April 18, 2013

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor of Washington  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: SB 5896—Renewable Energy Sales and Use Tax Exemption

Dear Governor Inslee:

We thank you for your continuing support of clean energy in the Evergreen State. As you know, Washington's policies have led to $8 billion in renewable energy capital investment across the state over the past decade, creating more than 5,000 construction jobs and over 1,200 permanent manufacturing and operations positions.

One of the key policies that has provided a tangible, meaningful incentive for businesses to locate their projects and facilities here has been the renewable sales and use tax exemption. It will expire in June of this year if not extended this session. In the regional electricity market, this exemption—along with other supportive policies—has made Washington very competitive with other non-sales tax states, including Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

The return for the state is significant. In addition to helping keep the air clean, the most recent wind project in Whitman County benefitted from the tax exemption and delivered $30 million locally during construction, and is generating $700,000 per year in property taxes and full time jobs. The tax savings will also reduce the price of the power generated by the project, thereby sharing the benefits with Avista’s utility customers.
The continuation of this sales tax exemption is a necessary tool in Washington’s ongoing efforts to develop clean, affordable, renewable energy sources, and we urge you to support it. It has been proven over time to be a difference maker for siting clean energy facilities in Washington State.

Passing SB 5896 into law will send the message that Washington remains a good place for clean energy businesses.

Sincerely.

Tom Darin
American Wind Energy Association

KC Golden
Climate Solutions

Virinder Singh
EDF Renewables

Ramy Roberts
EDP Renewables

David McClain
Everpower

Benjamin Fairbanks
First Wind

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