



MONTANA RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION
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April 15, 2024
PUBLIC COMMENT – City Commission Meeting, April 16, 2024
Agenda item 1. Proclamations, Earth Day

Mayor Reeves and members of the Great Falls City Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the City of Great Falls proclamation in observance of Earth Day.

At [Montana Renewable Energy Association](http://www.montanarenewables.org) (MREA), our mission is to foster the growth of renewable energy for all Montanans through education, advocacy, and industry engagement. Our vision is a Montana where the widespread use of renewable energy drives Montana's economy and powers every aspect of Montanans' lives. Our Board of Directors and membership includes renewable energy companies, regional experts, and industry professionals with decades of experience deploying clean energy and efficiency solutions across the state, including Great Falls, MT. With a strong track record of education in urban and rural Montana, we connect households, businesses, nonprofits, and renewable energy project developers with the local experience and expertise they need to complete their projects successfully.

We are proud that our sector is paving the way for sustainable energy development and good-paying clean energy jobs. According to the 2023 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER), Montana's clean energy jobs inventory increased by approximately 3% from 2022-2023. The clean energy jobs sector of Montana boasts 15,000 jobs including wind and solar electric power generation, energy efficiency, transmission and distribution, and storage.¹

With strong wind development potential ranked no. 2 in the nation and a growing utility-scale and distributed solar PV market, Montana is well poised to use our abundant natural resources for renewable energy generation.² Advancing more sustainable power generation, conservation, and energy efficiency are key to a clean & healthful environment as outlined in the state constitution.

In summary, we thank the Great Falls City Commission for acknowledging the importance of integrating sustainable energy practices for cost-savings, resilience, and local economic development. The members of the Montana Renewable Energy Association look forward to continued collaboration with our partners and community members in the Great Falls area.

Sincerely,

Makenna Sellers
Executive Director

¹ USSER 2023, Montana. <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/USEER23-MT-v2.pdf>

² Understanding Energy in Montana 2023.

https://deq.mt.gov/files/Energy/Documents/FINAL2023_Understanding%20Energy%202023_Web_300dpi-with%20images_Final.pdf.