

Molly Wingrove

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Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 7:47 PM
To: Rep. Helena Scott (District 7); Rep. Joey Andrews (District 38); Molly Wingrove; Rep. Samantha Steckloff (District 19)
Subject: DTE Must Be Held Accountable

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I am glad to see that the House is having a hearing about DTE's lack of accountability to the citizens of Michigan.

DTE has failed me; failed me as a customer; failed me as a citizen who cares about the health of my community.

DTE has failed me as a customer. Their service is so unreliable, I have had to invest \$10,000 in a whole home generator. If you amortize that cost of over 10 years, it increases my cost per kWh by 30%. I'm a rich suburbanite from Oakland County. Few of my fellow DTE customers can afford that expense, much less the base rate changed by a monopoly over which they have little or no control.

More importantly, DTE has failed me as a citizen who cares about the health of my community. DTE has been identified as a top 10 water polluter for our nation. It has proposed one of the slowest transitions to green technology of any utility in our nation.

There are several reasons for this. First, an investor-owned monopoly with limited oversight by public authority will never optimize efficiency or public interest. DTE's goal is to maintain a stable stock price. Compare the increase in their stock price over the last year to the decrease in my S&P 500 centric retirement plan. Investor-owned utilities have higher rates and less reliable service than public-owned utilities. Secondly, The MPSC's authority is too limited and it does not have enough access to DTE financial and operational data to have any meaningful impact on DTE's performance.

The "salt in the wound" is the incredible amount of money DTE spends on our politics. The list of elected representatives that receive campaign donations from DTE is troubling. The money they give to community groups to mute their voice is embarrassing. The First Energy experience in Ohio should be a warning for Michigan. The argument that these funds come from shareholders is disingenuous. Money is fungible.

Please do not stop with just a hearing. We need new laws and or regulations to make DTE accountable to the citizens of Michigan.

Thank you,
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