

A bill for an act

relating to energy; requiring development of an economic strategy to maximize state economic development benefits from the renewable electric energy industry.

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

Section 1. **RENEWABLE ENERGY OBJECTIVE; STATE ECONOMIC
BENEFIT STRATEGY.**

The commissioner of employment and economic development, in consultation with the commissioners of commerce and agriculture and the Public Utilities Commission, shall develop a strategy to obtain the maximum economic benefit for the state and its citizens from the renewable energy activities prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1691. The commissioner may hold public meetings and otherwise engage the public in developing the strategy. The strategy must include consideration of both short-term and long-term opportunities for economic benefit, the quality of jobs created by the renewable energy activities required under section 216B.1691, and protecting the union organizing rights of workers who will fill those jobs. The commissioner of employment and economic development shall report on the strategic recommendations to the chairs of the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over energy policy by November 15, 2007. The report must include recommendations for legislation necessary to implement the strategy. An interim report on the progress in developing the strategy must be made to the chairs by August 1, 2007.