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2390 South Milford Road,
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Dear Chairman Nesbitt and members of the House Energy Committee,

Huron Valley Schools has been on the Electric Choice program for over 10 years. We estimate that returning to the base DTE service rate will increase our utility costs by \$400,000--or \$41 per student--for the current fiscal year. My understanding is that all of Oakland County Schools would see a \$7 million increase in utility costs if Electric Choice is eliminated.

At Huron Valley Schools, we receive the lowest funding in the State. As a result, we have made over \$37 million in expenditure reductions since 2003/2004. We work very hard to look for ways to save money in our District so our limited resources can provide maximum benefit to our 9,600 students and our community at large. Based on current school aid funding budget projections, the District is projecting a deficit in the near future. As a school district, we have already made significant cuts to employee wages and benefits with salary levels less than 2010/2011. It will be very difficult for the District to absorb a \$400,000 increase in utility expenses.

House Bill 4298 would have a devastating impact on our ability to continue the quality education and programs we provide. We urge you to vote no on House Bill 4298 and continue the Electric Choice program. We cannot afford to have this program eliminated.

Sincerely,

Jim Baker
Superintendent
Huron Valley Schools