



**SAN JUAN**  
**BIOENERGY**

P.O. Box 3066  
Durango, CO 81302  
www.sanjuanbioenergy.com

February 8, 2009

**Re: San Juan BioEnergy Support for SB124**

The Honorable Senator Jim Isgar  
Via email: [isgarsenate@frontier.net](mailto:isgarsenate@frontier.net)

Dear Senator Isgar:

Please accept this letter in support of SB 124 which would continue to provide funding for ag-related renewable energy projects. Previous such funding has been a key enabler of San Juan Bioenergy's successful construction and now operation of our oil crush, biodiesel, and renewable energy facility in Dove Creek. We contract with over 40 farmers for sunflower seed production, which is then utilized to produce sunflower oil for human consumption, biomass for renewable heat and power through a state-of-the-art gasification process, meal for locally raised livestock, and in the near future biodiesel through use of off-spec oils, used fryer oils, and more. This year we will crush approximately 15,000,000 lbs. of seed, in the process generating over a dozen jobs with promise for many more.

Access to funding through the Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy (ACRE) program administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Colorado Agriculture Value-Added Development Board was integral to development of our project. More generally, funding for ag-related renewable energy projects like ours is important to both Colorado's ag and renewable energy industry. It helps farmers and ranchers to participate in the development of Colorado's new energy economy, creates new markets and sources of revenue for agricultural producers, and can foster investment in businesses that create new jobs and strengthen our rural communities.

There are still tremendous opportunities to further develop our industry's potential relating to renewable energy development. As such, we strongly support SB124 and encourage the Colorado legislature to continue to invest in Colorado's agriculture industry through development of biomass based renewable energy. If you have any questions, I would be happy to speak with you or provide legislators with an on-site or virtual tour of our facility.

Sincerely,

*Jeffrey A. Berman*

Jeffrey A. Berman  
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Tom Lipetzky, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture



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February 5, 2009

Senator Jim Isgar  
200 East Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Senator Isgar:

Southeast Colorado Resource Conservation & Development Council would like to voice our support for Senate Bill 124. We are unable to attend the hearing next week in Denver, but want to champion continued funding for agriculture related renewable energy projects. If possible, we would request our comments in support of SB124 be entered into testimony at the hearing.

In light of Governor Ritter's "New Energy Economy" renewable energy projects are yet another way Colorado's agriculture producers can become part of the solution for powering our State with clean, green energy. These types of projects are good for the environment, as well as good for the local agriculture economy, creating new markets and revenue streams for agriculture producers. In the small town of Springfield the newly emerging agriculture wind generation market has already spawned a new business: a distributor/installer for small wind turbines. Renewable energy grant dollars directly fostered this new business.

In 2008 Southeast Colorado Resource Conservation & Development and partners were the recipients of an Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy (ACRE) implementation grant from the Colorado Department of Agriculture. This demonstration project is funding five wind turbines of various sizes on a diverse set of agriculture applications across the Eastern Plains of Colorado. These projects will become the template for other agriculture producers to use as more farmers and ranchers step into the brave new world of farm-scale wind generation. In light of the current economy, these projects would not have been possible without access to funding through the ACRE program, which is administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Colorado Agriculture Value-Added Development Board.

The Eastern Plains of Colorado has a wealth of natural resources to be harvested for renewable energy projects: wind, solar, biofuel crops, carbon sequestration, etc. There is still much work to be done to fully develop agriculture's potential relating to renewable energy development. As such we strongly support SB124 and encourage the Colorado legislature to continue to invest in Colorado's agriculture industry.

Thank you,

Misty George  
Project Manager  
Southeast Colorado RC&D Council

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