



April 13, 2015

Dear Chairman Nesbitt and members of the House Energy Committee

I have been with school districts for over 18 years and have been with Electric Choice Programs in my previous district and with my current district. School Districts over the years have been looking for ways to save money and we have been looking at every line item in our budgets and utilities have been a place that we have been able to save. Several school districts over the State have taken advantage of these Choice Programs with approximately 25% savings to our budgets. Through MISEC Cooperative districts have saved \$14M annually and Executive Energy Services school district customers have saved \$7M annually. That is a combination of approximately \$21 million savings in one year for school district all across the State of Michigan and many more are on Choice.

Clarkston Community Schools is on Electric Choice and is saving over \$350,000 per year (\$40 per student) vs DTE Full Service Base Rates. This is equivalent to 5.5 Teachers. Eliminating the Electric Choice Program is like a \$40 per pupil cut to school districts.

Eliminating Electric Choice impacts Students because districts funding has already been cut and resources are at all-time low. Further cuts will be staffing. School budgets are over 80% personnel. Moving us away from Choice Programs will affect the classroom.

We cannot afford to go back to non-choice and we do not have the financial capacity to absorb increases to our electric expenses. Every expenditure increase results in a cut somewhere else in school districts. By being able to reduce our electric expenditures, we are able to funnel more dollars into the classrooms and educating Michigan students.

Clarkson and many other school districts are in long term contracts into 2018. We are currently in a 3 year contract at 25% savings vs. DTE rates. Forcing us to leave our contracts will results in more school reductions.

In conclusion, as school districts that are on limited funds with little or no increases, we need to have the right to Choice! We cannot afford to have this program eliminated. We cannot afford another approximately \$40 per pupil reduction.

Again thanks for this opportunity to share my concerns,

Mary Beth

Mary Beth Rogers, Ed.S, CFO  
Executive Director of Business Services  
Clarkston Community Schools