Chairman Nesbitt and Members of the Committee,

My name is Catherine Trefzer and I am the President of The Brio Energy Corporation located at 20836 Hall Road #266, Clinton Twp MI 48038

In addition, to my business I am testifying from a personal view as a resident of Michigan. My home address is [redacted] district 33.

As both a resident and business owner in Michigan I am asking you to vote NO on HB 4298

> Brio Energy is a growing Michigan based company established in 2010 and converted to a corporation in 2012. Despite the cap we have managed to grow and see further potential if the cap were increased to 100% and not reduced or eliminated. However, due to the uncertainty of this bill, which make no mistake will kill this Michigan business, we have downsized rather than following thru with expanding. In fact, we have cancelled our commitment to a new office space and new hire because of this bills introduction. If choice was repealed, it would effectively terminate our ability to earn a living, pay our bills and support our families. Eliminating choice will not only affect the 10 Brio Energy representative, it would also impact support staff in each supplier's office as their licensing requirements include maintaining an office in the state.

9 of the 10 Brio Energy representative are the sole income providers in their family and half have multiple jobs to make ends meet; eliminating electricity choice would be devastating.

Expanding choice would allow my staff to commit to full time opportunities and better pay. Expansion of choice would give us the confidence we need to expand and hire.

> Energy cost controls are especially important to businesses looking to expand and hire additional staff. Last Friday, I was working with a small west-Michigan manufacturing company looking for energy control measures. Since they are not currently under the 10% cap they are struggling for resource to expand and I could not help. However, if they were in choice they would have saved $60,000/year. The owner was shocked ...because $60,000 would give them the capital to hire 3 new full time employees who in turn would increased production and revenue enough that would likely pay for others.

Rather than eliminate choice this committee should be focused on expansion. The expansion of choice would ease the financial constraints for hundreds of my customers in the 'queue'; many of these businesses are struggling to survive. I am proud to say even with the limited electricity we still managed save our choice customers $5 million a year; I can only imagine the number of jobs business could create if those in queue or everyone in the state had a competitive choice. $30 per month savings for residents in the City of Detroit would pay their water bill and others food for their children; regardless, as little as $20 a month would make a huge impact and boost the economic outlook for many struggling Michiganders.

I have worked in this industry for over 6 years and there is a huge learning curve associated with understanding the fundamentals of this complex situation. Majority of this committee is new and this may be the first conversation you have ever had about the deregulated and regulated energy industry ... it is overwhelming to me that such inexperience has the power to make decisions that could be economically devastating for this entire state. What we do know at this time is the 'effort' to cap competition has cost our state millions/billions of dollars in energy cost which could have been used to grow jobs and recover from the recession. From what I have seen so far, the only testimony this committee has been privy to is testimony from 'experts' clearly in opposition of a free market. What we know as fact, is the 90% monopoly is not working for Michigan so its not going to 'get better' with 100% monopoly ..... Common sense tells us that the free enterprise built this great country and free enterprise and competition will make Michigan energy competitive so business and residences can thrive.

Please consider the jobs and people who are benefiting from Choice now and what kind of job growth is possible if Electricity Choice is expanded.

... please take the time to get the information you need to make educated decisions. Your constitutes are counting on you to make a difference. I have the faith and confidence once you hear both sides of this argument "freedom of choice will prevail."

Your legacy as a representative of your district is your choice. Give the people of this great state the power to choose.

Please vote and vote NO on HB 4298.

Thank you for your time today and opportunity for me to speak today.