

February 17, 2009

John Shenot, Policy Advisor
Commissioners' Office
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Re: Docket 5-EI- 148

Dear Mr. Shenot:

On behalf of the Dane County Supervisors who have signed this letter, we strongly support establishing Wisconsin Advanced Renewable Tariffs (ARTs), which are premium buyback rates designed to build a vibrant renewable distributed generation market. Where established, ARTs have fostered extraordinary growth in renewable energy and remarkably high local ownership rates for projects.

The use of ARTs in Germany, France and Spain have propelled these countries to the forefront of renewable energy development worldwide. In so doing, they have created hundreds of thousands of new family-supporting jobs. Furthermore, ARTs are more equitable than other policies aimed at stimulating renewable energy use. They enable everyone - farmers, cooperatives, homeowners, and businesses large and small - to become renewable energy producers and do their part in building a sustainable economy.

We have several renewable energy projects in Dane County, including converting landfill gas to a usable product, implementing a regional manure digester, and potential wind projects that these ARTs would help foster to create jobs and cleaner energy. Dane County is also a Cool County having pledged to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ARTs will help us achieve this goal.

These premium rates fix a long-term payment stream based on the production costs of the applicable renewable energy technologies and sizes. Thus, the price will be set differently for solar, wind, biomass, biogas and other renewable generation sources. Within a particular fuel category and generator size, installation and operating costs will be similar regardless of project location. Therefore, ARTs have capability of being uniformly applied throughout Wisconsin.

As Dane County officials, we support requiring utilities to offer ARTs structured around the following these principles:

- The tariff design should focus on removing barriers to smaller renewable distributed generators.

- The tariff should balance Wisconsin's renewable generation targets (RPS) and the value of renewable electricity to the ratepayers.
- All energy procured by utilities under this tariff shall be fully eligible to use to comply with the Wisconsin RPS (or to supply renewable energy to a utility green pricing program, but not both).
- The price elements of the tariff should be kept simple.
- Inflation adjusted tariffs ranging between 10 and 15 years in duration.

Thank you for all you do to promote clean renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Brett Hulseby *or*

Brett Hulseby, District 4
Dane County Supervisor

Robin Schmidt

Robin Schmidt, District 24
Dane County Supervisor

Other Supervisors in support of this letter:

Elaine H. DeSmidt
Elaine H. DeSmidt

Barbara Vukobratovic

W. B. Hampton

Dorothy Wheeler

Donna Vogel

John Kerker

Tom Stebbins
Mary Hurd

David H. H. H. H.

Patrick Downing