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I would like to thank you Chairman Nesbitt, Vice Chair Glenn, Vice Chair LaVoy, and the members of the committee for allowing me to testify on behalf of the need for a new energy policy that will provide affordable energy while also bringing jobs to our state.

My name is Horace Sheffield, and I am a minister at New Destiny Baptist Church in Detroit. I am also a community advocate like my father before me. I hope to impress upon the committee the need to secure Michigan's energy future, and the benefits that such a policy would have in communities across the state.

The communities that I serve rely on access to electricity everyday. Not only do they expect reliable service, but they need power that is affordable, too. Michigan's current energy policy puts both of those at risk – thanks to deregulated customers' abilities to jump from provider to provider without funding reliability.

The current system creates uncertainty for future electricity needs because it is not clear who is providing reliable energy for ten percent of Michigan's electric market. Uncertainty around this critical service forces the majority of Michigan's families and businesses to shoulder the heavy cost of reliability so a few can benefit.

Regulated customers, particularly vulnerable or low-income households, cannot afford to subsidize costs for deregulated customers, nor is it fair to make them do so. Michigan's next energy policy must provide cost-effective power for Michigan's families and neighborhoods, while also bringing jobs and economic opportunity to the state.

Our next energy policy must put Michigan first. This means reliable Michigan power and economic growth opportunities for Michigan's hard working men and women.

Michigan's next energy policy should also be fair. We cannot continue to force low-income customers to subsidize deregulated customers. It's time to fully regulate the energy market in Michigan.

I urge you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, to support families and neighbors across the state, and to pass a new energy policy that puts Michigan first.