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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Joint Commission on Technology and Science  
FROM: Patrick Cushing, Staff Attorney  
RE: Alternative Energy Report  
DATE: 11/29/05

Attached to this memo is the first draft of a report evaluating different forms of alternative and renewable energy compiled at the request of the Emerging Technology Issues Advisory Committee. The purpose of the report is to identify criteria that would allow a side by side comparison of different forms of renewable and alternative energy. Using uniform criteria, the report will summarize what types of technologies or forms of alternative energy are best positioned to provide citizens of the Commonwealth relief from rising energy costs in a short period of time.

The draft attached to this memo is the first iteration of what I expect to be a very comprehensive, focused, and dynamic report. The attached draft presents the first layer of the report, which identifies specific alternative forms of energy and criteria that can be used to generate a side by side comparison of the different options. The goal is to periodically open the report for feedback to ensure that the information contained therein is accurate and fairly represented. Although not all of the information in the report is complete, I have identified the technologies and the criteria for comparing the technologies. Additionally, I plan to add a matrix that will summarize the criteria for each option and provide a discussion focusing on those technologies and alternative energies with the greatest promise. For the first draft comments on the following issues would be greatly appreciated:

1. Scope: Are there any technologies or forms of alternative energy that are not represented?
2. After an initial investigation it appears biofuels, wind energy, energy efficiency, and conservation are the most promising approaches for lowering or stabilizing energy prices. Should there be an additional section focusing on these specific options? If so, I envision a more comprehensive discussion on what is happening at the state level for these options, what approaches similar states have taken, and identifying relevant stakeholders in the commercial, industrial, non-profit, and governmental sectors. The goal would be to identify which options have already built momentum within the Commonwealth and who or what is the primary driving force for each technology.
3. I have compiled a side set of research with all of the sections in the Virginia Code relating to alternative energy and energy efficiency. Should the report contain a separate section, broken down by form of energy, listing all of the applicable sections in the state code? I envision this as resource for members of JCOTS, the General Assembly, and the public at large. This could also become a resource that is separate from the report and periodically updated by staff.

Once the next draft is complete I plan on circulating the report to individuals at state universities, private business, non-profits, and state government to ensure all information is accurate and balanced. Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

*Patrick Cushing*

Patrick Cushing  
Staff Attorney, Joint Commission on Technology and Science

Attachment: AltEnergyReportDRAFT.doc