



*Providing a Voice for Northeast Colorado*

## SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

BA-2003-5

**WHEREAS**, cost competitive renewable energy technologies and applications are emerging in the marketplace; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Renewable Energy Laboratory found that Colorado is in the top 12 for wind potential, top five for solar and geothermal, and has strong biomass potential (There are no other states that rank as high in all categories.); and

**WHEREAS**, there are many potential benefits to be realized through the development of our renewable energy resources, including:

- Diversification of our energy supply contributes to overall marketplace stability and helps shield consumers from price volatility,
- Development of domestic energy resources and distributed generation systems enhances our national security,
- Development of renewable energy resources may provide economic development opportunities for Northeastern Colorado
- Development of wind, solar and hydro does not require the consumption of precious Colorado water resources; and

**WHEREAS**, there are also challenges to such development that must be addressed, including:

- The ability of such resources to consistently provide cost-competitive power supply,
- Transmission capability for such energy must be developed and, in many cases, poses a significant hurdle,
- The development of renewable energy sources, as with the development of traditional energy sources, can create adverse economic and environmental impacts such as noise and viewshed pollution,
- Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind do not provide a continuous flow of energy and must be supplemented with dependable traditional energy sources; and

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**WHEREAS**, renewable energy technologies are generously subsidized at the federal level to encourage their continued development; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that Progressive 15 supports the development of our states renewable energy resources (including solar, wind, hydro, and biomass opportunities) in an environmentally-sensitive and cost competitive manner; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Progressive 15 encourages the State to invite private industry to explore the feasibility of renewable energy in any alternative energy surveys

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Progressive 15 supports policies to improve the economic viability of these renewable energy resources while allowing market forces rather than mandates to determine their deployment.

*Adopted this 15th Day of May, 2003*