

LINCOLN (AP) — Some residents of the Nebraska Panhandle say lawmakers need to move quickly on wind-energy legislation to help keep their communities afloat.

They made the comments during a legislative hearing Wednesday, Feb. 24 on a bill (LB1048) supporters say would better position Nebraska in the growing wind-energy business.

A Harvard University report says Nebraska ranks fourth among states in wind-energy potential, but 22nd in actual wind-energy production.

One reason is that Nebraska is the only state where all electric customers are served by publicly owned utilities.

The bill would allow the Nebraska Power Review Board to approve wind-energy operations designed to export energy. The bill would also ease current concerns about public power's eminent-domain authority.