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City of Salem and ProEnergy Services Announce Signing of Memorandum of Understanding *Partnership Developed to Explore the Development of Wood Fire Renewable Energy Facility*

SALEM – Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, the City of Salem, and ProEnergy Services today announced a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore the development of a wood fire renewable energy facility and other power services in Salem, Missouri.

Many Missouri communities have been faced with significant power rate increases and recently 13 were notified of the end of power supply service by the Rural Coop system beginning in 2013. The City of Salem and ProEnergy Services are hopeful that the development of a wood fire power facility will help to fuel the region's power needs while creating new jobs in the area.

“Exploring renewable energy and alternative energy sources in our state and our local communities is one of the most forward-thinking actions we can take,” said Sen. Barnitz. “I applaud the city and ProEnergy for developing this partnership and working towards cost-effective energy sustainability for our region.”

“The creation of a renewable energy facility in Salem, Missouri would be a considerable economic and jobs benefit not only to the City of Salem but surrounding communities as well,” said Salem Mayor Gary Brown, “I am pleased with our progress to this point and look forward to working more closely with ProEnergy to discuss our options in more detail.”

“As a local company we are always excited by the prospect of strengthening Missouri communities with the use of renewable energy,” said John Smeltzer, Vice President of ProEnergy Services. “We are excited to work with the City of Salem and other surrounding communities to explore the option of a wood fired power facility and broader energy services.”

Following the announcement Senator Barnitz, Mayor Brown, John Smeltzer and Spectrum Consulting’s Mike Mills held a public forum to allow members of the community to ask any questions they may have regarding the possible facility and wood fire power.

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