

Whereas the Senate Energy Committee recently indicated it would hold a series of hearings on competitive electricity markets; and

Whereas wind companies are developing projects both in areas with regional wholesale competitive market structures and those without; and

Whereas development has proven to be easier in areas with competitive wholesale electricity markets and this fact is confirmed by studies and experiences in Europe and the US; and

Whereas AWEA and a number of its members signed a letter on February 26, 2007 to FERC Chairman Kelliher saying that “Independently run regional grid operations can foster renewable energy and demand response development by:

- Eliminating “pancaked” transmission rates that are assessed across every utility area;
- Providing energy markets where variable or intermittent resources can sell excess energy or purchase shortages at a transparent and fair price;
- Minimizing operational impacts of variable resources by netting out aggregate load and generation over a wide region;
- Facilitating regional transmission planning to access generating resources as well as address reliability, congestion, and load growth in the most efficient overall manner;
- Providing a mechanism to pursue regional cost allocation policies; and
- Providing for flexible transmission tariffs that allow rates to be paid on an as-used basis as opposed to a capacity reservation basis.”

Whereas the American Public Power Association issued a press release on January 4, 2008 announcing a statistical study that claims “there is no evidence that membership in an RTO (Regional Transmission Organization) promoted the development of renewables” and the press release says this study “flies in the face of” AWEA’s February 2007 letter;

Whereas studies that rely only on statistics on extremely limited and incomplete data from the first 8 Gigawatts of an industry that will be much larger, and RTOs that only recently came into operation, are of limited value;

Therefore, be it resolved,

The AWEA board strongly supports the February 26, 2007 letter, and supports the preservation and expansion of competitive regional wholesale electricity markets;

Be it further resolved that AWEA and its various allies will promote competitive regional wholesale electricity markets through policy proposals and by communicating to policy makers about the opportunity to use such markets to integrate more renewable energy and address climate change goals.