



Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives Todd Richardson & President of the Senate Ron Richard
Missouri House of Representatives & Missouri Senate

February 6, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker & Mr. President:

Our companies, like many of the leading companies in the United States, have set goals to increase our use of renewable energy. We recognize that environmental sustainability has become an essential ingredient to doing business responsibly and successfully. Collectively, we represent hundreds of facilities and tens of thousands of employees in Missouri. With a quality workforce and a strong local economy, Missouri has been an attractive place for us to do business. We are writing because we believe that it is important to have choice when selecting energy suppliers and products to meet our business and public goals. Changing Missouri law to allow us – and others – to purchase renewable energy from third-party providers and have it delivered through our traditional utilities would create an even more positive business environment and would help us continue to create jobs and contribute to an even more robust local economy.

Missouri currently lacks the explicit legal framework to allow companies like us to enter into contracts, called power purchase agreements (PPAs), for renewable energy with non-utility energy service providers. PPAs are important because they allow us to procure energy without making major capital expenditures up front or taking on the risk associated with operating and maintaining a power generation system. In addition, powering our facilities with renewable energy allows us to: avoid power price fluctuations by locking in rates over a long period of time; reduce our greenhouse gas emissions profile; meet business strategies and consumer preferences; and, often save money that we can put back into our businesses and pass on to customers. For Missouri, allowing PPAs will create more jobs and opportunity for those who build, install, and maintain renewable projects, keep Missouri competitive with many other states that allow companies access to renewable energy choices, and promote a clean and healthy environment.

The availability of renewable energy choices is also a key factor for many of us when we choose where to do business. We believe that the establishment of **free markets and consumer choice**, which does not undercut the business of incumbent electric power suppliers, is important. For the above reasons, we want to express our support for the Missouri Legislature to consider legislation, such as H.B. 439, the Missouri Energy Freedom Act, to enable this growing sector by allowing third party PPAs for renewable energy. Supporting this policy will not only expand the state's energy leadership role, but it will also continue to strengthen the economy in Missouri.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.