

9-12-13

Representative Nesbitt and members of the House Energy and Technology Committee

RE: Review of Public Act 295 of 2008

As a concerned citizen of Michigan, I feel that it is extremely important to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency in our state. I have always been environmentally conscious and in recent years my knowledge about energy in Michigan has grown. It makes sense to me to increase the amount of renewable energy in the state.

Being an Environmental Studies and Agriscience major from Michigan State University, I have taken my fair share of science courses. Helping Michigan come to have a clean source of energy is a passion of mine. Especially coming from a school where we had the largest campus coal plant in the nation, it was brought to my attention constantly how we need to move past our dirty ways of acquiring energy and transition to clean energy. The fact that Michigan still gets more than 50 percent of our electricity from coal is a sad statement. Our neighboring states are passing us in terms of renewable energy and we need to catch up to them to be competitive. Therefore, I believe increasing renewable energy will help put Michigan on the map in regards to energy efficiency.

Expanding our renewable energy and energy efficiency will also bring jobs to the state. The clean energy sector supports 20,500 jobs and \$5 billion in annual economic activity. If we increase our amount of clean energy in the state, that will bring in even more jobs. Still using coal for our energy only brings jobs to other states and costs Michigan to export money. The cost of renewable energy is now the cheapest way of acquiring energy so it makes sense to invest.

Health is another important positive aspect when discussing renewable energy. Expanding our clean energy throughout the state would be a healthier option for citizens instead of using coal for our energy. Renewable energy provides us with cleaner air and water, while coal plants emit dirty pollution into the air causing health issues. For example, coal plants emit dangerous levels of mercury, asthma, lung disease, sulfur dioxide, etc.

I ask you to share my testimony with the committee members and note it in the meeting's minutes. It makes total sense all around to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency in the state.

Sincerely,

Ashley Allen
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