

Homegrown Renewable Energy Campaign



April 19, 2010

To: Wisconsin State Assembly

From: Homegrown Energy Campaign

A-A Exteriors.com	GHD, Inc.	Partners in Forestry Landowners Cooperative
Agrecol Corporation	Global Energy Options	Photovoltaic Systems, LLC
Arch Electric, LLC	GrassWorks, Inc	Prairie Solar Power & Light
Artha Sustainable Living Center	Green Diesel Wisconsin Foundation	RENEW Wisconsin
Better Environmental Solutions	H&H Solar Energy Services, Inc.	Ritger Law Office
Biomass Solution	Lake County Energy	Seventh Generation Energy Systems
Bubbling Springs Solar	Lake Michigan Wind and Sun, Ltd.	The Nature Conservancy
Cardinal Solar	Legacy Solar	Timmerman's Talents
Clean Wisconsin	Marathon Renewable Energy, Inc.	UrbanRE Vitalization Group
Clear Horizons	Marth Wood Products	W.E.S. Engineering
Cosmic Walker Wood Products	Michael Fields Agricultural Institute	Wave Wind, LLC
D & D Equipment	Midwest Renewable Energy Association	Wind Energy Systems LLC
EcoEnergy LLC	Next Step Energy, LLC	Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education
Ecomanity, LLC	Northwind Renewable Energy, LLC	Wisconsin Farmers Union
Energies Direct	Organic Valley Cooperative	
Energize, LLC		
Energy Concepts, Inc.		
Full Spectrum Solar		

Subject: Support for the Clean Energy Jobs Act and Substitute Amendment 1 (AB 649/SB 450)

The Homegrown Renewable Energy Campaign was formed to support policies that will create jobs and spur economic growth in Wisconsin's rural communities by creating new opportunities for farmers, foresters, rural landowners, and businesses to participate in a clean energy economy. **The Clean Energy Jobs Act and Substitute Amendment 1 will accomplish these goals and we urge your support on Tuesday.**

Energy Crop Reserve Program

The Energy Crop Reserve Program would direct payments to farmers and landowners who begin planting crops that can later be sold for the production of biofuels. This policy will ensure that farmers and landowners can continue to make profits from their working lands as they transition to the production of biofuels. Ensuring that there is an adequate supply of biomass will create even more economic development as the number of businesses, aggregators, distributors and biofuel producers increase in the state to take advantage of these new resources. The legislation directs the Department

of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to begin rulemaking proceedings to design an effective Energy Crop Reserve Program. The Homegrown Renewable Energy Campaign encourages the Wisconsin State Legislature to support the Energy Crop Reserve Program.

Increasing Small Scale Renewable Energy

There are currently many roadblocks for individuals, farmers, businesses and entrepreneurs wishing to make investments in renewable energy like manure digesters, solar panels or small wind projects. The Clean Energy Jobs Act and Substitute Amendment 1 significantly increases funding for the Focus on Energy program to create more financing options to make it easier to install these projects. Farmers across the state are increasingly interested in investing in these options, but funding roadblocks remain.

The amended Clean Energy Jobs Act will also create additional incentives for utilities to make investment in small scale renewable energy. Under Substitute Amendment 1 utilities will receive a 25% bonus toward their Renewable Portfolio Standard calculation to invest in renewable projects under 2 megawatts like manure digesters, solar panels and small wind projects, which are often located on farms. Local sources of generation are especially effective at attracting renewable energy manufacturers, creating local jobs, reducing energy bills and stimulating Wisconsin's economy.

Increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard

Increasing Wisconsin's commitment to renewable energy to 25% by 2025 will lead to additional opportunities for rural economies. These utility-scale investments are what create the biomass plants, wind farms, and digesters that spur needed development in rural areas, and make farmers part of the solution to clean energy. These utility projects generate additional income for farmers at a time when any additional income is welcome.

The Homegrown Renewable Energy Campaign asks for your support of the Clean Energy Jobs Act and Substitute Amendment 1 on Tuesday. Passage of this bill this session is imperative to revitalizing Wisconsin's rural economy and positioning our farmers to be part of the clean energy economy and the financial opportunities that come with it.

For more information about the Homegrown Renewable Energy Campaign, please contact Bridget Holcomb of the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute at bridget@michaelfieldsagainst.org or by phone at 608-256-1859.