

Jayant Patel
Program Manager, H.R. Technologies
House Energy Policy Committee Hearing
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I would like to thank Chairman Nesbitt, Vice Chair Glenn and Vice Chair LaVoy for hearing testimony on this very important issue today.

My name is Jayant Patel, program manager at H.R. Technologies in Madison Heights, and I am testifying on behalf of Tushar Patel, president of H.R. Technologies who wanted to be here today.

H.R. Technologies does lamination work for automotive interior products. Based out of Metro Detroit, we operate on a 'just in time' manufacturing process as we supply OEMs and other Tier 1 suppliers.

Our 24-hour production operation cannot afford to shut down for even one minute, so knowing that our state energy supply is at risk due to power plant retirements is cause for serious concern. If power is not reliable, our business cannot run smoothly and our operations are stalled. That comes at a cost to our business. Our business and Michigan's comeback economy cannot afford to be impeded due to compromised electric reliability.

The company I am representing here today has firsthand experience with out-of-state energy marketers, and we returned to regulated utility service.

Originally, deregulation appeared very attractive to our business. Soon after, however, we realized the very serious pitfalls of sourcing from alternative energy suppliers. It was clear that alternative energy suppliers did not care about their Michigan customers. We were often given the 'run-around' with customer service, and our issues were never resolved.

Since switching back to utility service, H.R. Technologies has experienced much better and much more effective customer service. It is clear to us from our experience that Michigan's utilities are committed to the families and businesses of our state.

H.R. Technologies, like thousands of other businesses, relies on cost-effective power that always there. Michigan cannot afford to turn away in-state investment because of a volatile energy policy. Full regulation would provide much-needed stability.

On behalf of Michigan's manufacturing and business communities, I am urging the committee to support reasonable regulation and a plan that puts Michigan first.