

January 20, 2015

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

Reference: US Department of Energy (USDOE) Funding Opportunity DE-FOA-0001179: "Landscape Design for Sustainable Bioenergy Systems"

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

Dear Mr. Roach,

I am writing on behalf of The Nature Conservancy to endorse the proposal submitted by Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC in response to USDOE Funding Opportunity DE-FOA-0001179.

We support the proposal's integrated approach to energy production and conservation issues, with an emphasis on renewable energy. By encouraging conservation-compatible uses of marginal agricultural lands, the project promises to help secure bioenergy sourcing and incentivize native habitat improvement and connectivity. By using problematical waste products in the biogas production process, the project also promises benefits ranging from odor reduction to improved water quality. This proposal is predicated on sound engineering and integration into existing energy and infrastructure networks. Its collaborative approach will enfranchise a broad suite of experts and stakeholders.

This proposal has the potential to demonstrate successful renewable energy production from waste products, while simultaneously achieving landscape-scale conservation benefits. Key to achieving this will be ensuring that solid waste applications do not adversely impact water quality or other resources. Additionally, incentivizing marginal lands for production, even with native species, will require robust protection against un-checked conversion of existing high-quality remnant native grasslands and related habitats.

The mission of the Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We are pleased to endorse this valuable effort to better use land and water resources to meet our energy needs while supporting critical native grassland systems.

Sincerely,


Kathryn Landreth, Interim Missouri State Director
The Nature Conservancy