

September 24, 2013

Michigan House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Technology
Committee Chair Aric Nesbitt
Minority Vice-Chair Thomas Stallworth
Room 519, House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chair Nesbitt and Minority Vice-Chair Stallworth,

Here in Michigan, improving energy efficiency is creating economic opportunity and reducing and preventing the effects of climate change. As the District 4 Staff Representative for the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I am proud to support these investments and urge that we look into more ways that we can expand on them.

Energy efficiency investments are helping to build a stronger, more sustainable economy and significantly helping to combat the effects of climate change, while reducing costs. Strategic investments to improve energy efficiency can build on the state's engineering expertise, and modernized machining in the coming years. Michigan's renewable energy standard has improved efficiency and resulted in \$1.79 billion in investment through 2012.

Improving energy efficiency is one of the ways that we can improve our overall energy infrastructure. Modernizing the electrical grid to be more intelligent, flexible, and resilient is a foundational step toward improving energy efficiency. These initiatives draw on the massive American skilled labor force, creating good jobs that work for the 21st century and save consumers money. Energy efficiency programs led by Michigan's electric utilities produced \$1.2 billion in benefits to customers.

To compete in a 21st century global economy, we must build the industries that are driving the economy now in Michigan. Other countries across the world are investing heavily in the clean economy, but here in the U.S., we can and we must do more.

Sincerely,

Mike Schulte
Staff Representative, District 4
CWA