



# North Dakota Legislative Council

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**BOB STENEHJEM**  
State Senator  
Chairman

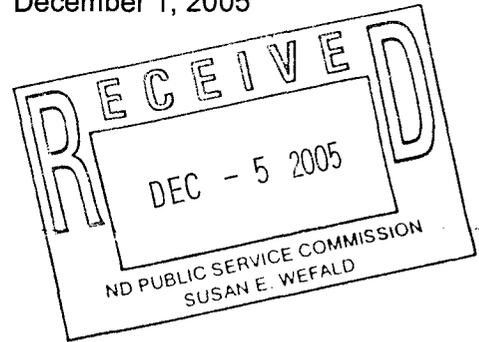
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December 1, 2005



Honorable Susan Wefald  
Commissioner  
Public Service Commission  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Ms. Wefald:

I have your letter dated November 29, 2005, in which you invite me, as chairman of the Legislative Council, to appoint two legislators to a task force to determine whether to recommend to the 2007 Legislative Assembly state funding for low-income energy assistance.

As described in your letter, the Public Service Commission and the Department of Human Services are sponsoring the task force, which will include representatives from utility companies, community action programs, the Association of Counties, USDA Rural Development, tribal LIHEAP programs, and the Department of Commerce.

There is a longstanding tradition of the Legislative Council to avoid naming legislators to executive branch task forces or study groups in order that legislators may give independent review of recommendations those entities may make to the Legislative Assembly.

I trust the Public Service Commission and the Department of Human Services, as well as members of the task force, will understand why I do not believe it would be appropriate to name legislators to the task force. Please communicate with the members of the task force that all legislators are free to communicate with any individuals they wish, and if members of your task force wish to meet with individual legislators, they may certainly do so on their own.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Senator Bob Stenehjem  
Chairman

BS/AL