



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 9, 2018

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Geronimo Energy Hosts Event to Celebrate Courtenay Wind Farm Community Fund and Honor Sen. Heitkamp with Wind Champion Award

As part of American Wind Week, on August 8, 2018, Geronimo Energy, LLC (“Geronimo”) hosted an event in Courtenay, North Dakota to commemorate the first gifts for the Courtenay Community Fund and to honor Senator Heidi Heitkamp with the American Wind Energy Association’s (“AWEA”) prestigious Wind Champion Award. Present at the event were executives from AWEA, Geronimo and Xcel Energy, as well as representatives from the local Courtenay Community Fund Board. For a short video clip of the event, please click [here](#).

The Courtenay Community Fund is associated with the Courtenay Wind Farm, a 200 megawatt (“MW”) operational wind project in Courtenay, North Dakota that was developed by Geronimo and is now owned and operated by Xcel Energy. The Geronimo-funded Courtenay Community Fund receives an estimated \$40,000 per year for a period of 20 years, totaling approximately \$800,000 in local charitable funding. The first gifts of the Courtenay Community Fund were dispersed to a variety of local charitable organizations in the spring of 2018 and were granted by a local volunteer board of representatives from the Courtenay community and nearby communities. For more information about the Courtenay Community Fund, please click [here](#).



Pictured above: Blake Nixon, Chief Executive Officer for Geronimo Energy, addresses the audience in front of the new Courtenay Community Hall, which is still under construction and is partially funded by the Courtenay Community Fund.



“As a farmer-friendly organization, Geronimo Energy decided a long time ago that we wanted to give back to the host communities where we develop wind farms,” said Blake Nixon, Chief Executive Officer for Geronimo. “We decided that one way to do that was to create what we call Community Funds – these Funds offer a guaranteed annual payment to a local charitable giving board, who then decides where those funds should be spent within the project’s host community. To date, Geronimo has initiated nine wind farm community funds across the nation, resulting in a promise of over \$300,000 annually, or \$6 million in charitable donations over the first 20 operational years of these projects.”

In addition to commemorating the first gifts of the Courtenay Community Fund, AWEA presented Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) with the Wind Champion Award, which is bestowed upon friends of the American wind industry who have promoted policies that are pro-wind and have allowed the wind energy industry to reach record high job numbers and enjoy dramatic cost reductions and technology improvements. The awarding of Wind Champion Awards is a highlight of American Wind Week, a national celebration of U.S. leadership in wind power, which occurred this year throughout the week of August 5-11. AWEA presented U.S. Wind Champion Awards to select members of the 115th Congress who have taken action in support of American wind energy.



Pictured above: Tom Kiernan, Chief Executive Officer for AWEA, presents the Wind Champion Award to Senator Heitkamp.

“North Dakota is an example of what can happen when you harness a true all-of-the-above energy strategy, which includes renewable energies like wind that supports thousands of good jobs across our state while powering homes and businesses here and in states across the region,” said U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp. “I’m proud to have worked to successfully extend the wind energy tax credit back in 2015 to support wind energy development and jobs across our state, and it’s an honor to receive this award today. Wind energy is one of many resources I’ll continue to advocate for. But the ones really who deserve to be acknowledged are those who go to work manufacturing the turbines, constructing the wind farms, and maintaining the wind energy supply and of course the farmers and ranchers who



host these turbines on their land. The energy that is produced in North Dakota powers communities both rural and urban, and if it wasn't for rural communities stepping up, we would not be as energy secure as we are today. That's why I wake up every day thinking of rural America and what we can do in the U.S. Senate to make sure these communities thrive."

"Senator Heitkamp's leadership and ability to work with Democrats and Republicans has helped secure America's place as a global leader in wind power," said Tom Kiernan, CEO of AWEA. "On many occasions, the Senator put on a hard hat to visit North Dakota's wind energy construction and factory workers, as well as communities where projects are built to learn firsthand about our industry. It is that sustained commitment that has helped North Dakota achieve the highest wind jobs per capita in the United States. The American wind industry is honored to recognize Senator Heitkamp as a U.S. Wind Champion."

Nationally, a record 105,000 Americans now work in wind power, affordably and reliably supplying over 6 percent of U.S. electricity, and creating public health benefits worth more than \$8 billion each year by reducing air pollution.

In North Dakota, nearly 27 percent of the electricity produced came from wind in 2017 - enough electricity to power over 1,000,000 average American homes. With 28 wind farms and four manufacturing facilities, the state's wind industry has attracted over \$5.8 billion in private investment and supports high-quality jobs for nearly 4,000 hardworking North Dakotans. Additionally, wind energy is a new drought-resistant cash crop for North Dakota's farmers and ranchers, who benefit from the \$5-10 million in wind farm land lease payments made each year.

"Xcel Energy is committed to serving our North Dakota communities and investing in the state," said Mark Nisbet, North Dakota principal manager, Xcel Energy. "Our clean energy strategy will bring new wind energy to the state, provide local economic benefits, and keep bills low for our customers."

About Geronimo Energy

Geronimo Energy is a leading North American renewable energy development company based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with satellite offices located in North Dakota, southwest Minnesota, South Dakota, Illinois, New York, Colorado and Michigan. Geronimo provides solutions for utilities and corporations looking to harness renewable energy for business growth. Geronimo has developed over 2,000 megawatts of wind and solar projects that are either operational or currently under construction. Geronimo has a multi-gigawatt development pipeline of wind and solar projects in various stages of development throughout the United States. www.geronimoenergy.com