National, State and Local experts on wind energy will speak at the 5th annual Nebraska Wind Conference set for Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 22 23 in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Hotel. This year's theme is "United and Strategic in Advancing the Wind Industry of Nebraska."

Rob Gramlich, senior vice president of public policy for the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), will be the keynote speaker, updating participants about the status of U.S. wind development, national trends, and the extension of the Production Tax Credit program (PTC).

U.S. Senate Candidate Bob Kerrey (D) will address the attendees on Tuesday. A decorated Vietnam Veteran, Kerrey served as Nebraska's Governor from 1983 1987, and as a U.S. Senator from Nebraska from 1989 to 2001. He is a long time leader on ethanol and renewable energy.

Former Nebraska Wind Conference keynote speaker Dr. James Walker of EDF Renewable Energy in California, Clarence Moisher of Greenfield, Iowa and Mayor Gregg Wortham of Sweetwater, Texas will share how wind energy development can help grow and transform rural communities with the additional rural economic development income and jobs.

Dr. James Walker is the past chairman of AWEA's Board of Directors, vice chairman of enXco, Inc., a leading wind energy development company, and served as an energy advisor in the executive office of the President in the Nixon and Ford Administrations. Walker is the Chair of the AWEA Community Wind Committee, and is a past keynote speaker for the Nebraska Wind Conference.

Clarence Moisher is the executive vice president of Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc. and has 40 years experience in the energy industry.

Mayor Wortham is executive director of the Texas Wind Energy Clearinghouse. His 30 years of experience in the energy industry helped get him elected as mayor of Sweetwater, Texas, the wind energy capital.

A keynote panel of chief executive officers from the state's three largest electric generation and transmission entities - Omaha Public Power District's Gary Gates, Nebraska Public Power District's Pat Pope, and Lincoln Electric Systems' Kevin Wailes will address Nebraska's wind generation potential.

Additional breakout sessions will focus on wildlife issues, career opportunities/training and small renewable initiatives.

Representatives from the Southwest Power Pool and NPPD will provide an update on Nebraska's planned high voltage transmission line public routing process set to begin this fall, with construction expected to be completed by 2018.

For information on the conference go to www.Nebraskawindconference.com. Registration is $100 and is limited to the first 325 attendees.

For hotel reservations contact the Cornhusker Hotel at 402-474 7474 or online at http://thecornhuskerhotel.com. Mention being with the Nebraska Wind Conference to get the group room rate of $104.