



## MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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### Sierra Club Support For HB 4083

March 9th, 2023

To: Chair Pohutsky and Members of the Committee

RE: HB 4083 – “PERC Ban”

On behalf of our 150,000 Sierra Club members and supporters in Michigan, we support the proposed legislation to phase out Perchloroethylene, or PERC, and eventually ban the use of PERC, and we support the transition to safer dry cleaning operations. PERC is a reproductive toxicant, neurotoxicant, potential human carcinogen, and persistent environmental pollutant. When directly inhaled it can cause dizziness, fatigue, and loss of coordination. Studies have found that long-term exposure can lead to mild loss of memory or visual perception and delayed reaction time, among other ailments. Other states have banned its use, including California and Minnesota, and EPA has been considering a nationwide ban on PERC for some time because of its link to cancer.

Perc has been linked to kidney damage, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. As testimony before the committee today has shown, we have safer alternatives available, and the legacy contamination associated with the use of PERC persists far beyond the closure of facilities that use this dangerous chemical—saddling residents and taxpayers with legacy costs of adverse health impacts and cleanup. Of the alternatives to PERC, it’s important to note that the safest alternative is wet cleaning. High flash point hydrocarbons, butyl and propylene glycol ethers, siloxane-based, and *n*-propyl bromide solvents still pose health risks.<sup>1</sup> The support for the transition to the safest alternative, wet cleaning, is key to the success of this legislation, and Sierra Club will continue to advocate for appropriations in the future to support the funding for a supportive transition for affected businesses. Please reach out to us if you have any further questions regarding our support, and thanks to Rep. Rogers and other bills sponsors for moving this forward.

Sincerely,

Tim Minotas  
Deputy Legislative and Political Director  
Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

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<sup>1</sup> Ceballos, D et al, 2021. *Perchloroethylene and Dry Cleaning: It's Time to Move the Industry to Safer Alternatives*. *Frontiers of Public Health*, Volume 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.638082>