

Algoma
Arcadia
Argyle
Bangor
Barron
Belmont
Benton
Black Earth
Black River Falls
Bloomer
Boscobel
Brodhead
Cadott
Cashton
Cedarburg
Centuria
Clintonville
Columbus
Cornell
Cuba City
Cumberland
Eagle River
Elkhorn
Elroy
Evansville
Fennimore
Florence
Gresham
Hartford
Hazel Green
Hustisford
Jefferson
Juneau
Kaukauna
Kiel
La Farge
Lake Mills
Lodi
Manitowoc
Marshfield
Mazomanie
Medford
Menasha
Merrillan
Mount Horeb
Muscoda
New Glarus
New Holstein
New Lisbon
New London
New Richmond
Oconomowoc
Oconto Falls
Pardeeville
Plymouth
Prairie du Sac
Princeton
Reedsburg
Rice Lake
Richland Center
River Falls
Sauk City
Shawano
Sheboygan Falls
Shullsburg
Slinger
Spooner
Stoughton
Stratford
Sturgeon Bay
Sun Prairie
Trempealeau
Two Rivers
Viola
Waterloo
Waunakee
Waupun
Westby
Whitehall
Wisconsin Dells
Wisconsin Rapids
Wonevot

**TO: Senate Select Committee on Clean Energy, and
Assembly Select Committee on Clean Energy**
FROM: David J. Benforado, Executive Director
DATE: January 27, 2010
RE: MEUW Statement in Support of SB 450 and AB 649

The Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin (MEUW) applauds Governor Doyle, the members of the Global Warming Task Force and the legislative leaders on the drafting and introduction of SB450/AB649, the *Clean Energy Jobs Act*. At this critical juncture for the energy industry, we appreciate the vision and leadership on this important issue.

While very diverse and varying in size and scope, MEUW's 82 municipally-owned electric utility members support the goals and policies set out by the Task Force's July 2008 Final Report, which has been carefully crafted into the bill before you today. In June 2009, MEUW Members passed a general membership resolution supporting the Task Force report, with particular attention to cost issues as the policies are implemented. We believe that public power communities are uniquely positioned to be leaders in Wisconsin as we move toward a cleaner energy future.

Senate Bill 450 and its companion bill, Assembly Bill 649 truly establishes a viable roadmap for future generations in terms of energy mix, energy consumption, and energy conservation. The time to redirect our efforts in terms of securing a cleaner energy future is now. The policies and goals will not be implemented overnight, nor will all of the details and challenges be overcome to everyone's satisfaction.

If we believe it is right to use less energy and electricity, and the electricity that we distribute and sell should be a cleaner mix than in the past, then the plans and policies that cause us to do so, or move our economy to do so – must also be right. There are details and issues to be resolved through this legislative process, and MEUW will support ongoing, productive, solution-oriented discussions among stakeholders and legislators that do so.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to offer the municipal utility viewpoint on Senate Bill 450/AB649. If members of the Committee have questions we can answer, feel free to contact me (email: dbenforado@meuw.org) or MEUW Associate Director Scott Meske (email: smeske@meuw.org).

Thank you.