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May 16, 2005

Brother Dennis-Anthony Wyrzykowski  
Prior  
Teresian Carmelites  
PO Box 826, 30 Chrome Street  
Worcester, MA 01613-0826

Dear Brother Dennis,

As you requested, this letter is intended to provide you with some background both about the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) Renewable Energy Trust and about our specific interest in building wind turbines on Asnebumskit Hill in Paxton, Massachusetts.

**Background Re: MTC and the Renewable Energy Trust**

The MTC is the state's development agency for renewable energy and the innovation economy. It administers the Renewable Energy Trust which was created by the Legislature as an essential component of electric utility industry restructuring. The Renewable Energy Trust seeks to maximize environmental and economic benefits for the Commonwealth's citizens by pioneering and promoting clean energy technologies and fostering the emergence of sustainable markets for electricity generated from renewable sources.

Funding for the Renewable Energy Trust comes from the ratepayers of investor-owned utilities (i.e. National Grid, NStar, Western Massachusetts Electric, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric). The approximately 40 towns, including Paxton, that are powered by Municipal Light Departments do not pay into the Renewable Energy Trust.

The Renewable Energy Trust seeks to increase both the supply of and demand for power from cleaner sources. On the supply side, the Trust supports both utility-scale and community-scale energy projects that harness the wind, sun, and bioenergy. On the demand side, it educates citizens, teachers, and students, and advances the clean electricity market by giving consumers objective information and attractive choices. By developing energy from wind, solar, and other renewable resources, we're reducing our reliance on coal, oil, and other fossil fuels that contribute to air pollution and global warming.

### **MTC's Interest in Developing Asnebumskit Hill Wind Turbines**

As we discussed with you when we met on May 2, 2005 in Paxton, MTC has been exploring the development of wind turbines on Asnebumskit Hill through our Low-Income Initiative. The goal of this Initiative is to build renewable energy facilities and commit a substantial portion of the revenue from the electricity generated to support the Massachusetts LEAN (Low-Income Affordability Network).<sup>1</sup>

It came to MTC's attention that, starting in June 2003, the University of Massachusetts Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL) began measuring wind speeds on Asnebumskit Hill. Over time, we learned from RERL that the wind speed there is quite high and that they consider this location to be one of the best possible sites for wind turbines in the state. It therefore stood to reason that when MTC decided to develop a limited number of turbines, we approached the Town of Paxton.

In September of 2004, we began discussing with Diane Dillman, the Manager of the Paxton Municipal Light Department, the possibility of our organizations moving forward together to build wind turbines on Asnebumskit Hill. The Town started to explore the possible purchase of the American Tower land and MTC, via our consultant ESS Group, Inc., began to study the feasibility of developing turbines on the site. ESS Group provided us a "Site Screening and Development Options Analysis" in March 2005. I am enclosing a copy of this study which gives an indication of the costs and potential revenues of this project. As with any wind project, the actual financial returns of the project will depend upon how much and at what speeds the wind blows and the market price for both electricity and renewable energy certificates.

MTC is interested in continuing to pursue the idea of putting up to two 1.5 Megawatt-size turbines on Asnebumskit Hill. Please note that the 1,000 homes that Warren Leon referred to in our May 2, 2005 meeting is the number of homes that two such turbines can reasonably be expected to power on an annual basis.

### **Next Steps**

As we agreed at our May 2 with you, MTC has asked our consultants (Steve Wood of ESS Group and Lawrence Mott of Northern Power) to continue to explore the feasibility of siting wind turbines on the land that your organization intends to purchase. MTC has asked that Steve and Lawrence to further study where the best sites on the Hill might be, taking into account your plans to build a monastery there. By early June, they will:

1. Refine the siting study to consider the siting of 2 – 1.5 MW turbines.
  - a. Conduct wind modeling to determine vertical component turbulence and setback requirement from the ridge at two or three potential locations that make sense regarding land ownership/potential for development (i.e area we spoke about at mtg.).

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<sup>1</sup> The Massachusetts Low Income Affordability Network coordinates the delivery of all publicly funded energy efficiency programs across the state. LEAN was established as a result of legislation that, for the first time, established secure funding for low income utility efficiency programs (G>L. c. 25, sec. 19;St. 1997, c. 164, sec 37).

- b. Review and revise the turbine spacing relative to each other per two or three scenarios
  - c. Review the available real estate at the “highest” topography in terms of best turbine locations.
2. Conduct a preliminary noise calculation to show predicted dB(A) levels at various distances for an 80 meter tower installation
  3. Examine possible interferences with cell tower communications
  4. Examine possible flicker effect on nearby inhabited structures
  5. Show on map possible physical construction and operation and maintenance (O & M) access

We will share this information with you as soon as it is available.

MTC would like to continue to discuss with you the possibility of your organization either selling or leasing to MTC or the Town a portion of the land you intend to purchase in order to site up to two turbines. I suggest that we meet again when Steve and Lawrence have gathered the information described above. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Martha Broad  
Manager, Renewable Energy Markets