

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2013

Re: Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2013

Author: : TUHQ

Date: : 2013/3/14 15:27:42

URL:

jbomb,

Thanks for posting the TU action alert and for your thoughts on the legislation. I work for TU and have spent a great deal of time engaged in our effort to help pass this bill. I want to provide some feedback on your post.

USFS already has the authority to allow wind and solar developers to build on Forest Service lands, via Special Use Permits. More important than that point though, the bill in question doesn't determine whether or not to develop wind and solar energy on public lands. The goal of the bill is to determine, that if and when wind and solar energy are developed on public lands, how to distribute the rental fees paid by developers.

Right now, all of the revenue collected from wind and solar energy developers operating on public lands is returned to the treasury. But as you may know, commercial scale energy projects, because of their large footprint, come with unavoidable impacts to the land. The bill proposes to offset that reality by sharing a portion of the collected revenue with a conservation fund, which can be used by organizations like TU to complete habitat protection and restoration work.

Lastly, a transition to the bill's revenue sharing system would apply to all projects, existing as well as new projects coming online.

I hope this helps clarify some of your questions and concerns. Thanks again for spreading the word on the action alert.