

APRIL, 2010

Great Lakes Renewable Energy Conference held in Detroit

Manufacturers, engineers, scientists, developers, government officials, educators, economic developers and utility leaders descended on the Motor City on April 14th - 15th to learn more about the new Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) law that regulates utilities setting the amount of energy that will be produced from sources such as wind, solar, bio-mass and other non-carbon technologies in Michigan in the future.

The GLREA represents government, business and industry across the state interested in renewable energy and the potential economic benefits derived from renewable standards and the resultant job creation from it.

Representatives from the Mason County Growth Alliance are monitoring proposed legislation that would offer state-owned Great Lakes bottomlands up for lease to developers and project consultants for off-shore wind generation “farms” in the great lakes.

The legislation will provide legal and administrative procedures for companies to “bid” on lake bottom leases with the state in the future. No application process is currently available to prospective developers. The County Board of Commissioners will be considering a vote later this summer on whether to study and research a proposal by Scandia Wind and Havgul Corporation. Those companies offered to pay for the extensive studies anticipated to take more than six years to complete.

Controversy erupted last December as community leaders and residents of Mason and Oceana Counties debated the merits of the \$3 billion project as it relates to area employment creation versus the visual compromise of the Lake Michigan horizon and an array of potential environmental and social-economic challenges the giant turbines could create just four miles off the shoreline of Ludington and less than two miles off the coast of Pentwater.