



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ARDC to Co-Host Community-based
Wind Energy Forums in Northeast Minnesota**

(Duluth, MN) —The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), and the Rural Energy Development Initiative (REDI) are hosting two community-based wind energy forums in Grand Marais and Grand Rapids. The goal of the forums is to provide information regarding the development of commercial-scale wind energy projects and to raise awareness of the local economic and community benefits of community-based wind energy.

The first forum will take place Tuesday, April 14, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the North House Folk School located at 500 West Highway 61 in Grand Marais. The second forum will take place Wednesday, April 15 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Grand Rapids Public Library located at 140 NE Second St. in Grand Rapids.

Forum presentation topics include an overview of opportunities for involvement in wind energy by Windustry, a wind energy business model by Geronimo Wind Energy, an overview of how Minnesota supports wind energy and a panel discussion with power utilities. Public utilities participating in either one or both of the forums will include Minnesota Power, Arrowhead Electric Cooperative and Lake Country Power. The Grand Marais forum will also highlight potential wind projects in the Grand Marais and Silver Bay areas. Each forum will include an opportunity for participant questions and responses.

This educational opportunity is presented in part by the Rural Energy Development Initiative (REDI), a program intended to maximize rural economic development and stabilize rural economies in Minnesota by providing wind energy development outreach and education, project assistance and financing. It is administered by the Southwest Initiative Foundation and sponsored by the State of Minnesota and the Center for Rural Policy and Development. For more information, visit www.swifoundation.org/redi.html.

For more information about these forums, contact Bonnie Hundrieser, with the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) at 218-529-7527 or bhundrieser@ardc.org. ARDC is the Northeast MN regional organizer for the REDI program.

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