

Mr. Joe Jones, President

Grand Rapids Urban League

Monday April 13, 2015

House of Representatives Energy Policy Committee Lansing, Mi.

I would like to thank Chairman Nesbitt and members of the Committee for the opportunity to express our concerns for a viable energy policy for the State of Michigan.

My name is Joe Jones and I am the President of the Grand Rapids Urban League. We are a dynamic organization that assists all people in achieving self-sufficiency and equality. We strive to provide the platform that empowers through economic independence and people come together to creatively solve issues.

The future success of our organization and that of the State of Michigan is dependent on a reliable and affordable utility system that treats all customers with fairness. The current system places impediments that contradict the aforementioned goals. The present bifurcated system establishes a few winners at the cost to families and businesses throughout the state. This is not a sustainable plan going forward in addressing the needs of all our citizens.

In planning for the future energy needs of our residents, you must put Michigan first, by protecting the state's ability to provide cost effective power for Michigan's economic growth opportunities. Your constituents, the hard working men and women of Michigan, deserve no less than this consideration.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we thank you for your time and know you will be mindful of these challenges in your deliberations.