

THOMAS W. SAXHAUG  
State Senator District 3  
124 State Capitol Building  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

RECEIVED  
2006 DEC 26 AM 8:43  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES



**Senate**  
State of Minnesota

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006

The Honorable Bruce Johnson  
Administrative Law Judge  
100 Washington Square  
Suite 1700  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Judge Johnson,

I am writing this letter in support of the Mesaba Energy Project. It has great potential for providing new business opportunities and environmentally responsible energy to Northern Minnesota.

The Mesaba Energy Project will provide 1000 construction jobs initially, and over 140 permanent jobs. Local businesses will benefit from the increased activity, and local units of government will benefit from the increase to the tax base.

Most importantly, this project will create much needed baseline energy for our state. Using a new technology called Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC), energy from this plant will be two-thirds cleaner than energy we already import from other states. The alternative energy technology that the Mesaba Energy Project offers is crucial if we want Minnesota to remain one of the world leaders for clean energy.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Regards,

Tom Saxhaug  
State Senator  
District 3



Recycled Paper  
100% Post-Consumer Fiber

COMMITTEES: Environment and Natural Resources Policy, Vice Chair •  
Jobs, Energy and Community Development • K-12 Education Finance • Education Policy