

Governor Plans To Change Wind Farm Tax Allocation To Schools

January 12, 2016 - Pierre SD

In case you missed Governor Dugaard's "State of the State" address Tuesday, one of his proposals would have a significant impact on wind farms if approved.

He is calling for an equalizing of all "other revenues" that school districts receive outside the state funding formula --including revenue from wind farms. That is quite a shift in revenue! Currently the tax dollars from wind farms go to the school district in which the wind towers are built. His proposal would split wind farm revenue with every school district in the state based on student enrollment. The large urban districts would be the big winners, while those districts hosting the towers don't even get enough per student to pay for their pencils!

To put it into perspective, the Deubrook School District received a total of \$417,000 last year from wind farm taxes. If approved, they will have to split that revenue with every student in the state. Considering there are 131,000 students in grades K-12 in SD, that averages to \$3.18 per student. Deubrook has an enrollment of 366 students, so their keep will actually be \$1,165.

To apply that to the situation in Lincoln County. The districts that would host the towers that have been proposed would get about \$6 per K12 student for 350 towers (\$12 per student in the unlikely event that they are able to finance and build twice as many towers.)

Combine that with up to 25% property value decline for all of the property in these districts it seems like a losing proposition for everyone in Lincoln county.

Call your school and county officials today. Tell them the proposed wind farm is not right for Lincoln County. Tell them the need to protect our counties health, safety and welfare and say no with ordinances that accomplish that for all of us. Tell them to DO IT NOW!