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USDA Farm Bill for 2007

There are many vital areas of concern when planning the USDA 2007 Farm bill such as enough clean water, health care for young farmers and their families, or subsidized additives for machinery fuel to offset the escalating cost for diesel and gasoline used in farming and for hauling hay.

But today, I'd like to discuss wind power. It seems to me there must be a marriage of the Agriculture Department with the Electric Utilities Sector. Now, many are using electricity manufactured by soft coal which is mined in eastern Wyoming, and hauled by train to plants as far away as Georgia and Arkansas where the coal is turned into electricity for our use.

There is a large area in central Kansas that has wind, lots of wind. Many owners of small farms and ranches are more than willing for the implementation and installation of wind turbines on their property, but there must be close proximity to a high voltage power line. If there was installation of high voltage power lines, the power from the wind could be converted into a natural resource for electricity. That inexpensive electricity could be used to power hundreds of

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homes, farms, and ranches throughout the Midwest including Missouri.

Many young farmers would be delighted to find seasonal work installing power lines or wind generators as supplemental income. Perhaps the consolidation of an area of agriculture with an area of the wind generator industry and the Electric Utilities Sector may entice young couples to return to rural living. Right now, many small towns and rural areas are having to consolidate their schools for lack of a student population. When young families leave rural areas to make a living in cities, there goes the tax dollars they could generate, and with our present government reducing taxes for large corporations and the wealthy, It seems imperative to keep many young families on rural farms and ranches to enrich their own lives, keep generating tax dollars to support the economy, and to encourage part time work installing and maintaining power lines and wind generators that would guarantee clean, low cost electricity for the rest of us.

