavioral impacts; cumulative and landscape-scale impacts to species; mitigation techniques and technologies; and offshore considerations. ([http://www.nationalwind.org/assets/research\\_meetings/NWCC\\_WWRM\\_IX\\_Proceedings\\_05-13-13\\_.pdf](http://www.nationalwind.org/assets/research_meetings/NWCC_WWRM_IX_Proceedings_05-13-13_.pdf)).

**[Big Data will provide accurate analysis of wind/wildlife impacts](http://www.treehugger.com/wind-technology/big-data-will-provide-accurate-analysis-windwildlife-impacts.html)**. Even the cleanest renewable energy developments, such as wind energy, will have an impact on the environment, even after considering or offsetting the eco-footprint of manufacturing. Most of that impact will be seen and felt right at the point-of-use, through the [effects that the turbines and infrastructure have on local wildlife and ecosystems](#). But a new effort from the [American Wind Wildlife Institute \(AWWI\)](#) will help to minimize those effects, by collecting and analyzing decades of data from the wind industry and providing more accurate analysis of wind/wildlife impacts to industry, government, and wildlife advocates. (<http://www.treehugger.com/wind-technology/big-data-will-provide-accurate-analysis-windwildlife-impacts.html>).

**[Companies won't face charges in condor deaths](http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-killing-condors-20130511,0,1790222.story)**: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants exceptions to a wind farm and a building project in harassing or killing the endangered birds. Federal wildlife officials took the unprecedented step Friday of telling private companies that they will not be prosecuted for inadvertently harassing or even killing endangered California condors. (<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-killing-condors-20130511,0,1790222.story>).

**[Wind farms get pass on eagle deaths](http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-05-14/ap-impact-wind-farms-get-pass-on-eagle-deaths#p1)**. Wind farms in this corner of Wyoming have killed more than four dozen golden eagles since 2009, one of the deadliest places in the country of its kind. But so far, the companies operating industrial-sized turbines here and elsewhere that are killing eagles and other protected birds have yet to be fined or prosecuted - even though every death is a criminal violation. (<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-05-14/ap-impact-wind-farms-get-pass-on-eagle-deaths#p1>).

**[Feds study Gulf wildlife to make way for wind turbines.](http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/05/13/feds-launch-probe-of-environmental-effects-of-seismic-studies-in-gulf/)** Two federal agencies are laying the foundation for wind turbines to join oil derricks in the Gulf of Mexico, by launching a study of the effects seismic research poses on whales and fish in the region. (<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/05/13/feds-launch-probe-of-environmental-effects-of-seismic-studies-in-gulf/>).

**[Effects of Wind Power Development on the Population Biology of Greater Prairie-Chickens in Kansas.](http://www.nationalwind.org/assets/g3/Greater_Prairie-Chicken_Wind_Power_Research_Brief_May_2013_Final.pdf)** Through the NWCC, AWWI is pleased to release a brief summarizing the comprehensive seven-year research project on the effects of wind power development on Greater Prairie-Chickens in Kansas. The research project was overseen by the [Grassland Community Collaborative](#) of the NWCC and led by primary investigators Prof. Brett K. Sandercock and Dr. Samantha M. Wisely. ([http://www.nationalwind.org/assets/g3/Greater\\_Prairie-Chicken\\_Wind\\_Power\\_Research\\_Brief\\_May\\_2013\\_Final.pdf](http://www.nationalwind.org/assets/g3/Greater_Prairie-Chicken_Wind_Power_Research_Brief_May_2013_Final.pdf)).

**[BLM studies impact of northwestern Ariz. wind farm.](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/science/article/BLM-studies-impact-of-northwestern-Ariz-wind-farm-4526084.php)** The [U.S. Bureau of Land Management](#) is favoring a scaled-back version of a wind farm in Mohave County. The BLM released a final environmental impact statement Friday for the project, about 40 miles northwest of Kingman. The agency's preferred alternative is to allow no more than 243 turbines and reduce the acreage on which the project will be built by 12 square miles. BP Wind also would have to limit operations at certain times to protect golden eagles. (<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/science/article/BLM-studies-impact-of-northwestern-Ariz-wind-farm-4526084.php>).

**[Top Ind. wind farm drafts bat-protection plans.](http://www.seattlepi.com/business/energy/article/Top-Ind-wind-farm-drafts-bat-protection-plans-4519133.php)** The operators of Indiana's largest wind farm are proposing changing the nighttime operations of the farm's 300-plus wind turbines to protect endangered Indiana bats from being killed by the turbines' spinning blades. (<http://www.seattlepi.com/business/energy/article/Top-Ind-wind-farm-drafts-bat-protection-plans-4519133.php>).

**[To Save the Birds, Embrace 'Cat-and-Trade'.](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/05/15/to-save-the-birds-embrace-cat-and-trade.html)** This is a satirical (I think?) [idea](#) from the R Street Institute: [T]he Making Environmental Offsets for Windpower Act proposes the U.S. Department of Energy require — both as a pre-condition for the citing of new wind turbines, and on an ongoing annual basis — that turbine operators demonstrate they are in compliance with a new offset program designed to remove from the natural environment an even greater threat to birds: namely, free-ranging domestic cats. (<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/05/15/to-save-the-birds-embrace-cat-and-trade.html>).

**[Protecting Eagles While Working to Guide Wind Development.](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/kumekubo/eagles_and_wind.html)** On the one hand, more wind energy will get the U.S. on the right side of the climate fight and help curb our greenhouse gas emissions, which are a huge threat to wildlife, including eagles. On the other, the majestic bald eagle is the symbol of our nation and the golden eagle is a much loved and ecologically important species, which is why the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act singled them both out for federal protection by the 1960's. ([http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/kumekubo/eagles\\_and\\_wind.html](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/kumekubo/eagles_and_wind.html)).

## **Wildlife**

**[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes limited exception to endangered species act protections for lesser prairie-chicken.](#)** On May 6, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) [proposed](#) (pdf)

a limited exception to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections currently being considered for the lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*). The special rule is proposed pursuant to section 4(d) of the ESA, and would allow take of lesser prairie-chickens as long as such take is incidental to activities performed under a conservation plan that the Service has determined will provide a net benefit to the species. (<http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=1f45350f-b72c-427d-b177-da95b7515e1a>).

## Wind

**[Wind Power Sets Sights on Predictable Policy, Stable Business](#)**. Having reached the benchmark of being the number one source of new electric generating capacity last year, American wind power must develop a vision for predictable policies that create a stable business environment and allow the industry to grow to its full potential, industry leaders said at the WINDPOWER 2013 Conference & Exhibition of the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). (<http://www.onlinetes.com/american-wind-energy-manufacturing-policy-51313.aspx>).

**[DOE To Recast Landmark 20% Wind Energy Report; Study Looks Back, Ahead](#)**. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Wind Program is revisiting the conclusions from its 2008 study that contemplated the technological and regulatory road map for the U.S. wind industry to achieve 20% wind energy by 2030. ([http://www.nawindpower.com/e107\\_plugins/content/content.php?content.11502](http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.11502)).

**[Linknode launches wind development visualisation app](#)**. Scottish technology start-up Linknode has created an augmented 3D reality app that will allow wind farm developers to see an animated vision of their project while standing on the proposed site. (<http://www.newenergyworldnetwork.com/investor-news/renewable-energy-news/by-technology/wind/linknode-launches-2900-wind-development-visualisation-app.html>).

## Other

**[New Database Tracks Energy Legislation](#)**. Colorado State University's Center for the New Energy Economy (CNEE) has launched an Advanced Energy Legislation (AEL) Tracker, a database tracking energy-related state legislation pending in all 50 states. Types of energy include solar, wind, biofuels, natural gas and more. (<http://domesticfuel.com/2013/05/08/new-database-tracks-energy-legislation/>).

To search Advanced Energy Legislation Tracker: <http://www.aeltracker.org/>.

## Upcoming Events

**BCI Wind Energy Workshop**. As BCI continues seeking solutions to reduce risk to bats and support long-term, responsible wind energy development, we are proud to announce our inaugural Bats and Wind Energy Workshop. The workshop will be June 18-20, 2013 in Honolulu, HI. For more information: <http://www.batcon.org/index.php/get-involved/workshops/subcategory/703.html?title=Wind%20Workshop>.

**The Wildlife Society Annual Conference** will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 5-10, 2013. For more information: <http://wildlifesociety.org/>.

**Annual Central Mountain Plains Section Meeting** (The Wildlife Society) will be in Cedar City, UT on August 12-15, 2013. The focus of the conference will be on 3 major issues: Human-Wildlife Conflict Management, Refuge and Riparian Ecology and Management, and Energy Development and Wildlife Management. For more information: <http://wildlife.org/CMP/>.

**America's Grasslands Conference** will be held August 12-14<sup>th</sup> in Manhattan, Kansas. *America's Grasslands: The Future of Grasslands in a Changing Landscape* will bring together researchers, natural resources professionals, farmers and ranchers, policy experts, and conservationists to discuss the conservation of North America's grasslands and the opportunities and outlook for these vital ecosystems in a changing landscape. Included as a topic of interest is "Energy development and grasslands."

**Sixth Annual Wind Conference** will be held in Lincoln, NE on November 13-15, 2013. This year's theme is "Harvesting Nebraska's Potential." For more information and to register: <http://nebraskawindconference.com/>.

### **Nebraska Legislative Bills - Changes since the last newsletter are in red.**

**LB 104** - Provide tax incentives under the Nebraska Advantage Act for renewable energy projects. **AM1446, AM1408, AM1216, and AM1236 filed and pending.** Placed on Select File with ER86 and Enrollment and Review ER 86 filed on April 30, 2013. Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial on April 24, 2013; Revenue AM525 filed on March 12, 2013; Lathrop priority bill on March 13, 2013. Introduced by Lathrop on January 10, 2013; Referred to Revenue Committee on January 14, 2013; Notice of hearing for February 14, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** The purpose of LB 104 is to amend the Nebraska Advantage Act by adding a Tier 7 which would apply to investments in renewable energy. Two options would be created within Tier 7: projects with \$75 million or more in investment for renewable energy projects, and projects with less than \$75 million in investment. Under LB 104, companies with qualifying projects would be eligible to receive partial or full refunds of their sales tax based on the level of investment in the project, the source of their capital investment for the project, and the level of ownership by Nebraska residents of the project. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=17967](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=17967)).

**LB 184** – Appropriate funds for the Nebraska Wind Applications Center. Notice of hearing for March 19, 2013. Introduced by Haar on January 14, 2013; Referred to Appropriations Committee on January 16, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB 184 appropriates \$50,000 for the next two fiscal years to the University of Nebraska for the Nebraska Wind Application Center. This funding is intended to replace federal funding which is no longer available. **Fiscal Note:** LB184 appropriates \$50,000 General Funds for FY2013-14 and \$50,000 General Funds for FY2014-15 for the Nebraska Wind Application Center at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18633](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18633)).

**LB 283** – Eliminate the Limited Liability Company Act. **Approved by Governor on March 20, 2013.** Introduced by Conrad on January 16, 2012; Referred to Banking Commerce and Insurance Committee on January 18, 2012; Notice of hearing for February 5, 2012; Placed on General File on February 6, 2013; Advanced to Enrollment and Review Initial on February 12, 2013; **Placed on Final**

**Reading** on March 5, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB 283 repeals terminated statutes regarding limited liability companies (LLCs) and also repeals internal references to those terminated statutes...LB 283 is the final housekeeping step in that process in that it would simply remove already terminated provisions from statutes. **Fiscal Note:** No fiscal impact.

([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=17857](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=17857)).

**LB 388** – Change provisions relating to public power and provide for construction of certain transmission lines. **Approved by Governor on April 24, 2013;** Placed on enrollment and review on March 4, 2013; placed on General File with AM454 on March 13, 2013; Natural Resources priority bill on March 14, 2013; Introduced by Natural Resources Committee on January 18, 2013; Referred to Natural Resources Committee on January 23, 2013; Notice of Hearing for February 1, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB 388 would provide incumbent electric transmission owners, who belong to a Regional Transmission Organization, the "right of first refusal" to complete transmission projects in Nebraska that have been approved by the Regional Transmission Organization. The purpose is to clarify that public power entities in Nebraska have the first right to construct, own, and maintain an approved transmission line. The bill also standardizes the definition of "electric supplier" in several statutes. **Fiscal Note:** No fiscal impact. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18236](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18236)).

**LB 402** – Change power purchase agreement provisions relating to rural community-based energy development. **AM1364 and AM1237 filed and pending.** Placed on Select File with ER92 and Enrollment and Review ER 92 filed on May 1, 2013. Dubas and Davis names added on April 24, 2013; Natural Resources priority bill on March 15, 2013; Natural Resources AM68 filed on March 20, 2013; Introduced by Mello on January 22, 2013; Referred to Natural Resources Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for March 1, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB 402 would amend the C-BED law to allow more wind projects to qualify for the sales tax exemption by doing the following: 1. Expanding the definition of "payments to the local community" to include payments for products manufactured in Nebraska or by Nebraska companies, and services provided by Nebraska companies; 2. Reducing the qualifying percentage threshold from 33% to 25%; 3. Loosening corporate restrictions by allowing corporations domiciled in Nebraska to meet the definition of "qualified owner." LB 402 would also expand C-BED to include renewable energy projects that use biomass or landfill gas. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18295](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18295)).

**LB 411** – Change a renewable energy tax credit. Introduced by Nordquist on January 22, 2013; Referred to Revenue Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for March 6, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** It is the intent of LB 411 to enhance a state-level renewable energy production tax credit as the federal production tax credit phases out, thus giving Nebraska a significant advantage in attracting and developing the renewable energy investments in our state. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18625](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18625)).

**LB 419** – Change provisions relating to nameplate capacity tax. Introduced by Hadley on January 22, 2013; Referred to Revenue Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for March 6, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB419 was introduced with the purpose of amending section 277-6203, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2012; to change provisions relating to the nameplate capacity tax. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18810](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18810)).

**LB 475** – Change the Angel Investment Tax Credit Act and the Business Innovation Act. Introduced by Carlson on January 22, 2013; Referred to the Revenue Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of

hearing for March 5, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB 475 would modify the Business Innovation Act (BIA) and the Angel Investment Tax Credit Act (AITC) by increasing maximum funding in each program authorized under the BIA to \$4 million and change the microenterprise program in the BIA. The bill would further modify the act by defining an investment date, authorize corporations to participate, and eliminate pass-through certification as a qualified investor. LB 475 would add a confidentiality provision for both programs except for annual report requirements. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18129](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18129)).

**LB 501** – Redefine a term in the Nebraska Advantage Act. Introduced by Hadley on January 23, 2013; Referred to the Revenue Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for February 14, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB501 was introduced for the purpose of adding a definition for renewable energy under the Nebraska Advantage Act as a qualifying business under a tier 2, tier 3, tier 4 or tier 5 project: The production of electricity by using one or more sources of renewable energy to produce electricity for sale. Sources of renewable energy means wind, solar, geothermal, hyroelectric, and biomass. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18930](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18930)).

**LB 557** – Change provisions relating to net metering and authorize community solar gardens. Introduced by McGill on January 23, 2013; Referred to Natural Resources Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for March 5, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** A solar garden is a solar electric array with multiple subscribers connected to the utility grid. The subscribers may purchase a portion of the power produced by the array and receive a credit on their electric bill. Utility customers within the solar garden's service area, including residences, businesses, local governments, non-profits, and faith-based organizations, can all subscribe to receive the solar energy. LB 557 creates a structure for the creation and maintenance of solar gardens in Nebraska. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18365](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18365)).

**LB 567** – Change provisions relating to approval of electric generation facilities and transmission lines. Introduced by Haar on January 23, 2013; Referred to Natural Resources Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for March 1, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB 567 requires the Nebraska Power Review Board to consider the following additional factors when approving power generation: the health costs, economic development potential, the effects on water usage, risk analysis on the life cycle costs of the generation and the economic impact of obtaining fuels outside the State of Nebraska. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18704](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18704)).

**LB 598** – Change provisions relating to net metering. Introduced by Larson on January 23, 2013; Referred to Natural Resources Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for March 5, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB598 would raise the rated capacity limits for qualified facilities that are permitted to participate in Nebraska's net metering program from at or below 25 kilowatts to at or below 100 kilowatts. **Fiscal Note:** No fiscal impact. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=17829](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=17829)).

**LB 606** – Adopt the Nebraska Technology Entrepreneur Act to provide sales and use tax refunds to certain businesses. Introduced by Pirsh on January 23, 2013; Referred to the Revenue Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for March 7, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB 606 creates the Nebraska Technology Entrepreneur Act. Under this act, a qualified small business which is engaged in a high-technology field and which can document financial need will be eligible for a sales and use tax refund for depreciable business equipment purchases of up to \$5,000 per year. The total amount of sales



and use tax refunds granted to all qualified small businesses in any year will not exceed \$300,000. **Fiscal Note:** Refer to website. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18913](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18913)).

**LB 622** – Change provisions relating to a report filed with the Nebraska Power Review Board. Introduced by Haar on January 23, 2013; Referred to the Natural Resources Committee on January 24, 2013; Notice of hearing for February 6, 2013. **Statement of Intent:** LB 622 adds a requirement to an existing report by the Nebraska Power Association to the Nebraska Power Review Board. The report will now include areas of the state where renewable energy projects of less than twenty megawatts could be added without major transmission upgrades. **Fiscal Note:** No fiscal impact. ([http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view\\_bill.php?DocumentID=18487](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=18487)).

Check out the **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website** at: <http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/> and **Wind Energy and Wildlife news** at: <http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>.

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