

## Mary Loos

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**From:** Online Comment Form <katie@arkansasadvancedenergy.com>  
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**Public Comment made on 3/29/2018 4:06:35 PM from:**

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**Public Comments submitted for Docket:**

17-038-U

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL TO ACQUIRE A WIND GENERATING FACILITY AND TO CONSTRUCT A DEDICATED GENERATION TIE LINE

**Comments:**

As the business voice for advanced energy in Arkansas, the Arkansas Advanced Energy Association is dedicated to growing Arkansas's economy and workforce through the expanded utilization of advanced energy technologies that make our energy supply more secure, clean and affordable. Wind Catcher Energy Connection aligns with this mission in its delivery of low-cost wind energy and economic benefits for Arkansas. Wind Catcher will help Arkansas companies, universities, cities and other customers meet their sustainability and renewable energy goals. Two AAEA members - the City of Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville - have registered their support for the project. In written comments to the Commission, the City of Fayetteville states that Wind Catcher will bring "vital, timely benefits" enabling the City to make progress toward key adopted goals, including achieving 100 percent clean energy for local government operations by 2030. The University writes that it supports SWEPCO's effort to offer options for "direct renewable energy credits to interested customers and that any economic value of those credits goes back to lower the cost of service to the entire rate base." Importantly, key components of the wind farm will be manufactured right here in Arkansas, supporting hundreds of direct jobs at LM Wind Power and indirect jobs tied to the larger supply chain. A recent poll commissioned by the Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation found that Arkansas voters overwhelmingly believe it is important for Arkansas's political leaders to develop policies that encourage energy efficiency and expand access to renewable energy sources (81 percent of those surveyed). Upon completion, Wind Catcher will allow SWEPCO to provide 26 percent of its energy from renewable resources, an increase from eight percent of today's mix. Advanced energy technologies provide jobs and energy savings in states that deploy them. By enhancing access to these resources, like Wind Catcher, the advanced energy industry can continue to be a key economic driver for Arkansas.