



November 20, 2020

For Immediate Release

## Powering Up Wyoming taps agricultural, business, and industry leaders to amplify over 5000 supporters' voices

Everywhere, Wyoming -- Powering Up Wyoming, a Wyoming grassroots organization focused on promoting wind, solar, and storage as part of an "all of the above" energy strategy for Wyoming, is proud to introduce our advisory board of directors. Along with Powering Up Wyoming's over 5000 committed supporters, the Advisory Board of Directors will help lead efforts to educate and inform Wyoming citizens about the tremendous benefits the industry can bring to the state in terms of jobs, revenue, and diversifying our economy for the long-term.

*"Wyoming is extremely fortunate to boast an abundance of natural resources. As our state grapples with funding for the everyday services that we all rely on, renewable energy development is well poised to play an increasingly important role in maintaining our status as an energy leader. Our board brings a diverse set of backgrounds and industries together to inform Wyoming residents about the opportunities that wind, solar, and storage already provide our communities and will continue to well into the future."*

-Chris Brown, Powering Up Wyoming Executive Director

The wind industry in Wyoming is a critical component of our state's economy and will help bolster state and local economies for years to come. Powering Up Wyoming's diverse board understands the importance the wind industry provides for our economic growth.

*"It's nice to have a diversified portfolio...The property tax the industry pays in is enormous, and it has a huge benefit to counties as well as local economies."*

-Mark Eisele, King Ranch Company, LC.

*"A diverse economy is critical in Wyoming, especially looking into the future. Renewable Energy is another way to ensure opportunities exist for current and future generations of Wyomingites. With the ever-growing, rapidly changing world right now, a single industry cannot shoulder the entire burden to start seeing a positive increase in economic gains."*

-Amanda Disney, Corporate Director of Sales and Revenue, Timberline Hospitalities, LLC.

*In Laramie County, we have seen the development of wind generation bolster local coffers through existing taxes. These funds are critically important to allow the County to provide vital services to residents, including law enforcement, road maintenance, and even our local library. These projects also add to the long-term economic development capabilities of our community by attracting new industry and businesses not historically seen in our community.*

-Gunnar Malm, sixth-generation Laramie County resident and real estate agent/owner with Coldwell Banker/The Property Exchange

The Powering Up Wyoming Advisory Board represents many Wyoming viewpoints and different industries. Critical to Wyoming's growth will be to respect our roots as a ranching and energy leader but understand the value an "all of the above strategy" will provide to Wyoming.

*"I feel it is important to explore energy generation, distribution, and storage systems that can enable the nation and the world to meet their energy needs in ways that benefit the economy and while being good stewards of the environment."*

-Phil Christopherson, CEO, Energy Capital Economic Development

*"Wyoming is very strong in private property rights in everything we do. Whether you live in town and have your own lot, that's your property. Whether you are a landowner or rancher, it's our private property. By developing wind, it's our opportunity to support our family, your business, the local economy, and the state."*

-Richard C. Grant Jr., Grants Ranch

## **Meet Our Board**

### Mark Eisele

Mark is a Southern Wyoming cattle rancher that owns and operates King Ranch Company LC just outside of Cheyenne. They run 500 head of red and black angus calf-cow pairs and 500 head of yearling stockers on the land that has been in his family for more than 100 years. Only five miles from Cheyenne's city limits, the ranch currently deals with municipalities, population growth, energy development, and business park pressures.

### JoAnn Skeim-True

JoAnn spent twenty years working in the oil and gas industry. She graduated from the University of Wyoming with a BS in geology and an MBA. She recently transitioned out of the industry full-time and currently works as a geologic consultant and has other business interests. Although she has been fortunate to work in the oil and gas industry, she also sees the need for the state to diversify away from being completely dependent on the minerals industries for jobs and state and local revenues.

### Phil Christopherson

Phil is a Wyoming native and has lived in the state most of his life. Phil has served as the Chief Executive of two economic development organizations in Wyoming, including his current position as CEO of Energy Capital Economic Development in Gillette. Phil believes that by

working together as businesses, communities, and individuals, we can strengthen and grow our existing businesses, recruit new primary type businesses, and help new entrepreneurs with new and exciting opportunities.

#### Amanda Disney

Amanda is the Corporate Director of Sales and Revenue for Timberline Hospitalities, LLC. After more than a decade working in the Hospitality Industry, Amanda knows what it takes to truly create profitable hotels and build relationships. Amanda holds a Certification in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Florida Atlantic University, is a Global Travel Profession, certified through the Global Travel Business Association and is a Certified Revenue Management Executive through Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International.

#### Gunnar Malm

Gunnar is a sixth-generation lifelong Laramie County resident and real estate agent/owner with Coldwell Banker/The Property Exchange. The Malm family came to the US from Sweden, settling in eastern Laramie County in the 1880s. Gunnar currently serves as Chairman of the Laramie County Commissioners.

#### Jonathan Naughton

Dr. Jonathan Naughton has been a faculty member in the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Wyoming since 1997. His expertise is in aerodynamics as it relates to aircraft, helicopters, and wind turbines. Jonathan has a desire to have all information relevant to wind development, pro and con, presented to stakeholders in areas surrounding the development so that they can make informed decisions about whether or not to support development. Since 2008, he has served as Director of the Wind Energy Research Center at the University of Wyoming.

#### Richard C. Grant Jr.

Rick was born and raised in Wyoming and is the fourth generation on the family ranch in the Boxelder Park area in the southwest part of Converse County, where his great grandparents homesteaded in the late 1880s to early 1890s. He has committed himself to helping the county and its residents by serving on several committees and boards over the years, including serving as a Converse County Commissioner for the past eight years. Rick is an advocate for private property rights.

#### **About Powering Up Wyoming**

Powering Up Wyoming believes in a diverse mix of energy resources, including wind, solar, and storage capabilities. We seek to inform Wyoming citizens about the benefits of renewable energy projects and advocate for their growth in our communities and the opportunities for Wyoming property owners. For more information, go to [www.poweringupwyoming.org](http://www.poweringupwyoming.org)