

Denise Bode, CEO of AWEA

Transcription of Her Sept 9, 2010 Comments re Robert Bryce

Link as of Nov 28, 2010: http://www.awea.org/rn_release_09-09-10b.cfm

Backup copy at <http://windfarmrealities.org/wfr-docs/bode-bryce-retort.mp3>

Hi, I'm Denise Bode, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association. I want to bring something to your attention. The latest attack on renewable energies by the fossil fuel lobby has been on Fox and in the Wall Street Journal this week by Robert Bryce of the Manhattan Institute, an Exxon-Mobil-funded advocacy group. This is yet another anti-renewable energy PR push based on falsehoods and inaccurate reports such as the recent one by the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States, an advocacy group for the oil and natural gas industries. This fossil fuel advocacy Journal op-ed piece was based on that report, which claims that wind does not reduce greenhouse gases. The information in that report is directly contradicted by official Department of Energy data which shows that carbon dioxide emissions and fossil fuel use have steadily decreased in lockstep as wind energy has been added to the grid in Colorado and Texas. Another major Department of Energy study found that achieving 20% wind would cut electric sector carbon dioxide emissions by 25%, similar to the benefits that have been achieved in multiple European countries. As a recent book by Mr. Bryce himself shows, Denmark has cut its CO2 emissions nearly in half since 1991 in large part because 20% of its electricity now comes from wind. Any claim that adding wind energy to the electricity grid would not reduce carbon emissions violates the laws of physics.

His claim that wind energy receives more energy subsidies than fossil and nuclear energy sources is also false. Official government statistics issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that fossil fuel subsidies are five times larger than wind, and these heritage fossil and nuclear industries have permanent subsidies unlike renewables which means they never have to go back to congress to keep receiving them. Lets keep our eyes on the real prize here. Our choice is between a balanced energy plan that includes wind and renewable American energy, or a plan that continues our increasing dependence on fossil fuels for our electricity, which is now at over 60%. If you believe the balanced approach is best help us encourage the US Congress to pass a strong Renewable Electricity Standard. There are too many new and existing clean technology jobs at risk for us to miss this opportunity to pass such important energy legislation. We've seen new factories and wind farms grow over the last few years. We know the growth of this clean technology can continue to be one of the bright spots in the US economy, and we know we have broad bi-partisan support for the passage of the Renewable Electricity Standard in Congress. Help us get the message across to all our lawmakers. Thanks so much for listening.