



September 27, 2023

Dear Governor Whitmer and Members of the Michigan Legislature,

As major employers with operations and investments across Michigan, we write to express our support for an accelerated transition to 100% clean energy that prioritizes affordability, equity, and job creation. We urge Michigan decision-makers to support and deliver expanded access to reliable, affordable, and proven clean energy solutions and further grow our state's economy.

We understand firsthand how Michigan's energy policies impact the cost of doing business and our state's economic competitiveness. Like many hundreds of businesses across the United States, we have made commitments to reduce emissions, save energy, utilize renewable energy, and transition to zero-emission vehicles.

In 2022, Governor Whitmer released the MI Healthy Climate Plan, a roadmap with near-term actions for how Michigan can transition to a net zero emissions economy by 2050. According to the Plan, the power sector contributed approximately 30% of Michigan's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2019 and fossil fuels comprise a majority share of power generation in the state.¹ Meeting Michigan's climate goals will require more wind, solar and energy storage resources, including those that are customer-sited and behind-the-meter; expanded energy waste reduction programs; and strategic investment in grid modernization and planning that prioritizes affordability and reliability.

This year, we encourage Michigan lawmakers to build upon the MI Healthy Climate Plan by taking additional action. Strong, decisive clean energy policies and customer programs will signal that Michigan is "open for business" and ready to attract new, in-state investments, support the creation of good-paying jobs, and help businesses access additional opportunities to save money while strengthening their competitive advantage. In particular, we encourage you to support policies that:

- **Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and set a target for achieving 100% carbon-free electricity in a timeline that aligns with Michigan's interim and long-term climate goals;**
- **Modernize and expand the Energy Waste Reduction Standard (EWRS) for electric and natural gas utilities;**
- **Allow the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to consider factors such as climate change, affordability, and equity in its decision making;**
- **Leverage and maximize federal funding opportunities to increase Michigan's energy security and address inequities, especially for low- and moderate-income residents;**
- **Expand customer access to clean, distributed generation, including but not limited to rooftop and community solar;**
- **Update zoning laws pertaining to the permitting and siting of renewable energy projects in a way that balances Michigan's great tradition of local government leadership with the state's important energy priorities and goals;**

¹ MI Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, 2022. *MI Healthy Climate Plan*, p 33. "In 2020, coal and natural gas, the two primary sources of GHG emissions in the power sector, provided 59 percent of all electricity generation in the state."

- Follow the lead of other states by expanding Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing tools and programs to help customers invest in renewable energy and energy waste reduction projects;
- Establish a statewide energy storage target that aligns with Michigan’s climate goals.

We recognize that the MI Healthy Climate Plan provides clear support for environmental justice and a baseline for the appropriation of funds.² We support this emphasis on devoting resources to Michigan communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution in order to realize environmental justice.

Passing legislation to achieve 100% clean energy while prioritizing affordability, equity, and job creation is an important step toward building a more just net zero economy that will enhance the vitality, competitiveness, and growth of our state. We stand ready to work with you and offer our experience, expertise, and partnership in passing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Bell’s Brewery

REI

Broad Leaf Brewery + Spirits

Sealed

Brewery Vivant

Siemens

CleanCapital

Trane Technologies

Crystal Mountain Resort

Uplight

IKEA US

Walker-Miller Energy Services

New Belgium Brewing

Nexamp

Worthen Industries

² Ibid. p. 28: “Ensure that at least 40 percent of state funding for climate-related and water infrastructure initiatives benefit Michigan’s disadvantaged communities (in line with the federal government’s Justice40 guidelines for federal funding)...”



Michigan lawmakers have historic opportunity to create jobs, cut pollution with clean energy legislation

October 26, 2023

Ceres celebrated the Michigan Senate passage of ambitious clean energy legislation today and called on the Michigan House to promptly take up and pass the legislation that is highlighted by a 100% clean electricity standard in 2035.

“As a manufacturing powerhouse and a leading destination for clean energy investment, Michigan is ideally positioned to benefit from clean energy legislation that creates jobs, reduces costs, improves public health, and cuts pollution. But it will take ambitious state policy to fully capitalize on this opportunity,” said **Alli Gold Roberts, senior director of state policy, Ceres**. “Companies and investors support 100% clean electricity because they know it will secure the state’s economic and energy future. We urge the state legislature to finalize this crucial legislation as soon as possible.”

Ceres has been working with companies and investors to support Michigan’s clean energy legislation throughout the ongoing legislative session. In September, 15 businesses signed a letter (https://www.ceres.org/sites/default/files/POL_MI_Letter_Sep23.pdf) to lawmakers and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declaring their support for an accelerated transition to 100% clean electricity that prioritizes jobs, equity, and affordability, and that helps Michigan maximize recent federal climate and clean energy investments.

“Passing legislation to achieve 100% clean energy while prioritizing affordability, equity, and job creation is an important step toward building a more just net zero economy that will enhance the vitality, competitiveness, and growth of our state,” the letter said (<https://www.ceres.org/news-center/press-releases/michigan-businesses-proclaim-support-100-clean-electricity-legislation#:~:text=%E2%80%9CPassing%20legislation%20to%20achieve%20100,state%2C%E2%80%9D%20the%20letter%20said.>). It was signed by Bell’s Brewery, Brewery Vivant, Broad Leaf Brewery + Spirits, CleanCapital, Crystal Mountain Resort, IKEA US, New Belgium Brewing, Nexamp, REI, Sealed, Siemens, Trane Technologies, Uplight, Walker-Miller Energy Services, and Worthen Industries.

The legislation that passed the Michigan Senate today would codify into law many aspects of Gov. Whitmer’s MI Healthy Climate Plan, which was released in 2022 and was also welcomed by Michigan businesses

(<https://www.ceres.org/news-center/press-releases/major-businesses-michigan-laud-climate-action-support-transition-carbon>) as an important tool to guide climate, public health, and economic development policy in the state.

Companies increasingly support clean energy policies not only to reduce climate pollution that threatens their operations, but because they bring significant business and economic benefits. According to a recent analysis (<https://www.evergreenaction.com/press/new-report-clean-energy-legislation-will-lower-energy-costs-and-bring-billions-in-federal-investment-to-michigan>) conducted by 5 Lakes Energy and the MI Energy Innovation Business Council, the legislation would create nearly 160,000 jobs, increase Michigan's GDP 2.5% by 2050, and save households \$145 in energy costs annually by 2035.

About Ceres

Ceres is a nonprofit organization working with the most influential capital market leaders to solve the world's greatest sustainability challenges. Through our powerful networks and global collaborations of investors, companies and nonprofits, we drive action and inspire equitable market-based and policy solutions throughout the economy to build a just and sustainable future. For more information, visit ceres.org and follow @CeresNews.

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