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February 8, 2010

Representative Bill Hilty MN House of Representatives 559 State Office Building 75 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Report on the Activities and Results of the Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) Aggregation Program

Dear Representative Hilty:

Pursuant to 2008 Minnesota Laws Chapter 296 Article 1 Section 19 Subd. 3 (Minn. Stat. 216F.09), the Office of Energy Security (OES) is required to submit a report by February 1, 2009, and each year thereafter, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees with primary jurisdiction over energy policy on the activities and results of the Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) Aggregation Program. The purpose of the program is to create a clearinghouse to coordinate and arrange umbrella sales arrangements for groups of individuals, farmstead property owners, farmers' cooperative associations, community-based energy project developers, school districts, and other political subdivisions to aggregate small-volume purchases, as a group, in order to place large orders for wind energy conversion systems with WECS manufacturers. No formal report was issued in 2009. However, during the 2009 legislative session, the OES orally communicated to Legislative Committee Chairs that according to our consultation with industry leaders, the allocated funds (\$100,000 per year) are not sufficient to initiate the proposed program.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Jeremy de Fiebre at (651) 297-1221 or <u>jeremy.defiebre@state.mn.us</u>.

Sincerely,

JEREMY DE FIEBRE SEP/EECBG Supervisor Office of Energy Security

Minnesota Department of Commerce