



Department of Public Works
Fleet Service Division
Mahanth Joishy, Fleet Superintendent

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8/12/2022

TO: Chair, City of Madison Ethics Board

RE: Advisory Opinion

Chairperson of City of Madison Ethics Board:

I am writing to you in my official capacity as Fleet Superintendent for the City of Madison. In this role I am responsible for overseeing the procurement, maintenance, fueling, and auction for City owned vehicles and equipment on behalf of the Police Department, Fire Department, Streets Department, Parks Department, Traffic Engineering, Engineering, and many others.

I have been officially invited by the private corporation Renewable Energy Group (“REG”) to serve on their Customer Advisory Board. REG is the largest producer of renewable biodiesel in North America. I do not have personal or financial interest in REG outside of my official mandate to purchase the most environmentally sustainable fuel in the marketplace on behalf of the City of Madison. All of the biodiesel purchased by my division is processed right here in Dane County, and all of the feedstock for the fuel including soybean oil and used cooking oil is sourced only from the state of Wisconsin. It is an entirely renewable and also local fuel source. Therefore we have strong economic as well as ecological incentives to power the City’s heavy equipment needs with biodiesel.

The Customer Advisory Board does not carry any remuneration to me or to the City, nor does it affect contractual arrangements between REG and the City of Madison. The responsibility of the appointed members, all of whom are biodiesel purchasing entities, is to attend bi-annual Board meetings if available. REG would cover the travel expense, if meetings are held away from the Madison area, or not held virtually. My sole interest in joining the REG Customer Advisory Board is to help shape the future policies of sustainable transportation in North America at a high level, which would be beneficial to the Madison community and well beyond in this era of alarming climate change indicators.

The City Attorney’s Office counseled that I reach out to you for your advisory opinion on this matter. I have informed REG that my acceptance to the Customer Advisory Board will be contingent on this advisory opinion and therefore, will await further instructions from you before taking further action on this invitation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Joishy".

Mahanth S. Joishy

cc Attorney Michael Haas
cc Attorney Steven Brist