



## MICHIGAN LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

**Date:** October 5, 2023  
**To:** Members of the Michigan House Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Committee  
**From:** Chris Semrinec, State Government Affairs Coordinator  
**Re:** **SUPPORT HB 5028: Homeowners' Energy Policy Act**

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Chairwoman Pohutsky and Members of the Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity for Michigan LCV to express its support for House bill 5028. Michigan LCV supports the expanded implementation and use of solar energy technology, and we favor legislation that allows homeowners the ability to install solar if they choose to do so.

As we continue to face the increasingly severe impacts of climate change, it is critical now more than ever that we take necessary steps to reduce our carbon footprint and further distance Michiganders' dependence on energy generation from fossil fuels. Therefore, we strongly support the passage of House bill 5028 because it will reduce energy costs for homeowners, expand upon renewable energy generation, and increase a homeowner's energy resiliency during unexpected power outages.

### **Allowing homeowners to install solar will reduce household energy costs**

Due to advancements in technology and financial incentives, solar energy has become more affordable now more than ever. Specifically, residential solar installations have the ability to reduce a customer's overall energy bill every month, while also resulting in a decreased usage of conventional energy from the grid. According to a study conducted with the U.S. Energy Information Administration, if a residential homeowner utilizes an average sized, six kilowatt solar system on their home, the homeowner could save roughly \$1,346 on annual energy bills. Additionally, homeowners would qualify for a 30% federal tax credit due to the federal Investment Tax Credit, when installing a solar system on their homes, making the process of solar installation a cost-effective solution to lower household energy costs.

### **Increased solar energy generation will combat climate change and local air pollution**

Last year, in Governor Whitmer's MI Healthy Climate Plan, the Governor set a goal of achieving 60% clean energy by 2030 in order to help combat the negative effects of climate change by diversifying our energy sector to include more renewable energy sources. In order to reach this goal, the legislature must continue to make renewable energy, including solar, more accessible for energy customers throughout the state. We support HB 5028 because it will give homeowners the ability to place solar installations on their property without being limited by homeowners associations' policies that may currently prohibit such installations. Passing this bill would empower Michigan homeowners while expanding access to renewable energy generation to help our state reach the goal of 60% clean energy generation by 2030.



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**Homeowners with solar system installations will be more resilient during power outages**

According to a 2022 report by Climate Central Analysis, Michigan is ranked the second-worst state in the country in number of reported outages in the last decade. Recent data from the Michigan Public Service Commission showed there have been roughly 2.6 million reported outages across the state in 2023 alone. Given these factors, it is critical that utility customers have the opportunity to make their homes as resilient as possible in fear of frequent power outages. Passing this legislation would allow homeowners the opportunity to install solar systems on their property to be less dependent on the grid and therefore become more resilient when our state faces detrimental power outages.

Thank you again for allowing Michigan LCV to express our support for House bill 5028. This legislation is a step in the right direction to achieving our state's climate and energy goals, and we urge you to pass this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact our organization to provide clarification or further detail about our support for HB 5028.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Semrinec", written in a cursive style.

Chris Semrinec  
State Government Affairs Coordinator  
Michigan League of Conservation Voters