

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 342

By: Maddox, Capps, Price,
Stipe, Harrison and Smith
of the Senate

and

Covey, Deutschendorf and
Miller (Doug) of the House

[renewable energy - legislative intent - continuation
of funding - Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative -
emergency]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 190.30 of Title 17, unless there
is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature to provide
funding for the continuation of the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative
(OWPI) to further the investigation and promotion of wind energy
resources in this state. The OWPI, located in the Environmental
Verification and Analysis Center of the University of Oklahoma, and
working with other higher education system programs including
Oklahoma State University and the Oklahoma Mesonet program, has made
great progress in studying the wind energy resources of this state.
With such knowledge Oklahoma has a great advantage in attracting
wind power investors which may ultimately result in multi-billion
dollar industry for our state.

B. With continued funding the OWPI shall:

1. Utilize its resource assessment and information sharing
abilities to provide information to Oklahoma companies, in addition
to out-of-state wind farm developers, that seek to diversify their
energy portfolios;

2. Continue to support and improve software tools that will facilitate studies of specific areas for the potential investors, general public and public officials;

3. Continue economic studies and policy/incentive studies which will further investigate how local, state and national policies may be promoted and utilized to provide the best economic impact for rural landowners and communities;

4. Continue outreach efforts to enhance public and private sector understanding of wind power through more wind power conferences, rural community meetings, K-12 and college education initiatives, Technology Center initiatives, and information for utilities and rural electric cooperatives;

5. Promote research activities at universities to help attract the wind industry to this state;

6. Leverage state funding to seek federal funding for wind power and other renewable energy research and project development; and

7. Offer assistance to Oklahoma economic development groups in attracting new renewable energy related industry to our state.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 26th day of February, 2003.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2003.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives