

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
RENEWABLE ENERGY:
Dreams are fine, but
goals must be
achievable!



By Stephen L. Bakke  September 23, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

There was a series of opinions and letters dealing with renewable energy that contained no lack of misinformation! So, your C-Span Warrior had to take the situation into his own hands!

Here's my response ☺:

Renewable Energy: Dreams are fine, but goals must be achievable!

First - idealistic Minnesota Senator John Marty made bold predictions about Minnesota being the first state to transition to a 100% renewable energy economy, eliminating the use of fossil fuels. He has authored proposed legislation with that goal ("Minnesota can control its energy future" - September 19).

Next - a letter takes sarcastic exception to that opinion and other claims made about potential use of renewable energy in tractors, trucks, airplanes and cars ("100 percent? That idea is just ridiculous" - Dan Johnson, September 20).

Finally - a letter attempts to flatten every argument made in "100 percent?" with realistic examples of renewable energy uses ("There are answers if we'll just take a look" - Warren Blechert, September 23).

The truth must be in there somewhere - I commend Johnson for rejecting Senator Marty's misleading idealism. At the same time I commend Blechert for pointing out real possibilities for using renewable, non-fossil fuel energy sources.

The truth is that while dreams are fine, unrealistic goals ensure failure. There are many uses for renewable energy and we should pursue those. But even when renewable energy sources come economically "on line" there will still be a "baseload" requirement that they can't meet. "Baseload" requirement is the minimum level of demand on an electrical supply system - i.e. consistent need. This need can only be dependably met by fossil fuels and perhaps nuclear power - but we haven't built a nuclear plant in the U.S. for 40 years.



"Dreaming the impossible dream didn't make me rich.
SELLING the impossible dream made me rich!"

Senator Marty is foolishly trying to turn a dream into an unachievable goal.