



Mr. Eric Grietens, Governor of the State of Missouri

Mr. Todd Richardson, Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives

Mr. Ron Richard, President of the Missouri Senate

January 29, 2018

Dear Mr. Governor, Mr. Speaker & Mr. President:

Our companies, like many of the leading companies in the United States, have set goals to increase our use of renewable energy. Collectively, we represent hundreds of facilities and tens of thousands of employees in Missouri. With a quality workforce and a strong local economy, Missouri has been an attractive place for us to do business. But rising energy costs and lack of access to new, cheaper sources of energy have diminished Missouri's attractiveness in recent years. We are writing because we believe that it is important to have choice when selecting energy suppliers and products to meet our business and public goals. A law opening up access to renewable energy – like the Missouri Energy Freedom Act – would allow large electricity users like us to purchase renewable energy from third-party providers through long-term contracts and reduce our cost of doing business. We believe that such a policy – already proving itself in many states – would create a more competitive business environment and would help us to create jobs and contribute to an even more robust Missouri economy.

Missouri currently lacks the explicit legal framework to allow companies like ours to enter into contracts, called **power purchase agreements (PPAs)**, for renewable energy with non-utility energy service providers. PPAs are important because they allow us to procure energy without making major capital expenditures up front or taking on the risk associated with operating and maintaining a power generation system. In addition, powering our facilities with renewable energy allows us to: 1) avoid power price fluctuations by locking in rates over a long period of time; reduce our greenhouse gas emissions profile; 2) meet business strategies and consumer preferences; and 3) save money that we can put back into our businesses and pass on to customers. For Missouri, allowing PPAs will create more jobs and opportunity for those who build, install, and maintain renewable projects, keep Missouri competitive with many other states that allow companies access to renewable energy choices, and promote a clean and healthy environment.

Some Missouri utilities are beginning to offer large customers an option to purchase long-term renewable energy through "Green Tariff" programs (e.g. Ameren Missouri's recently-announced "Renewable Choice" program). These are positive developments that may work for some companies. However, a greater range of options through a competitive environment is how Missouri's consumers can save the most money and best meet their long-term power needs.

We believe that the establishment of ***free markets and consumer choice***, which do not undercut the business of incumbent electric power suppliers, is important. For the above reasons, we want to express our support for the Missouri Legislature to consider legislation, such as the Missouri Energy Freedom Act, to enable this growing sector by allowing third party PPAs for renewable energy. Supporting this policy will not only expand the state's energy leadership role, but it will also continue to strengthen the economy in Missouri.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Submitted by,

Cargill

General Mills

General Motors

H&M

Proctor & Gamble

Unilever

Walmart