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## Lieutenant governor Judge visits Heartland Energy plant

Lieutenant governor Patty Judge came to Mount Ayr Tuesday, Feb. 16 where she visited Heartland Energy Solutions as part of her "Moving Iowa Forward" tour of facilities and programs around the state.

During the stop, Judge talked about the Culver/Judge administration's commitment to growing the Iowa economy and highlighted efforts to support education in the state.

"Our economy is changing, and we must do whatever we can to help grow our economy and ensure our workers have the training they need and deserve," said Judge. "That is why we are asking the legislature to continue our commitment to Iowa's workers by funding worker training programs and supporting our economic development efforts. These investments will help us meet the challenges of this national recession,

and I hope all Iowans join with us in our efforts to support our workers, grow our economy, and move Iowa forward."

The lieutenant governor stopped at Heartland Energy Solutions to highlight the successful partnership between the state and the company to create jobs and grow the economy. This company received \$300,000, which was used to help the company expand and create new jobs and opportunities

for Iowans.

Charles Sharp, CEO of the firm, gave an update on the firm's progress since its founding two years ago.

"We have 15 employees now and we couldn't be happier with the way they have worked to help us get the wind turbine plant up and running," Sharp snoted.

He said the company hopes to have the prototype for the turbine built and installed at the plant in June. He noted that all of the vendors the company is using for parts for the turbine are U.S. based.

Employment is projected to rise to between 90 and 100 by 2011 and to reach 120 to 135 people in 2012, he said.

The turbine parts are being designed for the blades and towers and everything else can be shipped commercially without needing the extra long shipping apparatus of larger turbines.

They are being designed to generate 400,000 kilowatt hours a year, the equivalent output to turbines three times their size.

Sharp and Todd Blanton showed the lieutenant governor the plans for the turbines, which will be 195 feet at their highest, which will be under the 200 foot limit that would require permits from the Federal Aviation Administration.

The turbines are being designed for easy maintenance including pitch packs that can be swapped in and out while being repaired.



Todd Blanton explains the design of the wind turbine that Heartland Energy Solutions is developing to company CEO Charles Sharp and lieutenant governor Patty Judge during Judge's visit to the plant last week. More pictures of the visit are included on page C4 in today's Mount Ayr Record-News.

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