



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**MASSACHUSETTS HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES**

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## **Rep Paul Schmid and Local Manufacturer Bring Wind Turbines to MA Farms**

(WESTPORT) – State Representative Paul Schmid (D-Westport) is working to bring wind energy to farms in Massachusetts at little to no cost to farmers. The wind systems are designed to power small to medium sized operations and are manufactured by Westport, MA based Aerostar. Although Representative Schmid has only been in office less than a year, he has taken a very aggressive approach to helping Massachusetts farmers in these difficult economic times. He has already sponsored a number of bills to the State Legislature to help protect and grow their businesses.

Representative Schmid commented, “We have a Massachusetts based wind turbine manufacturer, employing Massachusetts residents, helping Massachusetts farmers reduce their energy costs with clean renewable wind power. The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center helps make this possible by providing financial incentives to farmers who install wind systems. This is a winning situation for everyone. We are putting local people to work building and installing renewable energy equipment and helping local farmers promote sustainability.”

Debbie Barrett of Allen Farms in Westport, who is one of the first to take advantage of Aerostar’s new agricultural program, explains that it is difficult for small farms to thrive on summer crops alone. The low cost energy provided by a wind system will help extend the growing season into the colder months, increasing farm productivity and providing locally grown foods.

In the past, the biggest roadblock to installing small wind turbines on farms has been the large initial investment required to fund the projects. In addition to MassCEC rebates, there are also Federal grants available. In many cases most of the project cost is funded through these incentives, however incentives are not paid until the equipment is installed. Many farmers, who are facing difficult times in this poor economy, do not have the up-front capital needed to qualify for the incentives. It’s a catch 22. Money is available for renewable energy, but farmers who need it most can’t take advantage of the funding, because they are unable to make the initial investment.

Aerostar Wind Group (AWG) with the help of Representative Schmid has put together a plan which enables farmers to install wind systems on their farms, without having to come up with the initial funding. Once the systems are installed and running, the incentives are received by the

farmers, who can then pay for the equipment and installation. AWG is taking much of the risk off the farmers by providing the capital needed to jump start these projects.

Rob Rollins, AWG's president says, "Because of the substantial up-front costs we will have to proceed slowly, so we will not be able to help as many farmers as quickly as we would like. However, as the program becomes more and more successful we plan to expand it to more farms. Our ability to help Massachusetts farms will depend on continued availability of funding from MassCEC and Federal grant programs. There seems to be quite a bit of uncertainty whether Federal funds will be available in 2012. We hope farmers and others will contact their Senators and Representatives and urge them to keep these much needed programs alive."



Paul Schmid (left) with Rob Rollins, president of Aerostar Inc.

For more information visit [www.aerostarwind.com](http://www.aerostarwind.com) or call Rob Rollins at 800-305-8666 x85