

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED SENATE  
WIND, LLC PROJECT ON THE FINANCES OF THE BRYSON  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER A REQUESTED  
CHAPTER 313 PROPERTY VALUE LIMITATION**

**June 30, 2010**

**Final Report**

**PREPARED BY**



# **Estimated Impact of the Proposed Senate Wind, LLC Project on the Finances of the Bryson Independent School District under a Requested Chapter 313 Property Value Limitation**

## **Introduction**

Senate Wind, LLC (Senate Wind) has requested that the Bryson Independent School District (BISD) consider granting a property value limitation under Chapter 313 of the Tax Code for a new renewable electric wind generation project. An application was submitted to BISD on April 30, 2010. Senate Wind proposes to invest \$203 million to construct a new wind energy project in BISD.

The Senate Wind project is consistent with the state's goal to "encourage large scale capital investments in this state." When enacted as House Bill 1200 in 2001, the original language in Chapter 313 of the Tax Code made companies engaged in manufacturing, research and development, and renewable electric energy production eligible to apply to school districts for property value limitations. Subsequent legislative changes expanded eligibility to clean coal projects, nuclear power generation and data centers, among others.

## **School Finance Mechanics**

Under the provisions of Chapter 313, BISD may offer a minimum value limitation of \$10 million. Based on the application, the qualifying time period would begin with the 2011-12 school year. The full value of the investment is expected to reach \$203 million in 2012-13, with depreciation expected to reduce the taxable value of the project over the course of the value limitation agreement.

The provisions of Chapter 313 call for the project to be fully taxable in the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years, unless the District and the Company agree to an extension of the start of the qualifying time period. For the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that the qualifying time period will be the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years. Beginning in 2013-14, the project would go on the local tax roll at \$10 million and remain at that level of taxable value for eight years for maintenance and operations taxes. The full taxable value of the project could be assessed for debt service taxes on voter-approved bond issues throughout the limitation period, with BISD currently levying a \$0.030 I&S tax rate.

Under the current school finance system, the property values established by the Comptroller's Office that are used to calculate state aid and recapture lag by one year, a practical consequence of the fact that the Comptroller's Office needs this time to conduct their property value study and now the planned audits of appraisal district operations in alternating years. A taxpayer receiving a value limitation pays M&O taxes on the reduced value for the project in years 3-10 and receives a tax bill for I&S taxes based on the full project value throughout the qualifying and value limitation period (and thereafter). The school funding formulas use the Comptroller's property values that reflect a reduction due to the property value limitation in years 4-11 as a result of the one-year lag in property values.

For the school finance system that operated prior to the approval of House Bill 1 (HB 1) in the 2006 special session, the third year was typically problematical for a school district that approved a Chapter 313 value limitation. Based on the data provided in the application, Senate Wind indicates that \$203.0 million in taxable value would be in place in the second year under the agreement. In year three (2013-14) of the agreement, the project is expected to go on the tax roll at \$10 million or, if applicable, a higher value limitation amount approved by the BISD Board of Trustees. This difference would result in a revenue loss to the school district in the third year of the agreement that would not be reimbursed by the state, but require some type of compensation from the applicant in the revenue protection provisions of the agreement. In years 4-10, smaller revenue losses would be anticipated when the state property values are aligned at the minimum value established by the Board on both the local tax roll and the corresponding state property value study, assuming a similar deduction is made in the state property values.

HB 1 established a “target” revenue system per student that has the effect of largely neutralizing the third-year revenue losses associated with Chapter 313 property value limitations, at least up to a district’s compressed M&O tax rate. The additional four to six cents of tax effort that a district may levy are subject to an enriched level of equalization (or no recapture in the case of Chapter 41 school district) and operate more like the pre-HB 1 system. A value limitation must be analyzed for any potential revenue loss associated with this component of the M&O tax levy. For tax effort in excess of the compressed plus six cents rate, equalization and recapture occur at the level of \$319,500 per weighted student in average daily attendance (WADA).

Under HB 3646—the school finance system changes approved by the Legislature in 2009—the starting point is the target revenue provisions from HB 1, that are then expanded through the addition of a series of school funding provisions that had operated previously outside the basic allotment and the traditional formula structure, as well as an additional \$120 per WADA guarantee.

Under the provisions of HB 3646, school districts do have the potential to earn revenue above the \$120 per WADA level, up to a maximum of \$350 per WADA above current law. Initial estimates indicate that about 700 school districts are funded at the minimum \$120 per WADA level, while approximately 300 school districts are expected to generate higher revenue amounts per WADA. This is significant because changes in property values and related tax collections under a Chapter 313 agreement once again have the potential to affect a school district’s base revenue, although probably not to the degree experienced prior to the HB 1 target revenue system.

One key element in any analysis of the school finance implications is the provision for revenue protection in the agreement between the school district and the applicant. In the case of the Senate Wind project, the agreement calls for a calculation of the revenue impact of the value limitation in years 3-10 of the agreement, under whatever school finance and property tax laws are in effect in each of those years. This meets the statutory requirement under Section 313.027(f) (1) of the Tax Code to provide school district revenue protection language in the agreement.

### **Underlying Assumptions**

There are several approaches that can be used to analyze the future revenue stream of a school district under a value limitation. Whatever method is used, a reasonable analysis requires the use of a multi-year forecasting model that covers the years in which the agreement is in effect. The Chapter 313 application now requires 15 years of data and analysis on the project being considered for a property value limitation.

The approach used here is to maintain static enrollment and property values in order to isolate the effects of the value limitation under the school finance system. While the new target revenue system appears to limit the impact of property value changes for a majority of school districts, changes in underlying property value growth have the potential to influence the revenue stream of a number of school districts.

Student enrollment counts are held constant at 200 students in average daily attendance (ADA) in analyzing the effects of the Senate Wind project on the finances of BISD. The District's local tax base reached \$224.0 million for the 2009 tax year, which included \$97 million for the prior HB1200 project, and is expected to be \$135.4 million in 2010 when the \$10 million value limitation takes effect for the prior project. The underlying \$135.4 million taxable value for 2010-11 is maintained for the forecast period in order to isolate the effects of the property value limitation.

It appears that BISD will move in and out of the category of being a property-wealthy district over the next several years, with wealth per weighted ADA or WADA ranging from approximately \$405,771 for the 2009-10 school year to more than \$1.2 million in the 2013-14 school year. These assumptions are summarized in Table 1.

### **School Finance Impact**

A baseline model was prepared for BISD under the assumptions outlined above through the 2024-25 school year. Beyond the 2010-11 school year, no attempt was made to forecast the 88<sup>th</sup> percentile or Austin yield that influence future state funding. In the analyses for other districts and applicants on earlier projects, these changes appeared to have little impact on the revenue associated with the implementation of the property value limitation, since the baseline and other models incorporate the same underlying assumptions.

Under the proposed agreement, a second model is established to make a calculation of the "Original M&O Revenue" by adding the value of the proposed Senate Wind facility to the model, but without assuming that a value limitation is approved. The results of the model are shown in Table 2.

A third model is developed which adds the Senate Wind value but imposes the proposed property value limitation effective in the third year, which in this case is the 2013-14 school year. The results of this model are identified as "New M&O Revenue" under the revenue protection provisions of the proposed agreement. (See Table 3 for these model results). An M&O tax rate of \$1.04 is used throughout this analysis.

A summary of the differences between these models is shown in Table 4. The model results show approximately \$1.5 to \$1.7 million a year in net General Fund revenue, after recapture and other adjustments have been made.

Under these assumptions, BISD would experience a revenue loss as a result of the implementation of the value limitation in the 2013-14 school year (-\$72,643). The revenue reduction results from the mechanics of four cents not subject to recapture, which reflect the one-year lag in value associated with the property value study. It appears that similar differences persist between the two models over the course of the agreement.

## Impact on the Taxpayer

Table 5 summarizes the impact of the proposed property value limitation in terms of the potential tax savings under the property value limitation agreement. The focus of this table is on the M&O tax rate only. As noted previously, the property is fully taxable in the first two years under the agreement. A \$1.04 per \$100 of taxable value M&O rate is assumed in 2009-10 and thereafter.

Under the assumptions used here, the potential tax savings from the value limitation total \$12.4 million over the life of the agreement. In addition, Senate Wind would be eligible for a tax credit for taxes paid on value in excess of the value limitation in each of the first two years. The credit amount is paid out slowly through years 4-10 due to statutory limits on the scale of these payments over these seven years, with catch-up payments permitted in years 11-13. The tax credits are expected to total approximately \$2.0 million, with no unpaid tax credits anticipated. The key BISD revenue losses are associated with the additional six-cent levy not subject to recapture and expected to total approximately -\$439,826 over the course of the agreement, with the school district to be reimbursed by the state for the tax credit payments. In total, the potential net tax benefits are estimated to total \$13.9 million over the life of the agreement.

## Facilities Funding Impact

The Senate Wind project remains fully taxable for debt services taxes, with BISD currently levying a \$0.030 I&S rate. The value of the Senate Wind project is expected to depreciate over the life of the agreement and beyond, but full access to the additional value will add to the District's projected wealth per ADA that is currently well above what is provided for through the state's facilities program. The additional value is expected to help reduce the District's current I&S tax rate to \$0.0125 per \$100 in 2012-13—a reduction of approximately \$0.0175—with the rate reduction diminishing as the project value depreciates.

The Senate Wind project is not expected to affect BISD in terms of enrollment. Continued expansion of the renewable energy industry could result in additional employment in the area and an increase in the school-age population, but this project is unlikely to have much impact on a stand-alone basis.

## Conclusion

The proposed Senate Wind wind energy project enhances the tax base of BISD. It reflects continued capital investment in renewable electric energy generation, one of the goals of Chapter 313 of the Tax Code, also known as the Texas Economic Development Act.

Under the assumptions outlined above, the potential tax benefits under a Chapter 313 agreement could reach an estimated \$13.9 million over the course of the agreement. This amount is net of any anticipated revenue losses for the District. The additional taxable value also enhances the tax base of BISD in meeting its future debt service obligations.

**Table 1 – Base District Information with Senate Wind, LLC Project Value and Limitation Values**

School Year	ADA	WADA	M&O Tax Rate	I&S Tax Rate	CAD Value with Project	CAD Value with Limitation	CPTD with Project	CPTD With Limitation	CPTD Value with Project per WADA	CPTD Value with Limitation per WADA
2009-10	230.00	390.50	\$1.0400	\$0.0300	\$127,037,310	\$127,037,310	\$158,452,172	\$158,452,172	\$405,771	\$405,771
2010-11	178.33	313.58	\$1.0400	\$0.0300	\$125,359,910	\$125,359,910	\$222,253,235	\$222,253,235	\$708,772	\$708,772
2011-12	169.76	299.80	\$1.0400	\$0.0300	\$125,359,910	\$125,359,910	\$136,904,638	\$136,904,638	\$456,658	\$456,658
2012-13	161.61	286.64	\$1.0400	\$0.0125	\$328,359,910	\$328,359,910	\$136,723,096	\$136,723,096	\$476,977	\$476,977
2013-14	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0127	\$317,194,910	\$135,359,910	\$337,823,455	\$337,823,455	\$1,232,400	\$1,232,400
2014-15	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0132	\$306,643,985	\$135,359,910	\$326,608,019	\$146,966,716	\$1,191,485	\$536,143
2015-16	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0137	\$296,673,361	\$135,359,910	\$316,034,901	\$146,897,569	\$1,152,914	\$535,891
2016-17	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0142	\$287,251,121	\$135,359,910	\$306,040,444	\$146,824,359	\$1,116,453	\$535,624
2017-18	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0148	\$278,347,104	\$135,359,910	\$296,592,944	\$146,747,697	\$1,081,988	\$535,344
2018-19	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0153	\$269,932,809	\$135,359,910	\$287,669,951	\$146,689,024	\$1,049,437	\$535,130
2019-20	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0158	\$261,981,299	\$135,359,910	\$354,040,015	\$221,418,188	\$1,291,559	\$807,747
2020-21	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0164	\$254,467,123	\$135,359,910	\$341,792,858	\$217,066,353	\$1,246,880	\$791,871
2021-22	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0169	\$247,366,223	\$247,366,223	\$330,197,817	\$212,939,675	\$1,204,581	\$776,816
2022-23	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0175	\$240,655,879	\$240,655,879	\$319,220,096	\$319,220,096	\$1,164,534	\$1,164,534
2023-24	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0181	\$234,314,601	\$234,314,601	\$308,826,771	\$308,826,771	\$1,126,618	\$1,126,618
2024-25	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0187	\$228,322,093	\$228,322,093	\$298,986,661	\$298,986,661	\$1,090,721	\$1,090,721
2025-26	153.85	274.12	\$1.0400	\$0.0193	\$222,659,173	\$222,659,173	\$289,670,263	\$289,670,263	\$1,056,734	\$1,056,734

\*Tier II Yield: \$48.19; AISD Yield: \$59.97; Equalized Wealth: \$481,900 per WADA

**Table 2 – “Baseline Revenue Model”--Project Value Added with No Value Limitation**

School Year	M&O Taxes @ Compressed Rate	State Aid	Additional State Aid-Hold Harmless	Excess Formula Reduction	Recapture Costs	Additional Local M&O Collections	State Aid From Additional M&O Tax Collections	Recapture from the Additional Local Tax Effort	Total General Fund
2011-12	\$1,300,593	\$122,907	\$148,570	\$0	\$0	\$51,956	\$16,275	\$0	\$1,640,301
2012-13	\$3,249,360	\$68,829	\$0	-\$1,714,353	\$0	\$129,805	\$33,398	\$0	\$1,767,039
2013-14	\$3,142,189	\$65,968	\$110,295	\$0	-\$1,881,026	\$125,524	\$0	\$0	\$1,562,950
2014-15	\$3,040,908	\$74,565	\$102,367	\$0	-\$1,780,413	\$121,478	\$0	\$0	\$1,558,904
2015-16	\$2,945,196	\$63,796	\$113,783	\$0	-\$1,685,348	\$117,655	\$0	\$0	\$1,555,081
2016-17	\$2,854,749	\$74,565	\$103,542	\$0	-\$1,595,429	\$114,042	\$0	\$0	\$1,551,468
2017-18	\$2,769,274	\$63,796	\$114,730	\$0	-\$1,510,373	\$110,627	\$0	\$0	\$1,548,053
2018-19	\$3,417,158	\$74,565	\$0	-\$130,602	-\$1,827,753	\$136,509	\$0	\$0	\$1,669,876
2019-20	\$3,299,595	\$63,796	\$107,320	\$0	-\$2,033,285	\$131,812	\$0	\$0	\$1,569,239
2020-21	\$3,188,290	\$74,565	\$97,523	\$0	-\$1,922,952	\$127,366	\$0	\$0	\$1,564,792
2021-22	\$3,082,913	\$63,796	\$109,139	\$0	-\$1,818,420	\$123,156	\$0	\$0	\$1,560,582
2022-23	\$2,983,143	\$74,565	\$99,098	\$0	-\$1,719,379	\$119,171	\$0	\$0	\$1,556,597
2023-24	\$2,888,683	\$63,796	\$110,484	\$0	-\$1,625,536	\$115,397	\$0	\$0	\$1,552,823
2024-25	\$2,799,250	\$74,565	\$100,227	\$0	-\$1,536,615	\$111,824	\$0	\$0	\$1,549,251
2025-26	\$2,714,576	\$74,565	\$100,642	\$0	-\$1,452,356	\$108,442	\$0	\$0	\$1,545,868

**Table 3– “Value Limitation Revenue Model”--Project Value Added with Value Limit**

School Year	M&O Taxes @ Compressed Rate	State Aid	Additional State Aid-Hold Harmless	Excess Formula Reduction	Recapture Costs	Additional Local M&O Collections	State Aid From Additional M&O Tax Collections	Recapture from the Additional Local Tax Effort	Total General Fund
2011-12	\$1,300,593	\$122,907	\$148,570	\$0	\$0	\$51,956	\$16,275	\$0	\$1,640,301
2012-13	\$3,249,360	\$68,829	\$0	-\$1,714,353	\$0	\$129,805	\$33,398	\$0	\$1,767,039
2013-14	\$1,323,748	\$65,968	\$815,696	\$0	-\$767,985	\$52,881	\$0	\$0	\$1,490,307
2014-15	\$1,327,981	\$74,565	\$168,400	\$0	-\$133,520	\$53,050	\$6,289	\$0	\$1,496,765
2015-16	\$1,331,981	\$63,796	\$175,068	\$0	-\$133,419	\$53,210	\$6,336	\$0	\$1,496,972
2016-17	\$1,335,761	\$74,565	\$160,359	\$0	-\$133,258	\$53,361	\$6,384	\$0	\$1,497,171
2017-18	\$1,339,331	\$63,796	\$167,342	\$0	-\$133,042	\$53,504	\$6,432	\$0	\$1,497,362
2018-19	\$2,071,361	\$74,565	\$0	-\$399,779	-\$212,778	\$82,747	\$9,984	\$0	\$1,626,099
2019-20	\$2,033,318	\$63,796	\$147,439	\$0	-\$807,126	\$81,227	\$0	\$0	\$1,518,653
2020-21	\$1,997,159	\$74,565	\$135,111	\$0	-\$769,409	\$79,783	\$0	\$0	\$1,517,209
2021-22	\$3,082,913	\$63,796	\$0	-\$446,778	-\$1,166,563	\$123,156	\$0	\$0	\$1,656,524
2022-23	\$2,983,143	\$74,565	\$99,098	\$0	-\$1,719,379	\$119,171	\$0	\$0	\$1,556,597
2023-24	\$2,888,683	\$63,796	\$110,484	\$0	-\$1,625,536	\$115,397	\$0	\$0	\$1,552,823
2024-25	\$2,799,250	\$74,565	\$100,227	\$0	-\$1,536,615	\$111,824	\$0	\$0	\$1,549,251
2025-26	\$2,714,576	\$74,565	\$100,642	\$0	-\$1,452,356	\$108,442	\$0	\$0	\$1,545,868

**Table 4 – Value Limit less Project Value with No Limit**

School Year	M&O Taxes @ Compressed Rate	State Aid	Additional State Aid-Hold Harmless	Excess Formula Reduction	Recapture Costs	Additional Local M&O Collections	State Aid From Additional M&O Tax Collections	Recapture from the Additional Local Tax Effort	Total General Fund
2011-12	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2012-13	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2013-14	-\$1,818,441	\$0	\$705,400	\$0	\$1,113,041	-\$72,643	\$0	\$0	-\$72,643
2014-15	-\$1,712,927	\$0	\$66,033	\$0	\$1,646,893	-\$68,428	\$6,289	\$0	-\$62,139
2015-16	-\$1,613,215	\$0	\$61,286	\$0	\$1,551,929	-\$64,445	\$6,336	\$0	-\$58,109
2016-17	-\$1,518,988	\$0	\$56,817	\$0	\$1,462,172	-\$60,681	\$6,384	\$0	-\$54,297
2017-18	-\$1,429,943	\$0	\$52,613	\$0	\$1,377,331	-\$57,123	\$6,432	\$0	-\$50,692
2018-19	-\$1,345,797	\$0	\$0	-\$269,177	\$1,614,974	-\$53,762	\$9,984	\$0	-\$43,778
2019-20	-\$1,266,277	\$0	\$40,119	\$0	\$1,226,159	-\$50,585	\$0	\$0	-\$50,585
2020-21	-\$1,191,132	\$0	\$37,588	\$0	\$1,153,544	-\$47,583	\$0	\$0	-\$47,583
2021-22	\$0	\$0	-\$109,139	-\$446,778	\$651,858	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$95,941
2022-23	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-24	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2024-25	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2025-26	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Table 5 - Estimated Financial impact of the Senate Wind, LLC Project Property Value Limitation Request Submitted to BISD at \$1.04 M&O Tax Rate**

School Year	Project Value	Estimated Taxable Value	Value Savings	Taxes Before Value Limit	Taxes after Value Limit	Tax Savings @ Projected M&O Rate	Tax Credits for First Two Years Above Limit	Tax Benefit to Company Before Revenue Protection	School District Revenue Losses	Estimated Net Tax Benefits
2011-12	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2012-13	\$203,000,000	\$203,000,000	\$0	\$2,111,200	\$2,111,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2013-14	\$191,835,000	\$10,000,000	\$181,835,000	\$1,995,084	\$104,000	\$1,891,084	\$0	\$1,891,084	-\$72,643	\$1,818,441
2014-15	\$181,284,075	\$10,000,000	\$171,284,075	\$1,885,354	\$104,000	\$1,781,354	\$63,512	\$1,844,866	-\$62,139	\$1,782,727
2015-16	\$171,313,451	\$10,000,000	\$161,313,451	\$1,781,660	\$104,000	\$1,677,660	\$63,307	\$1,740,967	-\$58,109	\$1,682,858
2016-17	\$161,891,211	\$10,000,000	\$151,891,211	\$1,683,669	\$104,000	\$1,579,669	\$63,090	\$1,642,758	-\$54,297	\$1,588,461
2017-18	\$152,987,194	\$10,000,000	\$142,987,194	\$1,591,067	\$104,000	\$1,487,067	\$62,862	\$1,549,929	-\$50,692	\$1,499,237
2018-19	\$144,572,899	\$10,000,000	\$134,572,899	\$1,503,558	\$104,000	\$1,399,558	\$62,698	\$1,462,257	-\$43,778	\$1,418,479
2019-20	\$136,621,389	\$10,000,000	\$126,621,389	\$1,420,862	\$104,000	\$1,316,862	\$62,452	\$1,379,314	-\$50,585	\$1,328,729
2020-21	\$129,107,213	\$10,000,000	\$119,107,213	\$1,342,715	\$104,000	\$1,238,715	\$62,199	\$1,300,914	-\$47,583	\$1,253,331
2021-22	\$122,006,313	\$122,006,313	\$0	\$1,268,866	\$1,268,866	\$0	\$1,268,866	\$1,268,866	\$0	\$1,268,866
2022-23	\$115,295,969	\$115,295,969	\$0	\$1,199,078	\$1,199,078	\$0	\$298,215	\$298,215	\$0	\$298,215
2023-24	\$108,954,691	\$108,954,691	\$0	\$1,133,129	\$1,133,129	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2024-25	\$102,962,183	\$102,962,183	\$0	\$1,070,807	\$1,070,807	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2025-26	\$97,299,263	\$97,299,263	\$0	\$1,011,912	\$1,011,912	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
				<b>\$20,998,961</b>	<b>\$8,626,992</b>	<b>\$12,371,969</b>	<b>\$2,007,200</b>	<b>\$14,379,169</b>	<b>-\$439,826</b>	<b>\$13,939,343</b>
<b>Tax Credit for Value Over Limit in First 2 Years</b>						<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Max Credits</u>		
						\$0	\$2,007,200	\$2,007,200		
						Credits Earned		\$2,007,200		
						Credits Paid		<u>\$2,007,200</u>		
						Excess Credits Unpaid		\$0		