October 25, 2007

Renewable Energy Organization
Calvin College
3201 Burton Street S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Dear Students,

Thank you for your communication with my office in regard to HB 5218 that will require electric utilities to connect to and pay for power generated by various types of alternative sources including hydro, landfill and sewage treatment gas, wind, solar, geothermal, bio-fuel. The higher cost of energy from these sources would be paid for by imposing a customer surcharge, with the amount to be determined by the State Public Service Commission. It helps me to make informed decisions when I can weigh the opinions from members of our community.

At this time, I cannot tell you whether or not I will support the final version of HB 5218. Currently, HB 5218 has been referred to the House Energy and Technology Committee. During committee, changes may take place that could alter the meaning of the bill. Regardless, I look forward to viewing this bill in its concluding form. Additionally, I have instructed my staff to look into this issue and I will certainly keep your opinion in mind should this important legislation cross my path.

I am aware of the potential difficulties that an oil shortage will generate on our society. I believe that clean and renewable energy sources are the wave of the future. Rising global demand for energy and instability in oil producing regions of the world are obviously forces that are beyond the control of our State Legislature. At a State level, I plan to do what I can to enhance the transition from fossil fuels to these developmental energies thereby finding solutions to our long-term energy demands.

While most energy solutions are long term, I know we need short-term solutions too. That is why I recently supported legislation in the House to help make Michigan a leader in the production of ethanol and other bio-fuels.
In the upcoming session, I look forward to reviewing the many bill’s dealing with renewable energy sources as a part of this legislative process.

Once again, I appreciate you sharing your thoughts with me as they help me better represent you. It is my goal to have you view my office as a resource. Please contact my office if you have any further information or if I can be of any future assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn Steil, Jr.
State Representative
72nd District