PRESS RELEASE
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NEW REPORT: Efforts to Increase Wind Energy Hitting Headwinds

ClearPath's new report, ***Hawkeye State Headwinds,*** *analyzes how local wind restrictions create challenges for achieving net-zero goals, using Iowa as a case study*

Washington, DC – Friday July 15, 2022 – ClearPath released a report today analyzing the challenges ahead for significant increases to wind energy deployment. Models for reaching net-zero by 2050 call for between three and 17 times more onshore wind capacity deployment nation-wide. ***Hawkeye State Headwinds*** is a first-of-its-kind report that analyzes the feasibility of large increases in wind production while accounting for local ordinances that limit new development.

The report looks specifically at Iowa as a case study given it has the largest percentage of its energy produced from wind, and has the largest land impact of any state in net zero models; 57% of Iowa's electricity supply is generated from wind energy.

"The path to achieve America's clean energy goals must be economically sustainable, politically realistic and technologically feasible," **said Rich Powell, CEO, ClearPath.** "This report highlights how challenging a clean energy transition would be if we put all our eggs into one basket. We should focus on a clean energy portfolio approach that includes wind and solar, and other baseload clean energy assets like nuclear energy as well as coal and gas with carbon capture."

"Reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 will require a massive infrastructure build-out over the next 28 years. But, not all net-zero pathways that have been modeled are actually feasible," **said Spencer Nelson, Managing Director of Research, ClearPath.** "Policies that support technology-neutral decarbonization and either the reuse or optimization of existing infrastructure and rights of way are essential."

Five key takeaways from Hawkeye State Headwinds include:

1) Up to 17 times more wind deployment is needed to reach net-zero emissions models.
2) Increasing deployment is becoming more challenging with increased local opposition. 16 of the 99 counties in Iowa have prohibitive ordinances or moratoria against new wind, most of which were enacted in the last three years.
3) 49-77% of potential wind development areas in Iowa could be unavailable.
4) There is no room for more wind without new transmission, which also faces opposition.

5) Regulatory reform and tech inclusivity are essential. An Iowa deployment level in line with a 100% renewable pathway (210GW) is not possible after considering local wind ordinances in wind-friendly places like Iowa.

Hawkeye State Headwinds Full Report
Hawkeye State Headwinds Summary

ClearPath conducted a detailed geospatial analysis of potential wind energy deployment. This case-study of Iowa compares county-level regulations governing turbine minimum distances from roads and buildings – known as setbacks – with downscaled wind energy projections that achieve net-zero by 2050 according to Princeton University's Net-Zero America Project (NZAP).

ClearPath partnered with LucidCatalyst, a clean energy deployment consulting and analysis firm, to examine the historical rate of wind energy and transmission build out, as well as transmission opposition in Iowa.

This allowed us to quantify the feasibility of achieving the pace and scale of a net-zero economy by 2050. Princeton University's NZAP is on the leading-edge with its high-resolution depiction of plausible pathways to a net-zero national economy by 2050. Detailed computer models can calculate the cheapest paths to achieve net-zero but only recently have started incorporating land use and political constraints on the energy systems they project.

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ABOUT CLEARPATH
ClearPath's 501(c)(3) mission is to develop and advance policies that accelerate breakthrough innovations that reduce emissions in the energy and industrial sectors. To advance that mission, we develop cutting-edge policy solutions and analysis on clean energy and industrial innovation. Learn more at clearpath.org. Follow us on Twitter: @powellrich, @ClearPathAction