STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2009-817
September 2, 2009

RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KENTUCKY BIOMASS AND BIOFUELS DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, Kentucky's strategic energy plan, Intelligent Energy Choices for Kentucky's Future, establishes specific goals for the development of a biomass and biofuels industry within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, a specific goal within this strategic plan is for Kentucky to utilize 12 percent of its transportation fuels from in-state production of renewable sources by 2025; and

WHEREAS, to achieve the federal Renewable Portfolio Standard for electricity, Kentucky will be forced to compete against other states for limited renewable electricity resources, which could impact Kentucky's ability to attract energy-intensive industries; and

WHEREAS, the development of a biomass and biofuels industry within the Commonwealth, through both forestry products and energy crops, will provide significant economic stimulus, much of which will be concentrated within rural communities statewide; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's General Assembly has passed energy legislation that provides income tax relief for biofuels producers and financial incentives for energy developers; and

WHEREAS, significant efforts must be taken to translate into meaningful and sustainable growth of either biofuels production or biomass for power generation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I Steven L. Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, under the authority vested in me by KRS 12.029 do hereby Order and Direct the following:

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1. There is hereby created and established the Kentucky Biomass and Biofuels Development Task Force ("Task Force") whose charge shall be to facilitate the development of a sustainable biomass and biofuels industry in Kentucky to revitalize rural and local economics, create jobs, and develop prosperity for the state as it seeks to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions.

2. The Task Force should accomplish the following, and report its results to the Governor's Office no later than November 30, 2009:

   A. Validate Kentucky's biomass production capabilities within a sustainable environment.

   B. Evaluate the status of energy crop and forestry biotechnology and genetics, and recommend a plan of action that allows biotechnology to support biomass production.

   C. Validate Kentucky's potential biomass demand.

   D. Evaluate biomass transportation and logistics opportunities, and recommend a course of action.

   E. Evaluate available business structures in Kentucky, including structures that allow direct producer ownership, and formulate plans of action that allow adequate capitalization of new biomass industry.

   F. Facilitate economic impact analysis of the effect of a biomass and biofuels industry on Kentucky.

   G. Recommend legislative action that supports development of a biomass and biofuels industry.

3. I hereby appoint the following to serve as members of the Work Group:

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Secretary Len Peters, Energy and Environment Cabinet, Co-chair
Executive Director Roger Thomas, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, Co-chair
Secretary Larry Hayes, Economic Development Cabinet
Senator David Givens
Senator Johnny Ray Turner
Senator Ken Winters
Representative Tom McKee
Representative Dwight Butler
Representative Tanya Pullin
Commissioner Richie Farmer, Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Dr. Eric Berson, Chemical Engineering Professor, University of Louisville
Tony Campbell, CEO, East Kentucky Power Cooperative
Terry Cook, State Director, The Nature Conservancy
Dr. Nancy Cox, Associate Dean, UK College of Agriculture
Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau
Don Halcomb, Farmer, Simpson County
Mike Henderson, Agri-Energy Committee, Kentucky Agricultural Council
Dr. Kimberly Holmes, Associate Director, Land Grant, Kentucky State University
Dr. Scott Shearer, Chair, UK Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering
Richard Sturgill, President, Pine Mountain Hardwood Lumber Company
Betty Williamson, President, Kentucky Woodland Owners' Association

Please issue commissions to them.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR, GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Kentucky

TREY GRAYSON
Secretary of State