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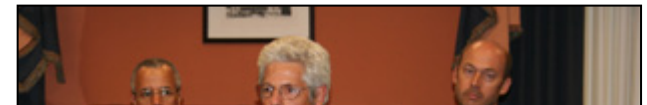
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Federal Funding To Help Promote Wind Energy Production

Date: 7/15/05

Contact: Eric Jome

Illinois State University is in line to receive \$1 million in federal funding for the development of wind energy resources, Congressman Jerry Weller (pictured on the far right) announced on Friday.



If approved by the Senate, the money, which is part of a federal appropriations bill, would help Illinois State to further research and promote the development of wind energy production in Central Illinois.

Faculty members at Illinois State have been collecting local wind data since 2003 and plan to construct a 1.5 megawatt, or larger, wind turbine on the University's farm near Lexington to demonstrate the viability of wind energy production in the state. (Faculty member David Kennell pictured in the center).



The overall mission of Illinois State's project is to provide citizens, policymakers and large and small-scale developers with non-biased information on the potential for wind energy production in Illinois. Information they provide includes basic facts about wind energy production in the state, wind data, the environmental impact of wind turbines and potential energy production output.

The Illinois Energy Policy, issued by the Illinois Energy Cabinet in 2002, included the goal of having renewable energy comprise five percent of all energy sources by 2010 and 15 percent by 2020.

"The development of clean, renewable sources of energy is vital to America's future, given the energy challenges we face today," said Al Bowman, president of Illinois State University (pictured on the left). "Ongoing research efforts at Illinois State are helping to showcase the viability of wind energy production in Central Illinois. We are deeply grateful to Congressman Weller for making renewable energy a priority and working to secure federal funds to help Illinois State continue its work in this vital area."

"I am pleased that the House fully funded my request for Illinois State University's wind energy project. This program is leading the charge in conducting all-important renewable energy research," said Congressman Jerry Weller. "Illinois State's study will result in new wind energy users and uses which will not only benefit Illinois' rural population, but Illinois as a whole due to increased opportunities for investment and innovation. Dr. Bowman and the University are to be commended for their foresight and vision on this project which places Illinois State University out on the forefront of developing wind as a viable source of energy."

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