

## **Sustainable Energy Solutions 2010**

As policymakers and private citizens, we need to seek out sustainable energy solutions that will reduce long and short term pollution and improve our energy independence.

Our focus is on building an alternative energy infrastructure that would make the future better for our state by reducing our reliance on oil and the amount of pollution in our atmosphere as well as surface and ground water.

Transmission of energy is a crucial piece of energy policy. We need to efficiently and safely move the electricity from where it is produced to where it is needed. New battery storage technology will have an increasing role in addressing this issue. It can help reduce the need for additional transmission lines across the state and nation. I authored successful legislation to begin work on research in this area in Minnesota.

Building a renewable energy infrastructure is good policy that ensures we become energy producers as well as energy consumers.

I welcome every opportunity to partner with community, industry, and conservation organizations to invest in clean renewable energy alternatives that will mean a cleaner and stronger economy for Minnesota.

In 2010 legislative efforts continued to promote the development of wind, solar and biofuels and other forms of renewable energy by focusing on renewable energy initiatives and projects that will bring jobs to Minnesota. One new law will help create jobs and jumpstart the development of solar energy by providing homeowners and businesses with rebates when they install solar panels manufactured in Minnesota. Another provision will usher in the largest solar project in the Upper Midwest that will transform a landfill into a massive solar farm here in Minnesota.

Continuing efforts will help establish a broad base for energy that will make us more independent and less susceptible to volatile market forces, storms, and foreign oil. As energy producers we will have to determine how we transmit what we produce and where it is needed.