



January 12, 2015

Mr. Chris Roach  
Director of Project Development  
Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC  
9200 Watson Road, Suite 200  
Saint Louis, MO 63126

Reference: U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-FOA-0001179 entitled, "Landscape Design for Sustainable Bioenergy Systems"

Subject: Letter of Support for Proposed Project entitled, "Design and Demonstration of A Multifunctional Landscape Design for Sustainable Production of Biogas from Anaerobically Digested Native Perennial Grassland Feedstocks," Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC Proposal

Dear Mr. Roach:

The Missouri Prairie Foundation wishes to express its enthusiastic support for the above-referenced Roeslein Alternative Energy LLC. Proposal.

The goals and purposes of this proposal to use anaerobically digested native perennial grassland feedstocks in its design and as a demonstration of a multifunctional landscape for sustainable production of biogas align with the mission of the Missouri Prairie Foundation:

To protect and restore prairie and other native grassland communities through acquisition, management, education, and research.

The not-for-profit Missouri Prairie Foundation was begun in 1966 when a small group of knowledgeable and committed people recognized that nearly all of the 15 million acres of prairie dominant on the Missouri landscape for 10,000 years was gone, and realized that prompt action was essential if any of the few remaining parcels of native prairie were to remain for future generations. The organization has experienced much growth since its inception nearly 50 years ago and now owns more than 3,000 acres of native remnant and restored prairie. In addition to owning this acreage, MPF carefully stewards and manages it, and provides a wide of variety outreach activities, including the very high-quality *Missouri Prairie Journal* that is published three times each year and mailed to 1,700 members and distributed through many venues statewide to conservation leaders, teachers, and other important audiences. The Missouri Prairie Foundation also promotes the use of native plants in the built environmental and in altered landscapes through its 15-year-old Grow Native! program.

With fewer than 90,000 acres remaining of the 15 million prairie acres that covered much of Missouri's landscape up to the last 150 years, the prairie ecosystem has become one of

the most imperiled ecosystems in the world. As our native grasslands have all but disappeared, we are only recently developing an understanding of the many essential functions they provide.

Prairie plants protect water quality and water quantity; they have evolved in conjunction with other flora and with the fauna that depend on them—many species exist no other place on earth; they enrich soil; sequester carbon; and their relationship to soil microbes and soil fertility are currently being researched to gain better understanding and learn of their potential value in building soil and healthy crops. The proposed project with the planned landscape-sized plantings of native grasses will be significant in providing many native grassland benefits.

This project will be in harmony with MPP's mission to restore native grassland communities with the planting of native grasses as the source of its feedstocks.

Education is another component of MPP's goals. The project will serve to educate through demonstration of the benefits of native grasslands and promote their further acceptance and use—all of which are important goals of MPP.

By using diverse native perennial prairie plants, this project will be an important demonstration that industries can effectively and profitably *work with* natural ecosystems rather than eliminating them to achieve their purposes. This approach has the potential to be of benefit to all by decreasing soil erosion, contributing to cleaner water, improving soil fertility, storing carbon, decreasing chemical use, providing vital pollinator habitat and contributing to biodiversity. Also, because our native prairie plants are adapted to our climate and rainfall, their use as proposed in this project will conserve our water resources.

The use of perennial native plants will also eliminate possible costly socio-economic-environmental consequences that a similar project using nonnative monocultures might bring about.

The Missouri Prairie Foundation will support this project by being available to provide technical advice as the project is implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Sherrick".

Doris Sherrick  
President