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(S.D.)-Sioux Tribes Plan Large-Scale Wind Energy Project

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 07/02/2013 11:50 AM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - An ambitious wind energy project by a group of Sioux tribes in South Dakota is getting accolades and support from a handful of former government officials, including former President Bill Clinton.

But industry experts question whether the tribes fully realize the challenges that come with developing wind energy.

Leaders from six Sioux tribes announced plans last month at the Clinton Global Initiative to develop a renewable energy project that would generate 1 to 2 gigawatts of power annually.

Funding for the up-to-\$3 billion project will come from the sale of bonds by a new multi-tribal power authority, as well as donations to a website.

Clinton called the project one of his "favorite announcements" of the event.

But experts say the tribes will face environmental, transmission and marketing challenges.