

## **Legislative Energy Commission**

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January 15, 2014

Chair, Senate Environment and Energy Committee, Senator John Marty Chair, House Energy Policy Committee, Representative Melissa Hortman

Dear Senator Marty and Representative Hortman:

This letter serves as the report of the Legislative Energy Commission (LEC) on progress toward meeting the goals of the framework for Minnesota's energy future, as required in M.S. 3.8852 by January 15, 2014 and annually thereafter.

M.S. 3.8852, passed in 2013, requires that "[t]he Legislative Energy Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of commerce and other state agencies, shall develop a framework for the state of Minnesota to transition to a renewable energy economy that ends Minnesota's contribution to greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels within the next few decades." In addition, the duties of the LEC, stipulated in M.S. 3.8851, Subd. 3, require the commission to "evaluate the energy policies of this state and the degree to which they promote an environmentally and economically sustainable energy future," and to monitor progress towards the state's renewable energy standard and greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals.

To fulfill these duties, the LEC has:

- Authorized and hired an Executive Director (June 2013, September 25).
- Received from the Department of Commerce the "Minnesota Energy Future Study Scoping Report," as required by Minn. Laws 2013 c 85 art 12 sec 7 (published January 3, 2014).
- Met four times, on April 10, June 20, September 25, and December 19. A record of these meetings can be found on the LEC website, <a href="https://www.lec.leg.mn/meetings.html">www.lec.leg.mn/meetings.html</a>.

During the next year, the LEC will initiate development of the state's energy future framework, convening energy stakeholders including representatives from cooperative, municipal, and investor-owned utilities, natural resources and environmental advocacy groups, labor and industry, and technical and scientific experts. This process will be informed by the scoping report from the Department of Commerce.

In addition the LEC will continue its ongoing efforts to:

- Provide opportunities for members' education on key energy policy issues.
- Build relationships and increase collaboration with the Executive branch.
- Solidify the role and internal functions of the LEC, now with full-time staffing capacity.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Annie

Annie Levenson-Falk, Executive Director

Legislative Energy Commission

cc: Legislative Energy Commission members Legislative Reference Library