

A bill for an act

relating to energy; authorizing grant to Chisago, Isanti, and Pine Counties to study feasibility of a renewable energy facility.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT.**

From the appropriation in fiscal year 2008 for the ethanol development program under Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.09, the commissioner of agriculture shall make a grant of \$300,000 to Chisago, Isanti, and Pine Counties for a feasibility study of a renewable energy biofuels production, research and production facility to be located in Chisago, Isanti, or Pine County.

The grant must be used by Chisago, Isanti, and Pine Counties and the University of Minnesota to conduct a detailed feasibility study of the economic and technical viability of developing a multistream renewable energy biofuels demonstration facility in Chisago, Isanti, or Pine County to utilize existing forest resources, woody biomass, and cellulosic material to produce biofuels or bioenergy.

The feasibility study must consider the capacity of:

(1) the seed bank at Wild River State Park to expand the existing prairie grass, woody biomass, and cellulosic material resources in Chisago, Isanti, and Pine Counties;

(2) willing and interested landowners in Chisago, Isanti, and Pine Counties to grow cellulosic materials; and

(3) the Minnesota Conservation Corps, the sentence to serve program, and other existing workforce programs in east central Minnesota to contribute labor to these efforts.