July 7. 2017

Chairman Sandy Jones
Commissioner Patrick H. Lyons
Commissioner Valerie Espinoza
Commissioner Cynthia B. Hall
Commissioner Lynda Lovejoy

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
POB 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504

RE: **Xcel Energy Sagamore Wind Power Project**

Dear Chairman Jones and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Roswell-Chaves County EDC, we write to express our full support for the Sagamore Wind Project located in Roosevelt County.

Few business project recruitment factors are more important than affordable and reliable power. Chaves County has long relied on Xcel Energy to provide businesses and residents with power; indeed, this has become one of the economic highlights unique to New Mexico. The Sagamore Project, with its $865M investment, will further ensure that New Mexico will be able to compete for economic growth with other States.

Through the support of the Commissioners of the PRC, last year in Chaves County we helped open the largest Solar Power facility in the State. It is capable of supplying power to 40,000 homes. Every community in Eastern New Mexico is now benefitting from:

1) Lower Long-term Costs
2) Diversification of Supply
3) Low Environmental Impact

The Sagamore Project will do the same for the entire State including here in Chaves County. While Xcel Energy must recover its costs (through its proposed ratemaking principles), Xcel officials estimate a $2.8 billion long-term energy cost savings for its customers in eastern New Mexico from this project alone. Additionally, there are opportunities for our local branch of Eastern NM University to train our workforce to maintain this facility, thus providing further economic benefit.

Knowing that the timing of the Federal credits is short, and the fact that their usage is critical to the economic viability of the Sagamore Project, we ask that you please act quickly to facilitate your important regulatory process. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

John Mulcahy - President

Rodney Schumacher - Board Chair