



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
LANSING

ANDREW S. LEVIN
ACTING DIRECTOR

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor of Michigan
State Capitol Building
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Granholm:

On behalf of the Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council and in accordance with Executive Order 2009-46, I am pleased to submit the Council's 2010 report for your review and consideration.

The 29-member Council represents a broad array of interests and has unique expertise in many areas related to offshore wind development. Bringing together these different perspectives was essential in developing the balanced recommendations in this report. This submittal builds on the Council's first report, which was issued in September 2009 in response to Executive Order No. 2009-1. Following the issuance of that report, the Council organized work teams to address specific issues and hosted five public meetings in communities around the state with over 500 individuals in attendance. The Council also met in Lansing three additional times to formulate the policy recommendations contained in this 2010 report. Highlights include:

- The Council's identification of five Wind Resource Areas (WRA) comprising a total of 565 square miles within Michigan's Great Lakes waters that are "most favorable" for offshore wind energy development based upon the mapping criteria developed by the Council in 2009. These WRAs are in shallow waters and are at least 20 contiguous miles each meaning that they are large enough to support a commercial wind field. They are also buffered from sensitive habitats, structures, or competing uses identified by the Council (e.g., airports, shipping lanes, commercial fishing, nearshore coastal areas).
- The Council's recommendation that sites within the five WRAs be considered for bottomland leasing as soon as new legislation is put into effect. While additional site-specific studies would be necessary prior to the leasing and permitting of particular sites for offshore wind energy development, the Council's statewide planning can help prioritize public offshore wind activities, streamline government and bring more focus to private-sector investment.
- Detailed guidance on a legislative framework to govern the permitting and leasing of offshore wind energy projects in Michigan's Great Lakes. This would include a deliberative process for public involvement in agency decision-making. A bipartisan effort with the support of stakeholders is underway to move this framework forward in the Michigan Legislature.
- A summary of public input and opinion related to offshore wind energy in Michigan collected through interactive polling at public meetings, as well as comments sent directly to the Council.

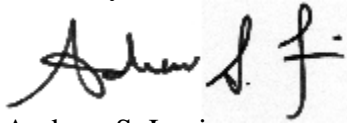
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Combined with the Council's September 2009 report, this document concludes the Council's reporting in response to your charge. The Council remains in place and prepared to provide input on proposed legislation and rulemaking and to perform other functions as requested by you until December 31, 2010.

I look forward to working with you and the state legislature to implement these recommendations as we continue to develop renewable energy initiatives to diversify Michigan's economy and reduce our national dependence on foreign oil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew S. Levin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

Andrew S. Levin