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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC BIOFUELS**

Room 412 East  
State Capitol

October 14, 2008  
10:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the October 14, 2008 meeting of the Special Committee on Domestic Biofuels. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc>.]

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#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Kreitlow called the meeting to order. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Senator Pat Kreitlow, Chair; Representative Scott Suder, Vice Chair; Senators Robert Cowles and Robert Jauch; Representatives Donald Friske and Mike Sheridan; and Public Members Mary Blanchard, Howard Bohl, Steve Christensen, Randy Fortenbery, Jennifer Giegerich, Jeremy Goodfellow, Steve Graham, Don Guay, Bill Johnson, Steve Loehr, John Salden, Peter Taglia, and Peter Tomasi.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: John Stolzenberg, Chief of Research Services; and Larry Konopacki, Staff Attorney.

APPEARANCES: Richard Hasselman, GDS Associates, Madison; Pamela Porter, P Squared Group, Madison; Sean Weitner, Energy Center of Wisconsin, Madison; Michael Wang, Transportation Technology R&D Center, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, Illinois; Carol Werner, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Washington, D.C; and Maria Redmond, Office of Energy Independence, Madison

## **Approval of the Minutes of the September 16, 2008 Meeting**

*Steve Loehr moved, seconded by Randy Fortenbery, to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2008 meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.*

## **Description of Materials Distributed**

The following materials were either distributed to committee members or referenced by Legislative Council staff and are available at the committee's Web site:

- Memo No. 1., *State Statutes Relating to Transportation Biofuels* (October 8, 2008).
- Memo No. 2., *Assessment of Biomass in Wisconsin Available for Biofuels Production* (October 8, 2008).
- IM-2008-09, *Recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming* (August 15, 2008).
- *Overview and Key Findings; Optional Ethanol Blend-Level Investigation*, Richard E. Shockey, et. al, Energy Environmental Research Center, University of North Dakota, Report 2007-EERC-11-02, November 2007.

## **Panel Discussion on Assessment of Feedstocks in Wisconsin for the Production of Biofuels**

Chair Kreitlow moderated a panel made up of Richard Hasselman of GDS Associates, Pamela Porter of P Squared Group, and Sean Weitner of the Energy Center of Wisconsin, who all have experience preparing assessments of various types of bioenergy feedstocks in Wisconsin. The panel discussed the scope of various types of assessments, the types of feedstocks that are or could be available in Wisconsin, and the viability of some of these feedstocks for the commercial production of transportation biofuels. The panel also explored some of the economic and social obstacles to feedstocks production, collection, and transportation and the interplay between the use of feedstocks for biofuels production and other renewable energy policies. The panel also responded to committee questions and the committee discussed ways to promote feedstocks production in Wisconsin with the panelists.

## **Presentation on Net Energy Balance and Lifecycle Analyses of Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Transportation Fuels**

Michael Wang of the Transportation Technology R&D Center at Argonne National Laboratory spoke to the committee about life-cycle analysis of the relative benefits of biofuels as compared to petroleum-based transportation fuels. Mr. Wang discussed modeling the relative energy used to produce and emissions from the production of different types of fuels, including information about his GREET (Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use in Transportation) Model. He talked about the challenges in developing a model that takes each relevant consideration into account and therefore more accurately estimates a fuel's life-cycle impacts. He presented information on the life cycle

greenhouse gas reduction requirements in the federal renewable fuels standard (RFS) and discussed measuring direct and indirect land use changes that may result from increased biofuels feedstocks production. Mr. Wang also responded to questions from committee members following his presentation.

### **Presentations on Wisconsin and Other States' Biofuels Policies**

Carol Werner from the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) spoke to the committee via teleconference on "best practices" for states to undertake to take advantage of the emerging opportunities related to advanced biofuels. She provided examples of recommended state policies related to various objectives such as climate change, environmental stewardship, national energy security, public health, and economic development. She emphasized policies that EESI believes can best support the commercialization of low-carbon advanced biofuel technologies, take advantage of federal incentives, and allow states to position themselves to help meet the federal biofuel mandate. EESI promotes a broad range of policies related to resource assessments, innovative and coordinated research, infrastructure needs, finances and economics, regulatory conditions, and stakeholder perceptions and political priorities. Ms. Werner also took questions from committee members.

Maria Redmond from the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence presented information to the committee regarding current state policies in Wisconsin related to transportation biofuels in the following categories: (1) program development and administration; (2) financial assistance; (3) the government as a marketplace participant; (4) public education; and (5) regulations. Ms. Redmond also talked about the role of the Office of Energy Independence in coordinating efforts to promote biofuels by various state agencies and the need to explore streamlining state permit processing and agency contacts for biofuel producers, and responded to questions from committee members.

### **Discussion of Committee Assignment**

Chair Kreitlow explained that the Legislative Council staff would prepare a listing of possible policy options for the committee to consider at its next meeting. Committee members shared their thoughts on what types of options should be considered by the committee and were asked to follow up with staff on any additional thoughts they may have on policy options by no later than October 28th.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business brought before the committee.

### **Plans for Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Special Committee will be *November 18, 2008*.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

LAK:ty