



NEWS FROM SIGMA CAPITAL GROUP, INC.  
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## SIGMA CAPITAL GROUP, INC. CHAIRMAN SPEAKS AT TRAVERSE CITY CONFERENCE

Harbor Springs, MI: Sigma Capital Group's Chairman and CEO, Mr. Bruce Woodry, will speak at the Traverse City, *Alternative Energy Technology Conference: Gearing up for a New Energy Era*, presented by Northwestern Michigan College and The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association and sponsored by Traverse City Light and Power. Mr. Woodry's Presentation will be "**Financing Cleantech: What's up with Michigan???**" which looks at private equity funding for Renewable Energy, and compares Michigan incentives with other states.

Mr. Woodry is on the Michigan Public Service Commission's, Michigan Renewable Energy Program Finance Committee. "The energy sector, particularly with \$50 /barrel oil, has seen tremendous resurgence after the slow performance in the past few years. We're particularly interested in renewable energy, and after the elections, we anticipate private equity will be quite strong in this industry sector", said Mr. Woodry.

With 3% of the national workforce and 23% of the job loss, it is easy for corporate executives to be discouraged about the prospects of optimizing their technological company business. "We must all pull together regionally, to overcome any competitive disadvantages with other regions of the country and world. This conference reminds me of the early days of research triangle Park, 20 years ago, but the advantage that Northwest Michigan offers is a great co-operative effort between business and government, as well as a beautiful location and the wonderful quality of life. With a strong manufacturing heritage and a focus on Cleantech companies, if we can get everyone pulling in the same direction, Michigan can emerge a national leader" said Mr. Woodry.

Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Chair J. Peter Lark today announced that the Michigan Renewable Energy Program (MREP) will host a free Open Forum from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14, at Northwestern Michigan College's new Great Lakes Campus, located at 715 E. Front St., in Traverse City. "This Open Forum on the Michigan Renewable Energy Program will give people an opportunity to learn about and discuss the Commission's ongoing efforts to enhance renewable energy development in Michigan,"; said Lark.

"Everyone understands the need to increase renewable energy supplies in the long run," said Lark. "Right now, Michigan gets only about 1 or 2 percent of its energy needs from renewable resources. We are focusing now on how we can increase the use of renewable energy in Michigan, while keeping energy affordable for Michigan utility customers." "People who attend the MREP Open Forum will learn about all the different projects now under consideration," noted Lark. "MPSC staff and members of the collaborative process welcome additional ideas and input from the public."

Immediately following the Forum, the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association and Northwestern Michigan College are hosting a renewable energy conference at the same location, from noon to 7:30 p.m., beginning with lunch. Chairman Lark will deliver welcoming remarks at 12:30 p.m.

The conference will also feature a series of workshops on renewable energy policy and planning; energy efficiency and "green"; building techniques; the business of advanced energy technology, including investing and financing; and case studies on renewable energy technology.

The evening program, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., will offer introductory seminars for the general public on energy efficiency and renewable resources for residential, small commercial and on-farm applications. Seminar topics include solar heating and photovoltaics; small-scale wind energy systems; biomass and biodiesel fuels; how to achieve energy savings; energy efficiency and renewable energy mortgages; and green building techniques.

The conference fee for the lunch and daytime sessions is \$75. The evening session is \$20. The fee for the entire program is \$85. The conference's co-sponsors are Harmony Homes, Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, the Michigan Land Use Institute, the Michigan State Energy Office, NextEnergy, Sustainable Systems, the Traverse Area Economic Development Club, Traverse City Chamber of Commerce, Traverse City Home Builders Association, Traverse City Power & Light, and Urban Options.

More information on the conference is available on the Internet at: (<http://www.glrea.org/education/AltEnergyTechConference101404.html> ) or call Extended Education Services at Northwestern Michigan College, 231-995-1701.

### **About Michigan Renewable Energy Program (MREP)**

The Michigan Renewables Energy Program (MREP) was established by the legislature, and implemented by the Public Service Commission, to promote the use of renewable energy in the state. Section 10r(6) of Public Act 141 directs the Public Service Commission to establish a Michigan Renewables Energy Program "to inform customers of the availability and value of using renewable energy generation and the potential for reduced pollution." It will "promote the use of existing renewable energy sources and encourage the development of new facilities." The Michigan Legislature has defined renewable energy source as "energy generated by solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, including waste-to-energy and landfill gas, or hydroelectric." A diverse group of individuals and organizations with knowledge and experience in energy production, technology, education, and policy development have been assembled to identify and address barriers to the advancement of renewables and recommend initiatives to increase renewable use in Michigan.

### **About Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA):**

The Renewable Energy Association is a non-profit organization that educates, advocates, promotes, and publicly demonstrates renewable energy technologies. The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (GLREA) was founded in 1991 "to promote

the design, construction, manufacture, marketing, sales, use and education of the general public in the practices of renewable energy sources in the Great Lakes Bioregion," and to help other 501(c)(3) organizations achieve these goals. Our focus since then has been to promote, educate and advocate for: Solar, wind, hydro, biomass and other clean, sustainable energy technologies; Energy efficient materials and practices; Passive solar building design; Public awareness of alternative fuel vehicles; and Distributed generation utilizing clean fuels particularly hydrogen.

### **About Northwestern Michigan College**

Northwestern Michigan College is leading the Northwest Lower Michigan initiative to make the State a leader in workforce development.

### **About Sigma Capital:**

Sigma Capital Group is a ten-year-old boutique investment bank located in Raleigh, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, and has opened an office in Michigan. Sigma Capital has built a strong reputation for improving shareholder value through corporate development activities, providing advisory and representational services to clients in the Aerospace, Telecom, Computer/IT and Energy and Destination Resorts industry sectors with transaction values in the \$5M to \$50M range.

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