

United States Senate

U. S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
MICHIGAN

January 24, 2012

I am writing to update you about an important opportunity available for farmers and rural small businesses in Michigan to save money and reduce energy usage.

The USDA is now accepting grant applications for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). This competitive grant program supports renewable energy projects like wind turbines, solar arrays, or grain dryers. These opportunities and deadlines include:

- o Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications until March 30, 2012;
- o Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications on a continuous basis up to June 29, 2012;
- o Renewable energy system feasibility study applications through March 30, 2012; and
- o Energy audits and renewable energy development assistance applications through February 21, 2012.

As Chairwoman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I am working to support local farmers and small businesses so rural communities can continue to provide economic opportunities for their residents. The Rural Energy for America Program was established in the 2008 Farm Bill.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for one of these competitive grants or loans, please contact your regional USDA office. If you do not know your regional office's number, you can visit the Michigan USDA Rural Development website at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mi/> or you can call the Michigan headquarters at 517-324-5190.

If you would like a letter of support for your grant application or need other help, please feel free to contact one of my regional Senate offices: Flint, Saginaw, Bay, Thumb (810-720-4172); Mid-Michigan (517-203-1760); Northern Michigan (231-929-1031); Southeast Michigan (313-961-4330); Upper Peninsula (906-228-8756); or West Michigan (616-975-0052).

Sincerely,
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

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